ICADL2026

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Agentic AI for Libraries

From AI Assistant to Autonomous Information Agents



KEYNOTE TALK

ABSTRACT

The integration of artificial intelligence in academic libraries is undergoing a radical shift, advancing from reactive assistants to autonomous information agents equipped with Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) capabilities. The talk explores the future trajectory of AI technologies, highlighting how dynamic, multi-agent systems will redefine patron interactions and transform information-seeking behaviour from traditional database queries to continuous, intent-driven research partnerships.

01 Agents & New Skill Sets

As user expectations evolve, autonomous agents will execute complex, multi-step tasks, such as automated literature synthesis, cross-disciplinary hypothesis generation, and real-time archival discovery. Incorporating early AGI paradigms, these agents will reason across multi-modal assets, orchestrate autonomous research workflows, and dynamically adapt to individual learning styles. To thrive in this new ecosystem, information professionals must cultivate advanced skill sets, shifting from manual search expertise to AI curation, prompt engineering, agentic architecture design, and algorithmic auditing.

02 Legal & Institutional Challenges

However, the deployment of highly autonomous agents introduces critical legal and institutional challenges. Academic libraries must navigate complex issues surrounding copyright, data privacy, liability in algorithmic misattribution, licensing terms for AI ingestion, and intellectual property rights over AI-generated research outputs. By addressing these technical, professional, and regulatory considerations, this session outlines a strategic blueprint for librarians to leverage agentic systems while protecting ethical standards, ensuring libraries remain resilient, trusted, and indispensable engines of human-driven knowledge creation.