

Generative AI

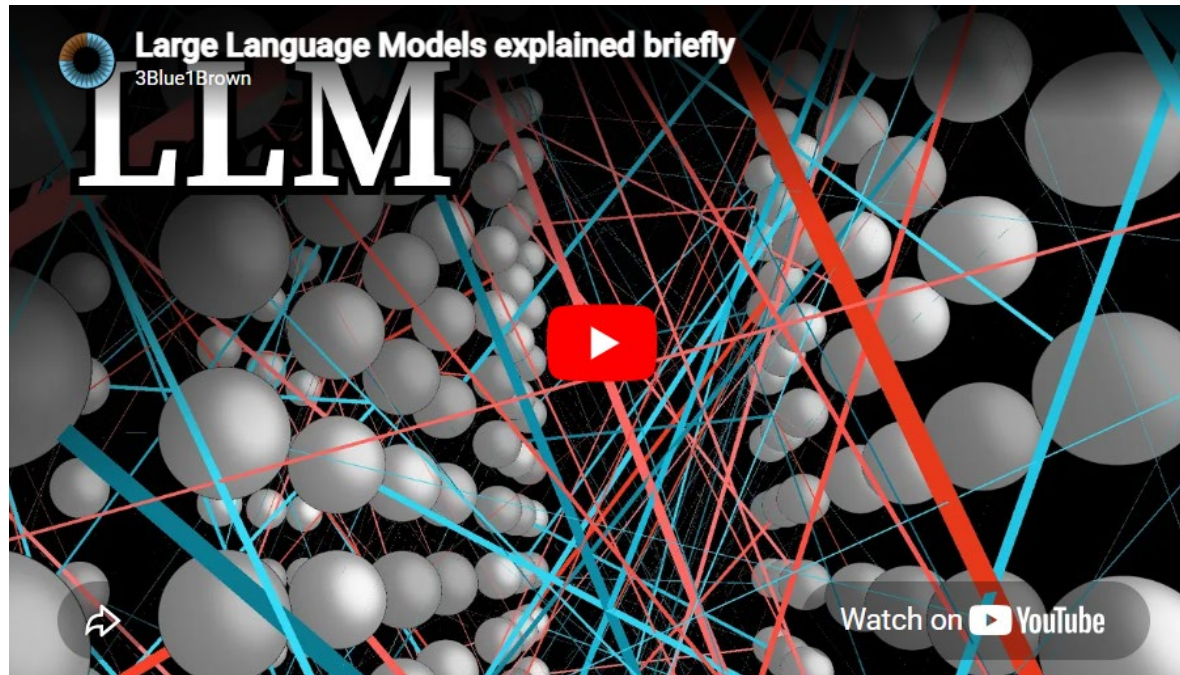
Legal Research Center Video Series

Generative AI

Today's topics:

1. Deciding when to use generative AI in legal research.
2. Recognizing factors to be considered when using generative AI tools and evaluating AI-generated content.
3. Identifying weaknesses in generative AI tools.

How do Gen AI tools work?



- TL;DW: Gen AI is a prediction machine based on probabilities.

When is Gen AI Useful in Legal Research?

- Gen AI tools are very good at helping overcome inertia in the research process.
 - When you don't know how to start.
 - When you don't know where to look.
 - When you don't know how to connect everything.

Considerations for Effective Prompting

- Prompting is not the same as natural language searching
- Prompts should generally include:
 - What **task** you want the AI to perform
 - What **legal context** and background information is needed to perform the task
 - What **kind of answer** you want
- Each platform takes in this information and processes it differently, look out for best practices!

Evaluating AI-Generated Content

Usage: “Did I use the right tool?”	Input: “Did I use an effective prompt?”	Output: “Did the tool give an acceptable response?”
· Designed purpose of tool · Scope of training and/or RAG · Tool transparency	· Prompt included task, legal context, and kind of answer expected · Influence of follow-up interactions · Missing perspectives from prompts	· Source & accuracy verification · Bias & perspective in response · Interaction dynamic between AI & user · Critical evaluation considering ultimate research objective

Adapted from Mary Ann Naumann, Re-Engineering Research: Integrating Generative AI & Prompt Engineering into Information Literacy Programs (June 30, 2024).

How Should I Use Gen AI Tools in Legal Research?

- There's not one “right time” to use gen AI, but many wrong ways.
- **Evaluate all AI-generated content.**
- Use a citator on newly discovered primary law sources.
- Follow all relevant laws, rules, and instructions.

Ethical Considerations Related to Gen AI

- Legal Ethics
 - Competency, confidentiality, candor toward courts, and more!
- Environmental Impact
- Labor Practices
- Inherent Bias
- Intellectual Property Rights

Weaknesses of Gen AI for Research

- Confidence
 - Gen AI is a flatterer.
 - You don't know what you don't know and neither does gen AI.
- Training limited in scope (content and time)
 - Or quality of connected search engine/database
- Hallucinations
 - Damien Charlotin's *AI Hallucination Cases* website

Wrap Up

- Use gen AI in legal research to help you figure out how to start, where to look, or how to connect everything.
- Prompting is different than natural language searching. Include the task, legal background, and the kind of answer you want.
- Always evaluate AI-generated content by considering usage, input, and output factors.
- Act with professional responsibility by being aware of ethical issues and weaknesses of gen AI.

LRC Reference Desk

Email: lrcrefer@sandiego.edu

Phone: (619) 260-4612

Chat: sandiego.edu/law/library

Other videos in this series are available on [the LWR Research Trainings page](#) of the LRC's website.