Plenary Speech- 02

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Librarianship in the Era of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

Libraries, often perceived as catalysts for transformation, stand at the tip of a new era defined by Artificial intelligence (AI) in general and Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in specific. GAI offers a new paradigm for information retrieval and knowledge creation, promising to revolutionize libraries by enhancing their services and operations. Integrating Large Language Models (LLMs) with search engines is fundamental to this paradigm shift. This amalgamation can significantly improve information retrieval and question-answering tasks, paving the way for practical library chatbots.

Further potential lies in the incorporation of AI technologies into current information systems. This could involve the development of librarian robots for tasks such as book detection and shelf organization. However, libraries must be included in the development process to address potential accuracy issues and ensure relevance.

In this new framework, libraries can play vital roles in AI-related tasks, promoting the notion of 'intelligent libraries'. Libraries can support researchers in generating innovative ideas, proposing research questions, and offering fresh perspectives using AI tools. Nevertheless, they must also ensure transparency, ethical usage, and critical evaluation of these tools.

Information literacy skills in AI are critical in helping students acquire and process knowledge for their future. Libraries, therefore, have an indispensable role in promoting algorithmic literacy and digital skills. They need to revise current literacy regimes to ensure the responsible use of AI. This involves encouraging a critical understanding of AI, emphasizing the need for algorithmic literacy, proposing pedagogical strategies, and outlining libraries' contributions.

Despite the potential benefits of AI in enhancing productivity across various sectors, it raises concerns about biases, privacy, security, and misinformation. As such, there is a need for further research in areas like knowledge acquisition, transparency, ethics, digital transformation, and teaching. Libraries can lead in promoting ethical scientific writing and evaluating AI tools' validity and reliability.

In conclusion, generative AI brings about a transformative shift in librarianship. It calls for proactive measures in policymaking, ethical considerations, promoting algorithmic literacy, and adapting library services to protect against misuse and abuse of AI technologies. Through this, libraries can remain vital catalysts for transformation, fostering resilient nations in a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.