AI FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Practical Strategies and Resources

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Chapter 9: AI and Teacher Professional Development

This is chapter 9 (pp. 223-246) from my book Teaching with AI: Practical Strategies to Integrate AI in the Classroom.

Introduction

For most of us, professional development has always meant workshops, mandated PD days, or the occasional conference. These traditional formats still matter, and always will, but AI has expanded the boundaries of what professional learning can look like. We now have opportunities for self-directed, continuous, and deeply personalized development that complement those familiar in-person experiences.

Indeed, teacher professional development covers vast territory. It encompasses everything from lesson planning and assessment design to classroom management, parent communication, technology integration, cultural responsiveness, special education strategies, and countless other areas that make up the complex work of teaching. Earlier chapters in this book have addressed specific applications like lesson planning and AI integration. Here, I want to zoom out a little bit and focus on the broader picture, that is, on how AI can support your general professional growth journey.

More specifically, I discuss the various ways you can leverage AI to enhance your professional development practice. We'll look at how to use AI as a personal learning assistant and how to use agentic AI to scout the educational landscape and generate curated insights from teacher communities worldwide. We will also talk about using AI for microteaching practice and reflective practice and explain how it can help you spot patterns and track your growth over time. Finally, we'll discuss building a comprehensive learning ecosystem that includes professional networks, AI guides, self-paced courses, and carefully chosen resources that fuel your continuous growth.

Important as it is in your professional development, AI, however, can never be a substitute for the energy of a great conference, the insights from observing a master teacher, or the support of a trusted mentor. Human connection and collaboration will always have a central place in professional development. Instead, AI augments these experiences, fills the gaps between them, and ensures your professional learning continues every day, not just during scheduled PD events. It puts you in the driver's seat of your own professional journey, giving you tools to learn what you need, when you need it, in ways that honor both your expertise and your aspirations for growth.

1. Using AI as a Personal Learning Assistant

When I talk about using AI as a research assistant, I mean as a co-partner to help you build your knowledge through a dialogic approach where you actively shape the conversation, challenge responses, and push for deeper insights. You're the expert on your classroom context, your students' needs, and your teaching philosophy. AI becomes a thought partner that helps you explore ideas, test assumptions, and discover new perspectives you might not have considered on your own.

AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini can act as personalized PD mentors or coaches available whenever you need them. Think about those moments when you wish you had a colleague to bounce ideas off at 10 PM while planning tomorrow's lesson, or when you want honest feedback on a new teaching strategy but feel hesitant to ask your department head. These tools fill that gap. They offer a safe space to experiment with ideas before you bring them to your classroom.

As a teacher, you can use AI to simulate peer feedback on your lesson planning and teaching strategies. You might ask it to critique your approach to differentiation, help you brainstorm ways to engage that student who always sits in the back corner, or suggest modifications for your ELL learners. The key lies in how you frame your requests and engage with the responses. Here are some prompts you can try to get started:

> **Prompt 1:** "I'm teaching [specific topic] to [grade level] students tomorrow. My lesson plan includes [brief description of activities]. Act as an experienced teacher and give me three specific suggestions to increase student engagement, particularly for kinesthetic learners. Be critical and point out any potential confusion points in my plan."
>
> **Prompt 2:** "Review this assignment I created for my students: [paste assignment]. Identify any unclear instructions, suggest ways to scaffold it for struggling learners, and tell me if the

workload seems appropriate for [grade level]. Also, create a simplified version for my students who need additional support."

Prompt 3: "I have a student who consistently disrupts class by calling out answers without raising their hand. They're bright and engaged but need to work on impulse control. Act as a behavior specialist and help me create a positive behavior intervention plan that doesn't dampen their enthusiasm while teaching appropriate classroom participation."

Prompt 4: "I just finished teaching a lesson on [topic] and it didn't go as planned. Students seemed confused when I explained [concept], and the group activity fell flat. Help me reflect on what might have gone wrong and suggest specific changes I could make when I reteach this concept next period."

Keep in mind that prompting is an iterative process. You don't have to accept AI's first response as final. Push back, ask for clarification, request alternative approaches. If the AI suggests using manipulatives for a math concept, ask it to specify exactly which manipulatives and how to use them. If it recommends a discussion protocol, have it walk you through the steps and anticipate potential student responses. This back-and-forth mirrors the kind of professional dialogue you'd have with a trusted colleague, except it's available on demand and tailored to your specific needs.

