



Research from the Office of RIDIL

Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

This white paper provides a summary of the work from:

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Research Author bios:

Dr. Helen Crompton is a professor of instructional technology in the department of STEM and Professional Studies, and the executive director of the Research Institute for Digital Innovation in Learning at ODUGlobal at ODU.

Dr. Diane Burke is a senior research associate at the Research Institute for Digital Innovation in Learning at ODUGlobal at ODU.

Overview

There has been a rise in the capabilities and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education since 2016. AI is being used to conduct tasks and provide new types of information for higher education instructors, students and administrators.

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to conduct a systematic review to examine extant publications of how AI has been used in higher education teaching and learning from 2016-2022.

The initial questions provide context on the research examined, such as the countries, researcher affiliations, and years of publications. The main question of this study, shared in this white paper is: *What are the applications of AI in higher education?*

Method

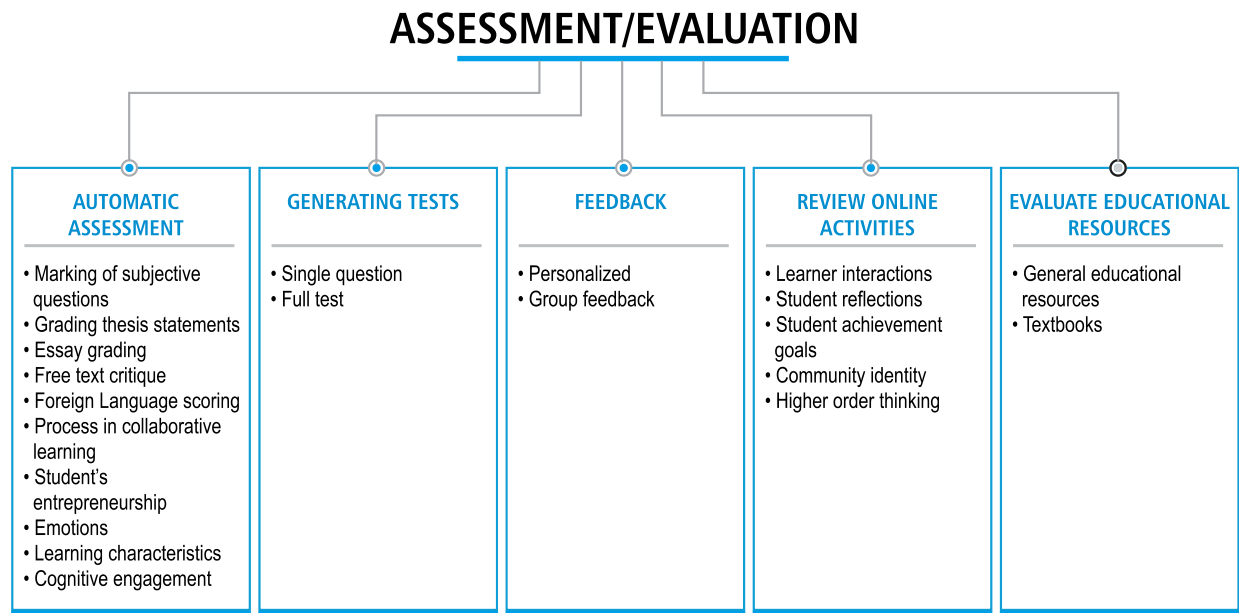
A PRISMA systematic review methodology was used to determine the articles that would be included in this systematic review. Then, a grounded coding approach revealed the trends in answering this research question.

Findings and conclusions

The findings revealed five specific areas where AI is used in higher education: (1) Assessment/Evaluation, (2) Predicting, (3) AI Assistant, (4) Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS), and (5) Managing Student Learning. The research provided further details on AI use for each of these areas and these are provided in the following figures and descriptions:

Assessment and Evaluation

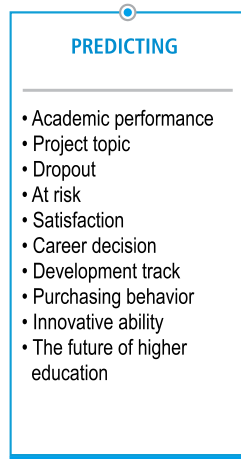
Of the uses of AI in HE, assessment and evaluation were the most common. Figure 1 shows the five trends in assessment/evaluation.



