

The rise of generative artificial intelligence
has been swift and disruptive in many fields,
not least in the field of education,
causing many of us to have to rethink what we do,
how we do it, and why we do it.

On the surface,
Gen AI's ability to simulate the human abilities
to do things like researching and writing academic papers,
creating other kinds of written documents almost instantaneously,
seems nothing short of miraculous.

In many ways,
it is a giant leap forward
in the way we humans interact with technology.

However, at its heart,
generative AI is merely a predictor of probabilities
based on the information contained
within its extremely large data sets.

Ethical problems aside
regarding where the data comes from and how it's used,
what GenAI cannot do at the moment is actually think for itself.
It can only base its responses on what has gone before.

In education, we need to think very carefully
about what we ask students to do in their learning and assessment activities.

And whilst on the one hand
we should encourage them to embrace GenAI
and its many benefits,
we also need to make sure that they do so
in a positive way
and that they also think creatively
and critically about the work they create using these amazing tools.

We need to ensure that they learn

and are able to express their own thoughts and ideas,
rather than simply retain and regurgitate existing information
as they may have done in the past,
because those are exactly the kind of tasks
in which generative AI excels.

If we don't, then those skills may be lost forever.

- Generated with <https://kome.ai>