

DIFFUSING AI IN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

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*“One must learn by doing the thing, for though you think you know it, you have no certainty until you try”
(Sophocles, 400 B.C. – from E.M. Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations, 2003).*

WHAT WE DID

Knowledge

Knowledge occurs when an individual (or other decision-making unit) is exposed to the innovation's existence and gains some understanding of how it functions (Rogers, 2003). There is an initial acquaintance with the innovation, but without a solid grasp of how it works (Kurt, 2023).

During the fall semester of 2022, our team, the Ed Tech Unit (ETU), started hearing concerns from faculty about students using AI to complete course assignments. At this point, our team had minimal experience using AI, especially Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT.

Persuasion

Persuasion occurs when an individual (or other decision-making unit) forms a favorable or unfavorable attitude toward the innovation (Rogers, 2003). Individuals actively seek more information about the innovation (Kurt, 2023).

When we heard from faculty that students were using AI for assignments and there were legitimate concerns about academic integrity, we knew we had to investigate further.

Decision

Decision occurs when an individual (or other decision-making unit) engages in activities that lead to a choice to adopt or reject the innovation (Rogers, 2003).

Several team members started with AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini, then quickly expanded to platforms such as MS Copilot, AI image generators, and teacher-focused tools like Magic School as the technology evolved.

Implementation

Implementation occurs when an individual (or other decision-making unit) puts an innovation into use (Rogers, 2003). Individuals assess the strengths and weaknesses of the innovation (Kurt, 2023).

After exploring various AI tools, we confidently shared our knowledge by introducing students to AI in faculty classes, presenting during Professional Learning Day, and incorporating AI into our own teaching.

Confirmation

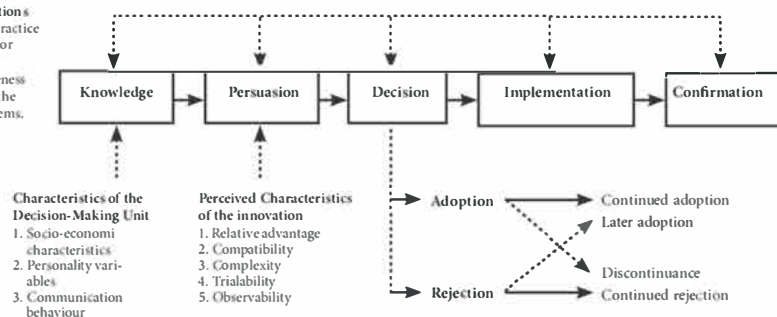
Confirmation happens when someone seeks reinforcement for a decision to adopt an innovation but may reverse it if faced with conflicting feedback. Final commitment often depends on results and peer input (Rogers, 2003; Kurt, 2023).

We received confirmation that AI needed further investigation for its potential use in higher ed and K12 when we were awarded several grants to research AI. In addition, feedback from faculty and staff continues to indicate further training and workshops on AI.

Tools

We've received positive feedback on a variety of effective AI tools for K-12 and higher education, including platforms like Magic School, Merlyn, SchoolAI, EduaidAI, Tweek, and NotebookLM, as well as creative and research tools such as Canva, Ideogram, ChatGPT, Claude, Elicit, and Atlas.ti.

Prior Conditions
1. Previous practice
2. Felt need or problems
3. Innovativeness
4. Norms of the social systems.



Note. The innovation-decision process is the process through which an individual (or other decision-making unit) passes from first knowledge of an innovation, to forming an attitude toward the innovation, to a decision to adopt or reject, to implementation of the new idea, and to confirmation of this decision (Rogers, 2003, p.170).

Strategies

Syllabus statements, AI detection, using AI to make work tasks easier (email, ideas for infographics, etc.), AI for research (brainstorming and data analysis).