

AI Terms Glossary

Get up to speed on AI
vocabulary fundamentals

Welcome

to the AI Terms Glossary for Nonprofit Leaders!

The following glossary introduces **foundational AI-related terms** to help mission-driven teams navigate the world of artificial intelligence.

We've broken down these concepts into **simple definitions** to make it accessible for nonprofit leaders without technical expertise.

Remember, understanding AI is a journey—take it step-by-step. As you continue to explore AI, keep asking questions, stay curious, and consider how these technologies can **support your organization's mission and goals**.



Note

There's nothing like consulting AI to define AI

We prompted and collaborated with OpenAI's ChatGPT and Anthropic's Claude to support some of the content creation in the following slides. We've all remained close friends and plan to catch up over a drink soon.





✿ Artificial Intelligence ✿

Computer systems that perform tasks that previously required human intelligence.



✿ Data Bias ✿

When AI systems produce unfair or discriminatory results due to flaws in the data used to train them.



🌟 Deep Learning 🌟

Deep Learning is a subset of Machine Learning that uses Neural Networks* with many layers (hence "deep") to analyze various factors of data.*

**See Machine Learning and Neural Networks definitions that follow.*



🌟 Generative AI 🌟

A type of AI that can create new content, such as text, images, music, or code, based on patterns it has learned from data.



🌟 Hallucinations 🌟

When AI generates false or nonsensical information that it presents as factual.



🌟 Large Language Models (LLMs) 🌟

AI systems trained on vast amounts of text data to understand and generate human-like language.

LLM Examples: OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Microsoft's CoPilot.



🌟 Machine Learning (ML) 🌟

A subset of AI where systems improve their performance on a task through experience, without being explicitly programmed.



🌟 Natural Language Processing (NLP) 🌟

A branch of AI that focuses on the interaction between computers and human language, enabling machines to understand, interpret, and generate human language.



Neural Networks

*Neural networks are the architecture used to train AI.
They are loosely modeled on the brain.*

Go Forth

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8 Steps Nonprofits Can Take to Adopt AI Responsibly written for SSIR
by By Beth Kanter, Allison Fine and Philip Deng

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