As Common Sense Media (2025) stated, AI teacher assistants "can be powerful productivity assistants when used with proper oversight and built on high-quality curricula, but they require experienced educators to evaluate outputs and clear district policies to prevent them from becoming "invisible influencers" that undermine learning quality" (p. 1). In other words, AI becomes most valuable when it operates within a framework of human judgment and professional reflection. The educator's role is to stay intellectually present; to question, refine, and recontextualize AI-generated ideas so that the technology strengthens pedagogical expertise.

2. Keeping Track with Research in Your Area of Interest

Staying current with educational research used to mean hours in the university library or expensive journal subscriptions. Now, AI-powered research tools make it possible to access and understand the latest findings right from your desk. Tools like Scite, Consensus, NotebookLM, Elicit, ResearchRabbit, Google Scholar, to mention a few, offer unique ways to navigate the vast ocean of educational research without drowning in academic jargon.

These tools do more than just find papers. Scite shows you how research has been cited by others helping you spot studies that have been supported or challenged by subsequent work. Consensus answers your research questions by synthesizing findings across multiple studies, perfect for those times when you need evidence-based answers quickly. NotebookLM lets you upload PDFs of research papers and then ask questions about them in plain language, while Elicit helps you extract key findings and methodologies across dozens of papers at once. ResearchRabbit creates visual maps of connected research, so when you find one relevant study, you can easily discover the entire conversation happening in that research area.

The practical applications for your teaching practice are immediate. Want to know if homework actually improves learning outcomes in elementary math? Consensus can synthesize findings from hundreds of studies in seconds. Curious about the latest research on phonics instruction? Set up alerts in Google Scholar or ResearchRabbit to notify you when new studies are published. Found an interesting paper but overwhelmed by the statistics? Upload it to NotebookLM and ask for a plain-English explanation of the key findings and classroom implications. These tools turn you into a research-informed practitioner who can connect classroom practice with the latest evidence in the field.

3. Leveraging Agentic AI for Automated Research

Agentic AI takes things a step further by actively searching the web, compiling information, and delivering comprehensive reports based on your specific needs. By definition, AI agents are "software systems that use AI to pursue goals and complete tasks on behalf of users. They show reasoning, planning, and memory and have a level of autonomy to make decisions, learn, and adapt" (Google Cloud). These AI agents can browse current discussions, analyze trends, and synthesize information from multiple sources while you focus on other tasks. ChatGPT's web search capabilities, Claude's research features, and similar tools can act as your personal research assistant, scouring the internet for exactly what you need.

Let me share a concrete example of how I used ChatGPT AI agent recently. I wanted to know which AI tools teachers were actually using and talking about in their classrooms. I instructed ChatGPT to search community-driven platforms like Reddit's r/Teachers and r/education, educator groups on Facebook, LinkedIn discussions, Quora threads, and education-focused X (Twitter) hashtags. The AI agent compiled authentic conversations from real teachers, giving me insights into

which tools were gaining traction, which ones teachers found frustrating, and what specific features educators valued most.

Here's a sample prompt you can adapt for your own research needs:

Sample Prompt:

"Search current discussions from the past 3 months on Reddit (r/Teachers, r/education), Facebook teacher groups, LinkedIn education posts, and X/Twitter using hashtags #EdTech #TeacherTwitter #EduTwitter. Find and summarize what K-12 teachers are saying about [specific topic, e.g., 'classroom management apps,' 'AI grading tools,' 'digital math manipulatives']. Focus on: 1) Tools teachers recommend with specific examples of how they use them, 2) Common challenges or complaints, 3) Success stories or unexpected benefits teachers have discovered. Compile your findings into a report organized by tool name, including direct quotes where relevant and source links."

You can adapt this approach for various professional development needs. Want to know how teachers in other countries are handling a particular curriculum change? Have the AI search international education forums and compile perspectives. Curious about upcoming education conferences in your region? Set the AI to search conference websites, education calendars, and professional organization announcements. The key is being specific about where to search, what timeframe to consider, and how you want the information organized. This way, you get actionable intelligence from real educator experiences not just theoretical frameworks.

4. Using AI as Your Practice Partner

Microteaching has always been a powerful professional development tool, but traditionally it required willing colleagues, scheduled time, and often a dose of vulnerability that many teachers find uncomfortable. AI changes this equation entirely. You can now practice difficult conversations, test new teaching strategies, and rehearse challenging scenarios in a completely safe space where mistakes become learning opportunities.

The strength of AI-based practice sessions lies in their flexibility and patience. You can run through a parent conference at midnight, practice the same challenging conversation fifteen times until you feel confident, or experiment with different approaches to see what feels most authentic to your teaching style. The AI can play any role you need: a frustrated parent, a struggling student, an

administrator conducting an observation, or even a colleague resistant to new initiatives. Each interaction helps you build muscle memory for real-world situations.

