

“...we are singularly positioned to access and ignite sparks of enchantment, suggesting that we have a professional responsibility and moral obligation to systematically investigate their dimensions and analyse their consequences.” (Bennett, in press,)

This is a quote from the readings that made me interested in what it meant. It made me think, creating enchantments in archeology, or creating experiences and ways of interacting with the world is not accidental and it is something intentional in which we shape and study.

This relates to neural networks as they are also tools that can be used to be guided rather than just left to run on their own. Both need attention and responsibility from us, the person, or the “user”.

Neural Network works in a similar way to archeology digitally in a computational way. They are systems that learn from data, and just like archeologists, they design experiences. They create outputs, like recognizing faces, creating words, or generating images based on their input.

While working with the notebooks, I saw how data could make us have questions.

Using an image classifier makes me notice patterns I had not seen, especially when using archeological images. This means it noticed any textures, colors, or context to the images that are not seen at first.

I also ran into problems. Some outputs were incorrect or I would say confusing. I got reminded how neural networks are not perfect. Running data that is large especially, is not perfect. This confirms my theory of AI in the workplace is a little disturbing of efficiency and workflow.

Furthermore, this made me think, human labour is required to clean data, label images, and verify results.. Without carefully double checking, neural networks can create any biases or mislead interpretations.

The reading I had read which I pulled my quote in from, made me realize just as archaeologists can design experiences or enchantment, to create outcomes, I need to guide the AI as well. I need to monitor their effects, and observe any of their consequences of what they produce as their output.

In conclusion, this week taught me that AI and enchantment involve human effort and responsibility. It is not just about running models, but guiding them, understanding what output they will give and their impact through this, and observing their decisions behind them. It makes me be more thoughtful in its usage.

Reference:-

Perry S. The Enchantment of the Archaeological Record. European Journal of Archaeology. 2019;22(3):354-371. doi:10.1017/eaa.2019.24