AI automated assessments supported a variety of learners with diverse needs as well as reducing the time it takes for instructors to grade. AI is a powerful tool in assessment with the ability to analyze multiple data sets. AI also supports instructors in generating questions and creating multiple question tests. Researchers found that AI technologies can generate realistic short-answer questions. The ability for AI to develop multiple questions is a highly valuable affordance in saving time while producing quality questions. The study was across all higher education modalities. Nonetheless, a trend revealed the benefits of AI in online assessment and evaluation, specifically highlighting student's reflections, achievement goals, community identity, and higher order thinking.

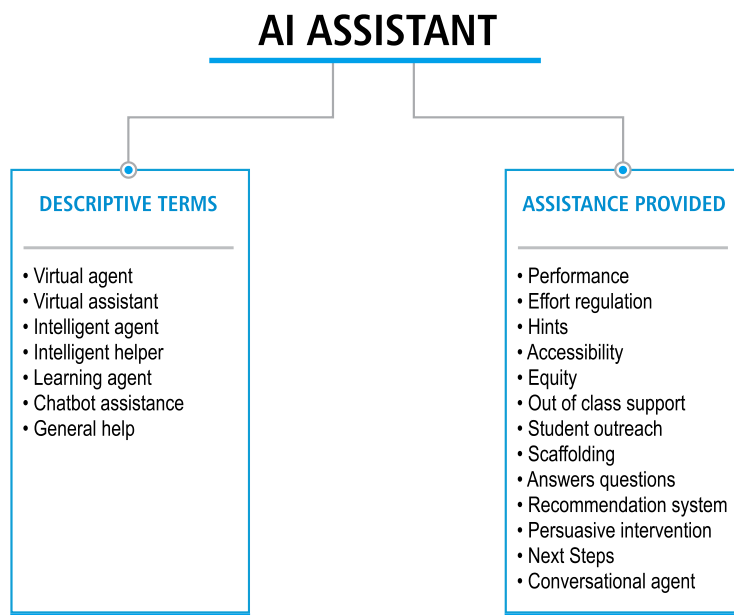
Predicting

Ten types of predictions were revealed from the data, and these are found in Figure 2. Prediction was also a trending use of AI in other systematic reviews (e.g., Chu et al., 2022; Hinojo-Lucena et al., 2019; Ouyang et al., 2022; Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019). Note that many of these are outside the classroom with student management.



AI Assistant

AI assistants provide a variety of services for students. Various terms are used in the literature to describe AI tools that provide assistance. These terms can be found in the left column of Figure 3. In the right column, the different types of assistance are listed.

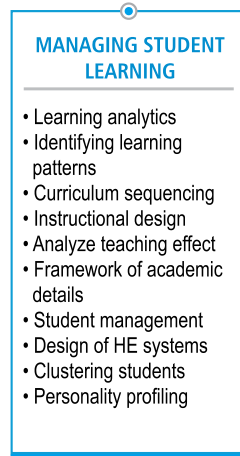


Intelligent Tutoring System

ITS systems are adaptive instructional systems that involve the use of AI techniques and educational methods. An ITS system customizes educational activities and strategies based on a student's characteristics and needs (Mousavinasab et al., 2021). This trend in the literature does not have a figure breaking the ITS into further parts as an ITS naturally has multiple parts in its system.

Managing Student Learning

This trend highlighted the use of AI in managing student learning. Again, those affordances of being about to look across large amounts of data from different sources is especially valuable in this area. The ten areas revealed in this study, see Figure 4, connect directly to students, but also shows how it is being used in learning design.



Conclusion

This study examined the use of AI up to 2022. Recent advancements in AI have put Generative AI at center stage. This study reveals all the other types of AI and the variety of uses available and examined through the literature. Trends in the use of SI in higher education were found in five main areas: (1) Assessment/Evaluation, (2) Predicting, (3) AI Assistant, (4) Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS), and (5) Managing Student Learning. This white paper provides a brief snapshot of the research taken from the main published manuscript. Examples of these trends can be found in the main paper with further detailed descriptions of each of the five areas.

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