



PRESS RELEASE

AILA (AI Literacy Alliance) Brings “Digital Laziness” Warning to Web Summit Qatar, Calling for Human-Centered AI Education for Children

Non-profit founded by Dr. Patrizia Ecker urges tech, policy, and education leaders to tackle cognitive offloading and AI-driven bias by equipping youth, educators, and families with critical AI literacy skills.

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At Web Summit Qatar 2026, the AI Literacy Alliance (AILA) is spotlighting a growing but under-addressed risk in the AI boom: “digital laziness” – the quiet outsourcing of thinking, judgment, and even curiosity to generative AI tools. This theme builds on founder Dr. Patrizia Ecker’s widely read essay on “digital laziness” and her book *The Digital Reinforcement of Bias and Belief*, published by Springer Nature, which examines how AI systems can entrench existing cognitive and social biases.

AILA argues that AI literacy must move beyond tool training to what it calls “digital self-defense”: teaching children and teens not just how to use AI, but how to question it, challenge it, and recognize when to think for themselves instead of handing decisions over to algorithms. At Web Summit Qatar, the organization is inviting partners, funders, and media to join a global effort to keep human judgment, ethics, and creativity at the center of AI adoption.

AILA is a non-profit organization dedicated to preparing children for a digital future with a human-centered focus, rooted in empathy, critical thinking, and responsible innovation. Working initially from Europe and seeking to expand its work internationally, including in regions such as the GCC, AILA operates at the intersection of AI, education, and ethics to make sure all children – regardless of background – have access to essential AI and digital skills.

Core pillars of AILA’s work include train-the-trainer programs, educator and parent support, community and ecosystem building, and advocacy and thought leadership. AILA develops workshops, AI fairs, and creative projects that help educators and



children explore AI critically and playfully, supports adults with AI education frameworks and tools, and builds partnerships with schools, corporates, cultural institutions, and civic actors to create safe spaces where young people can question and challenge the systems that shape their future.

In her “digital laziness” work, Dr. Ecker describes a shift from using technology as a support for thinking to using it as a replacement for thinking – from search and summaries to entire essays, projects, and decisions generated by AI. For children and teens, this trend is especially concerning because it overlaps with a documented decline in power skills such as critical thinking and creativity, highlighted in recent global labor and education reports.

AILA warns that when AI becomes invisible infrastructure in platforms, feeds, and classrooms, it can quietly shape what young people see, believe, and aspire to – reinforcing bias and narrowing their sense of agency. The alliance calls for AI literacy that includes understanding how AI systems filter and personalize information, recognizing bias, distortion, and automation of judgment, and knowing when to slow down, verify, and think independently instead of accepting AI outputs as truth.

About AILA

AI Literacy Alliance (AILA) is a non-profit education initiative founded by Dr. Patrizia Ariane Ecker to equip young people with the tools and mindset to live, learn, and lead in an AI-powered world. AILA’s mission is to demystify AI, strengthen AI education and ethics, and ensure that AI serves humanity – not the other way around. AILA works with youth, educators, and communities through human-centered programs that put empathy, ethics, and critical thinking at the heart of AI education, cross-sector collaborations in Europe and beyond, and public-facing content and campaigns that frame AI as both a technological and psychological revolution reshaping how we think, learn, and decide.

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