

From Personal Experience to Shared Intelligence From the Novo mesto Gymnasium Graduates 2026 Experience to Retired Professors

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Retired professors possess something artificial intelligence cannot create: *decades of professional experience, accumulated knowledge, personal memories, judgment, and networks of colleagues*. The challenge is how to preserve this intellectual capital, connect it, and make it useful to others.

An interesting lesson is emerging from an unexpected place: the preparation of materials for the *2026 Meeting of Graduates of Novo mesto Gymnasium*, Slovenia on October 15, 2026.

In preparing contributions about the school's 280-year history and its future, graduates have been experimenting with ChatGPT not simply as a writing tool, but *as a partner in developing questions, discovering connections, structuring knowledge, comparing experiences, preparing texts and visual materials, and identifying new directions for collaboration*.

This experience suggests an opportunity for retired professors.

From individual knowledge to shared intelligence

Imagine a retired professor beginning with a simple question: *What have I learned during my professional life that could be useful to others?*

ChatGPT can help turn that question into a structured contribution. It can help identify related work, compare experiences internationally, suggest questions that may have been overlooked, organize source material, translate a contribution for colleagues abroad, and connect one professor's experience with that of others.

The next step is even more interesting: *Professor + Professor + Professor + ChatGPT*.

A professor of information systems may see one dimension of a problem; an economist, physician, lawyer, engineer, sociologist, or educator may see others. AI tools can help these specialists understand one another, identify connections among their perspectives, and develop a more comprehensive picture.

This is the transition *from personal experience to shared intelligence*.

Retired professors have a special opportunity

Retirement from employment does not mean retirement from curiosity, knowledge, or contribution. On the contrary, retired professors may have something particularly valuable for AI-supported collaboration: *time-tested knowledge combined with the freedom to ask questions across institutional and disciplinary boundaries.*

Their associations could become laboratories for this new form of eCollaboration. Members might bring one question, one professional experience, one document, one unfinished idea, or one story worth preserving. Working with colleagues and ChatGPT, they could develop these into short contributions and publish them so that others can learn from, question, improve, and connect them. Over time, individual contributions could form a *growing digital collection of the knowledge and experience of retired professors worldwide.*

Digitalization is therefore essential. Knowledge stored only in personal files, bookshelves, old correspondence, photographs, conference papers, or memory is difficult for others—and for AI tools—to discover and connect. What is worth preserving should increasingly be *digitized, described, connected, and made accessible whenever appropriate.*

A simple invitation

The objective is not for retired professors to become AI experts. The objective is to discover together: *How can our accumulated knowledge and experience, combined with the knowledge of colleagues and the capabilities of AI tools, help us understand problems better and continue contributing to society?*

The experience of the Novo mesto graduates suggests a simple way to begin:

Bring your experience.

Bring your question.

Ask colleagues.

Ask ChatGPT.

Examine the evidence.

Share what you learn.

Connect it with what others are learning.

From Personal Experience to Shared Intelligence.

Perhaps this could become one of the guiding ideas of the *Retired Professors + ChatGPT Global Pilot: Experience + Collaboration + AI = Knowledge that continues to grow.*

The most important question may therefore no longer be “*What can ChatGPT do for a retired professor?*” It may be: “*What can retired professors, working together with AI tools, do with the knowledge and experience they have accumulated over a lifetime?*”