Public Libraries & AI

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LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

6. Bias and Fairness

Series 2: AI Risks and Limitations

Information neutrality (or: “algorithmic bias”)

- Training data includes “good” and “bad” data
- (Remember: training data reflects human communication)
- Human oversight training filters out LOTS - but not ALL - of the "bad" stuff
- "Garbage In, Garbage Out"
- Commercial AI generally "Safe For Work" (SFW)

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Image Bias Example #1

"picture of teenagers in a public library" in DALL-E2, 25 Jan 2023

picture of teenagers in a public library | Generate

Image Bias Example #2

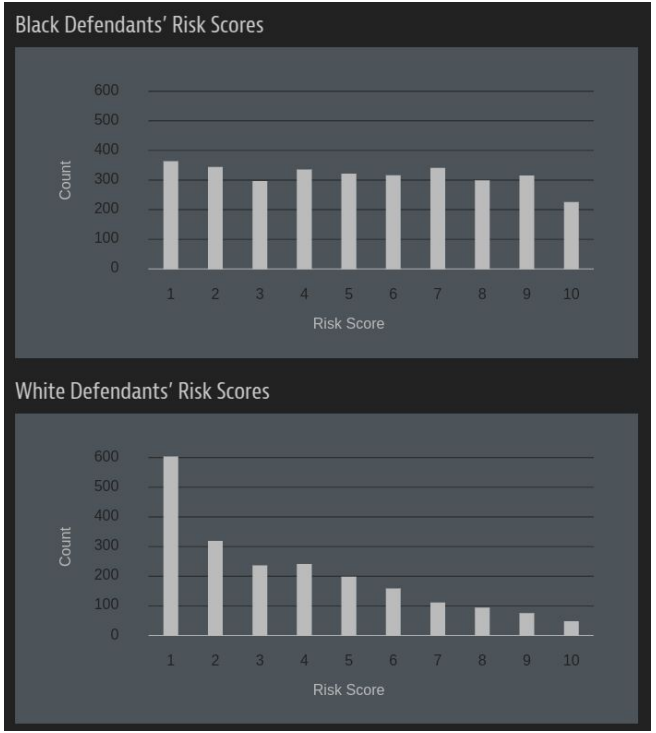
Slate.com Example

https://slate.com/technology/2023/02/dalle2-stable-diffusion-ai-art-race-bias.html

Why It Matters

Example: COMPAS Recidivism Algorithm

- Used by local, state, and federal criminal justice organizations to predict recidivism
- Found to result in significant racial disparities



Img from ProPublica "Machine Bias" article: https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing

Example: Amazon AI Hiring Tool

- AI tool used to rate job applications
- Based on previous job applications...
- ... which were dominated by men
- Negatively rated graduates of women's colleges
- Penalized resumes including "women" as in "women's chess club captain"

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-com-jobs-automation-insight-idUSKCN1MK08G/

Example: Racial Healthcare Disparities

- AI and machine learning algorithms increasingly used for individual and public health care decisions
- Can lead to differences in treatment and outcomes

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Library Responsibilities - AI Bias

- Educate staff and management
- Educate patrons and community
- Collaborate with algorithmic justice organizations
- Promote responsible and ethical AI systems, tools, and usage
- Promote transparent and open source AI systems and software when possible

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Coming up...

- Job displacement concerns

Thanks for watching!

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