

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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Field Site: The American Philosophical Society

Field Supervisor: Catherine Person

Faculty Supervisor: Monique Scott



The original APS building, now called Philosophical Hall, from the outside.

Site Overview

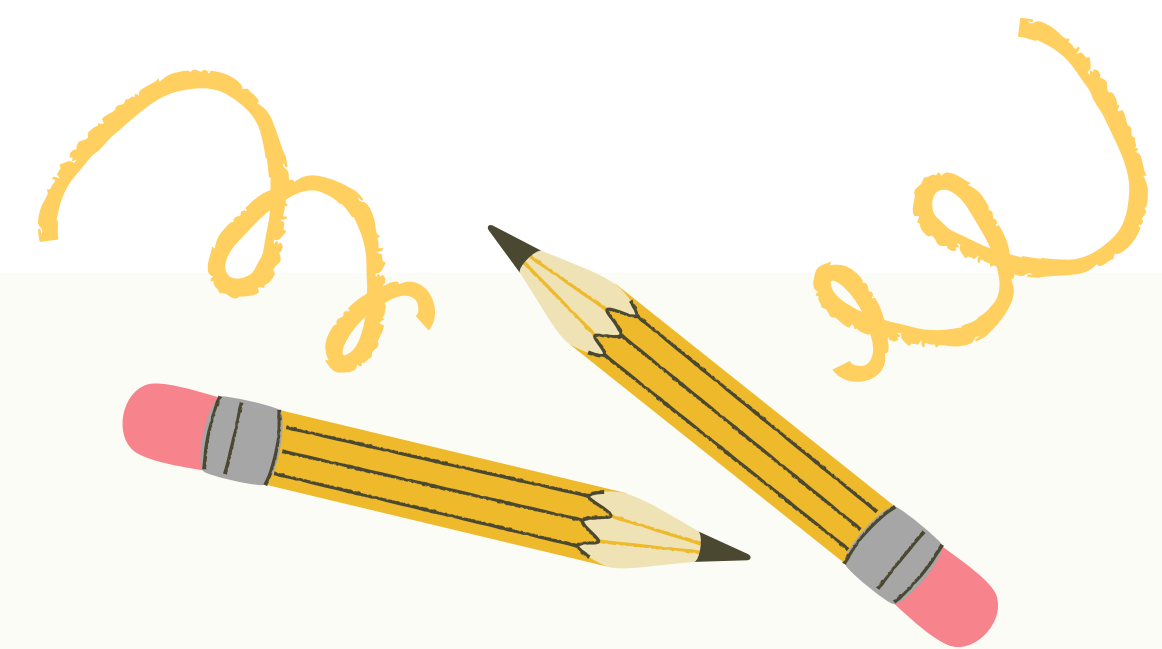
- Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743, the American Philosophical Society is the oldest learned society in the United States. Original members included the Founding Fathers.
- More recently the APS is made up of leaders across academic fields, including multiple Nobel Laureates.
- I worked on the education programs team, which works to engage students in the Philadelphia public school system and beyond with the APS's collections and museum.
- Working with the education programs team, I developed an original curriculum about responsible generative AI usage through the lens of history.

Process

- After experiencing firsthand the negative effects of unchecked generative AI in the classroom, I wanted to make something that taught students how to use AI responsibly.
- My project evolved in three parts: research/knowledge collection on generative AI, activity development, and curriculum finalization.
- For my project, I utilized the APS's History of Science Collection, pulling primary sources on the origins of AI in the 1970s to use in the activities.
- The curriculum will be available on the APS website for use by teachers across the country.

Goals

- Develop original museum education programming for students ages 12-18.
- Become familiar with the workings of a museum education team.
- Interface with older and more experienced professionals in the field of history.
- Participate in museum events and programming.

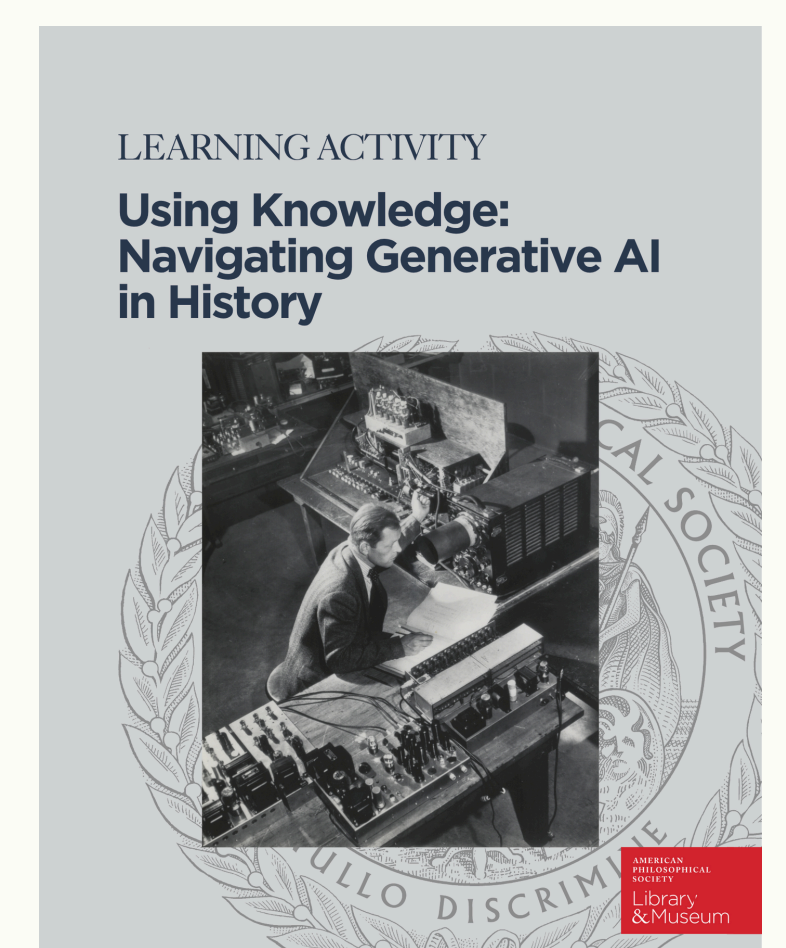


Reflections

- Having come in knowing little about generative AI in education, it was a learning curve to educate myself on both AI and Pennsylvania state standards regarding history and tech use.
- The ethics of using generative AI to create programming to mitigate its harmful effects were a constant challenge.
- Through collaborating with the digital scholarship team, I learned how historians are using generative AI to transcribe and recreate historical documents.
- I also learned to translate documents initially researched in the reading room (pictured right) to educational material for students 12-18.
- I experienced firsthand how hard it is to be an educator in the age of generative AI.



The reading room inside Library Hall.



The cover of the activity I developed with the APS.



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