

# Professors Emeriti Network

[Professors Emeriti Network](#). We walk, what we talk.

## Opportunities to leverage large investments in AI tools, and documents digitization

[Dr. Jože Gričar, Professor Emeritus](#)

University of Maribor, Slovenia

Secretary, [Professors Emeriti Network](#), Secretary, [eSeniors 55+ Network](#)

[Joze.Gricar@UM.si](mailto:Joze.Gricar@UM.si)

Contribution to

**Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 17:00 – 19:00 CET**

*Artificial Intelligence Tools: A Wealth of Intelligence and Nothing Artificial. Seniors 55+ Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools: Lessons Learned and Best Practices Exchange*

### Involving retired professors in the use of AI tools

As with all seniors, AI tools are important for retired professors. They use them for their own needs, but they can greatly help the seniors in expanding their use. That is why we participated in the organization of two events:

13.09.2023 *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applied to Seniors 55+ in the Silver Economy: An Analytical Balance Between Ethics, Technology and Social Concerns*. [Professors Emeriti Network](#), YouTube: [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Applied to Seniors 55+ in the Silver Economy](#).

16.01.2024 *The use of AI tool ChatGPT*. [eSeniors Network](#) in cooperation with [Library Miran Jarc Novo mesto](#) and [Novo mesto Cultural Heritage Promotion Committee](#).

Our findings are that accelerated actions are needed to introduce seniors to the benefits of AI tools. It is necessary to find ways of effective and successful training of seniors on a larger scale. This shows the need for intensifying cross-border cooperation and exchange of experience. eSeniors 55+ and especially [retired eAcademics](#) can play a prominent role in this. AI needs acceleration, not regulation.

### The costs of AI tools development

In an interview ([A wave is coming where many people will be confused](#)), Marko Grobelnik, Researcher, Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana said how important it is to realize that the level of availability of AI tools is the result of large investments in AI development.

He emphasized that only the largest technology companies can actually deal with this, the rest of us are more than observers, because we simply do not have comparable resources. We have the knowledge, we could more or less obtain the data, but even if we put together all the computer facilities in Slovenia, we do not even have enough processing power to be able to compete with them. So power is once again concentrated even more in the hands of a handful of tech giants with a lack of democratic control, whose primary motivation is still profit, not the well-being of the world.

These large companies, in his opinion, have begun to realize that by acting irresponsibly and maximizing profits, they will saw off the branch they are sitting on. However, the world's dependence on these companies is abnormally high. Many vital systems depend on their servers. He thinks that worries everyone. This is also being considered in the companies where these technologies are created. Worried voices are

heard there too. However, he strongly doubts that any of the big companies involved in this will be willing to deliberately stop progress and risk technological lag behind competitors.

From an individual perspective, it is good to recognize that a few tech giants have created great, useful and expensive equipment that is now available for us to use. Smartly, of course. The sooner the better. First of all, smaller countries need to rapidly invest in education and promotion of the use of AI tools.

### **Digitized documents are a prerequisite of the use of AI tools**

Digitizing documents provides the foundational infrastructure needed for AI tools to operate effectively. It enables efficient data processing, analysis, and integration with various AI technologies, making it a crucial step in harnessing the full potential of artificial intelligence.

Digitizing documents is a foundational step for small nations looking to harness the full potential of AI tools. It enables efficient data management, supports advanced analytics, fosters innovation, and contributes to the overall development of the nation in an increasingly digital and AI-driven world.

The existence of a national digital library is important for the accelerated digitization of written materials. For example, [Digital Library of Slovenia](#). The more materials that are digitized, the better the AI tool's answers to questions about that country can be. For example, about cultural heritage, history, social life, science, business and more.

### **Libraries as providers of access to AI tools and training**

As suggested by Chris Chiancone ([The Library of the Future: AI in Public Libraries](#), August 4, 2023), AI tools are important to the library visitors. AI can significantly enhance user services in libraries. One of the most common applications of AI in this area is the use of chatbots for customer service. These AI-powered chatbots can handle a wide range of queries, from simple questions about library hours to more complex inquiries about available resources. They can provide instant responses, improving the efficiency of customer service and freeing up library staff for more complex tasks.

Libraries can empower seniors to overcome barriers and confidently engage with AI tools, fostering digital literacy and enhancing their overall quality of life. Public libraries can serve as valuable community hubs for seniors to initiate their journey into the world of AI, fostering digital literacy and promoting lifelong learning.

### **Recommendations: AI tools are new to all of us, we need time to gain experience**

One year after the launch of the ChatGPT platform, there are interesting experiences and recommendations from a variety of people in academia ([A Year Later, Did Our ChatGPT Advice Get It Right?](#)). Here are some:

We overestimate the effect of technology in the short term and underestimate the effects in the long run. Everything is going to change. But with things like this, it's more of a process. It takes time to see the implications of that, how we can respond, what changes and what doesn't.

Engage with it, give students a chance to experiment with it, give them a chance to evaluate it - but then give them the chance to reflect on it. Online resources and Zoom sessions can be helpful, but there is an emotional aspect to this challenge. Faculty will need local, face-to-face guidance from trustworthy colleagues. They'll also need community and ample time to grapple, to experiment, to think deeply about the implications for students in their courses.

We cannot expect the acceleration in deployments of new AI tools to slow down, nor can we hope for a technological solution in the form of unreliable AI detection to curb its impact. We need to focus instead on developing a sustainable AI literacy for all stakeholders. Being able to communicate the findings and issues across stakeholders and keeping each other accountable becomes more important than ever.