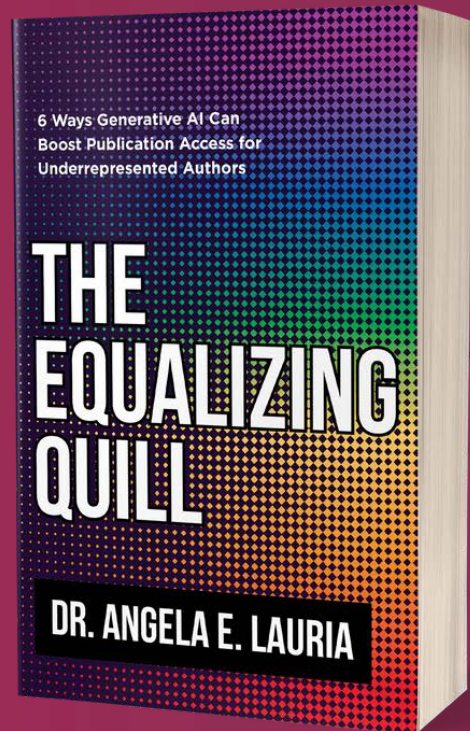




DIFFERENCE
PRESS



AI-Assisted Accessibility for Marginalized Authors

Dr. Angela Lauria



*"Our writing tools
are also working
on our thoughts."
-Nietzsche*



Accessibility and Publishing



Malling-Hansen Writing Ball

“For Nietzsche, the typewriter was an assistive aid to give him access to something he lost when he lost his sight, like a spellboard might give an Autistic person their voice back.”





*“The printing press
was at first mistaken
for an engine of
immortality by
everybody except
Shakespeare.”*

– Marshall McLuhan



Promoting Empowerment and Autonomy

- Past writing tech was feared but led to creative opportunities.
- History shows new writing tech faced backlash but empowered excluded groups.





*Generative
AI at Work*

Erik Brynjolfsson,
Danielle Li & Lindsey R.
Raymond

National Bureau of
Economic Research



AI Benefits Lower-Skilled Workers



“High-skilled workers may have less to gain from AI assistance precisely because AI recommendations capture the knowledge embodied in their own behaviors.”





**Experimental
Evidence on the
Productivity
Effects of
Generative
Artificial
Intelligence**

Shakked Noy &
Whitney Zhang

MIT



Surprising New Research

- Automation has historically displaced human workers in factories or in performing routine computational tasks.
- College-educated professionals completed incentivized writing tasks.
- Participants assigned to use ChatGPT were more productive, efficient, and enjoyed the tasks more.
- Participants with weaker skills benefited the most from ChatGPT, which carries policy implications for efforts to reduce productivity inequality through AI.



"Disability is part of the human experience. We all need to engage in the work to make our world accessible to everyone. Inclusion is a choice."

- Haben Girma



Systemic Barriers to Publishing



- The traditional publishing industry has long been plagued by systemic racism, patriarchy, and other forms of marginalization.
- This gatekeeping has not only excluded traditionally marginalized voices from being able to write and publish books, but it has also resulted in them making less money off their intellectual property.





Concerns
about AI
are valid
but not the
only
relevant
data.



Ethical Preservation of Creativity and Meaning

- **Loss of Control:** AI systems can produce misleading, biased, or harmful information, leading to unintended consequences.
- **Ethical Implications:** Potential misuse, such as the spread of misinformation, deepfake content, or the creation of malicious texts that can be used for harmful purposes.
- **Privacy and Security:** The amount of personal information they provide to these models and the potential risks associated with data breaches or unauthorized access to sensitive information.
- **Job Displacement:** Replacing human workers in various industries could lead to unemployment or a decline in job opportunities.
- **Bias and Fairness:** Large-language models may perpetuate or amplify existing biases present in the data they are trained on, resulting in unfair or discriminatory outcomes. This raises questions about the impact of AI models on marginalized communities and the need for ethical guidelines and regulations.



“When you design for accessibility, you literally pave the way for better innovation for the entire community.”

– Haben Girma



Promoting Inclusion and Access

- Physical and neurological disabilities can also impede writing.
- AI makes writing a book possible for more people.
- Studies show AI boosts underperforming writers more than elite ones.
- AI provides accessibility through dictation, text-to-speech, predictive text
- Saves “spoons” to focus on creativity over mechanics
- Feelings of imposter syndrome are amplified for marginalized authors.



*“We never
come to
thoughts. They
come to us.”
– Martin
Heidegger*



Evaluating AI Advantage



Good books require clear, focused thinking, which AI can supplement but not replace.

- Quality thinking leads to impactful writing, not just writing skills.
- AI can suggest ideas, but authors must direct the book's shape.
- AI should augment, not drive, the writing process.
- Iteration with AI aids organization, but thinking is still required.
- AI can assist with content, style, tone, and proofreading edits.
- Human discernment is still needed for high-quality results.





*“Those who
cannot remember
the past are
condemned to
repeat it.” –
George
Santayana*



The Future of Accessible Publishing



- AI can aid accessibility if developed responsibly
- Sure, ethical risks must be addressed to avoid harm
- Our choices today shape future opportunities for inclusion





DIFFERENCE
PRESS

Appendix





* Accessibility by Condition

Arthritis

- **Voice Recognition:** AI models can transcribe spoken words, enabling individuals with arthritis to dictate and convert their speech into text, reducing the need for typing.
- **Virtual Assistants:** AI-powered virtual assistants can help with tasks like scheduling appointments, setting reminders, and managing daily activities, reducing the physical strain on individuals with arthritis.



* Accessibility by Condition

Dyslexia

- Text-to-Speech: AI models can convert written text into spoken words, aiding individuals with dyslexia in understanding and comprehending written content more effectively.
- Spell-Check and Grammar Correction: AI algorithms can assist in detecting and correcting spelling and grammar errors, providing real-time feedback to individuals with dyslexia and improving their written communication skills.



Dystonia

- **Voice-Controlled Devices:** AI-powered voice assistants can control various devices and perform tasks, allowing individuals with dystonia to interact with technology hands-free and reducing physical strain.
- **Smart Home Integration:** AI can enable individuals with dystonia to control their environment using voice commands, such as adjusting lights, temperature, or entertainment systems.



ADHD

- **Task and Time Management:** AI-based applications and reminders can assist individuals with ADHD in organizing tasks, setting priorities, and managing time effectively.
- **Focus and Productivity Tools:** AI models can provide features like distraction-blocking, focus timers, and noise cancellation to help individuals with ADHD stay focused on their tasks and boost productivity.



* Accessibility by Condition

Autism

- **Social Skills/ Double Empathy Gap:** AI models can simulate social interactions, providing Autistic people a playground to understand neurotypical interpretations in a safe and controlled environment.
- **Information Overload:** Because of autism's monotropic nature it can be difficult to write at a level of basic understanding for the common reader. AI can help simplify complex ideas that brains without the pattern-matching skills of an Autistic in their special interest can still comprehend.



* Accessibility by Condition

Visual Impairments:

- Audio Description: AI can generate audio descriptions of images, videos, and other visual content, enabling individuals with visual impairments to access and understand visual information.
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR): AI-powered OCR technology can convert printed text into speech or Braille, facilitating access to printed materials for individuals with visual impairments.



* Accessibility by Condition

Apraxia, Aphasia, & Dysphonia

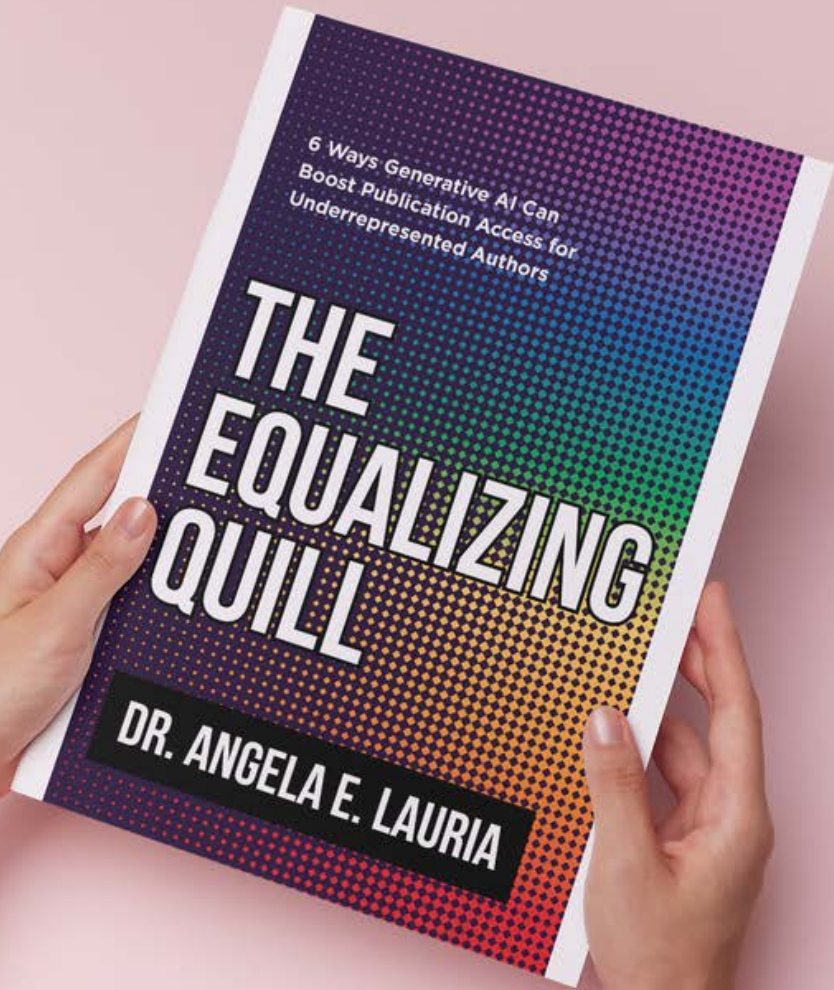
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC):** AI models can assist individuals with speech and language disorders in generating speech output by converting text or symbols into spoken words.
- **Text-to-Speech (TTS) Feedback:** For those who want to "hear" what they've written, TTS technology can read back the text. This can be especially valuable during the editing phase or for individuals who process information better when it's auditory.



Cognitive Disabilities

- **Memory Aids:** AI-based apps and reminders can support individuals with cognitive disabilities in remembering tasks, appointments, and important information.
- **Cognitive Enhancement:** AI models can offer cognitive training exercises and brain games to improve cognitive abilities such as memory, attention, and problem-solving.

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