Here are some sample prompts to start your practice sessions:

> **Prompt 1:** "You are a parent concerned about your child's reading progress. Let's role-play how I can respond constructively." After the initial exchange, you might add: "Now become more defensive and accusatory. Help me practice staying professional when emotions run high."
>
> **Prompt 2:** "You are a student who frequently interrupts class. Help me practice how to redirect behavior respectfully." Follow up with: "Show me different levels of resistance so I can practice escalating interventions while maintaining a positive classroom environment."
>
> **Prompt 3:** "Act as a gifted student who finishes work early and becomes disruptive. Let me practice providing enrichment while managing the rest of the class."
>
> **Prompt 4:** "You're an administrator observing my lesson. After I describe what I'm teaching, give me feedback using our district's evaluation rubric. Point out both strengths and areas for growth."

After each role-play, ask the AI to break character and analyze your responses. What worked well? Where could you have shown more empathy? Were there moments when your language might have escalated tension instead of defusing it? These AI-driven sessions provide practice opportunities that simulate real classroom dynamics without real-world consequences. They allow you to rehearse responses, test strategies, and refine your professional judgment in a safe, low-stakes environment before applying them with students or colleagues.

5. Using AI for Reflective Practice

Reflection is an essential element in teacher professional development (Schön, 1983). Developing a sound reflective practice allows you to control your professional growth trajectory and make intentional improvements to your teaching.

Reflective practice provides you with a window into the inner workings of your classroom dynamics, your decision-making processes, and your impact on student learning. You get to think deeply about what works well, what didn't land as expected, and areas in your teaching and learning that need attention or refinement.

Reflective practice can take many forms, from keeping reflective journals and documenting classroom experiences to engaging in peer observations, collaborative discussions, or video self-analysis. Each approach helps you surface underlying assumptions, connect theory to practice, and refine your instructional choices (Loughran, 2002; Brookfield, 2017). The key is consistency, building a habit of reflection that turns day-to-day teaching moments into opportunities for continuous learning. Over time, this habit cultivates professional self-awareness and strengthens your capacity to respond thoughtfully to the diverse and evolving needs of your students (Avalos, 2011; Zeichner & Liston, 2013).

AI can enhance your reflective practice in several powerful ways that address common barriers teachers face when trying to maintain consistent self-evaluation. First, it helps make reflection habitual and structured by eliminating the intimidation of the blank page. You might finish a challenging lesson and feel overwhelmed trying to process what happened, but AI can offer specific prompts tailored to your situation: "What student responses surprised you today?" or "Which part of your lesson plan worked differently than expected?" These targeted questions help you move past vague feelings into concrete analysis. The AI becomes a thinking partner that helps you unpack complex classroom moments systematically. This structured approach makes reflection feel less like additional work and more like a natural extension of your teaching practice.

Beyond organizing your thoughts, AI offers an outside perspective that can reveal patterns invisible from within your daily experience. When you're immersed in the constant demands of teaching, it's difficult to step back and see recurring themes in your challenges or growth areas. AI can analyze weeks of your reflections and identify that you consistently struggle with transitions between activities on Mondays, or that your most successful lessons share certain structural elements you hadn't noticed. It might point out that your concerns about student engagement often coincide with particular types of content or teaching methods.

This pattern recognition extends to tracking your professional evolution over time, synthesizing months of reflections to show how your responses to classroom management issues have become more nuanced, or how your questioning techniques have evolved to promote deeper student thinking. The AI doesn't judge or evaluate; it simply holds up a mirror that helps you see your practice from new angles, making visible the professional growth that happens gradually through daily teaching experiences. Here is a sample reflective practice prompt:

Example prompt:

> "You are an instructional coach. Read this reflection about my math lesson and ask me three follow-up questions to deepen my thinking: [Insert your reflection]. Focus on student engagement, differentiation, and my use of formative assessment."

The AI might respond with questions like: "You mentioned several students struggled with the word problems. How could you have scaffolded the language differently for your ELL students?" or "When you noticed the advanced students finishing early, what alternatives did you consider in the moment, and why did you choose the option you did?"

This approach frames AI as part of the reflective practitioner model that many of us learned in our teacher preparation programs. The AI doesn't replace your critical thinking; it surfaces insights you might overlook when you're juggling thirty students, curriculum demands, and administrative requirements. It becomes a thinking partner that helps you see your teaching through fresh eyes, connecting today's small victories and challenges to your larger professional journey.

6. Building Your Personalized Knowledge System

The explosion of educational content online means we have more learning opportunities than ever before, but it also means we can easily drown in information overload. Building a personal knowledge management system becomes essential for any teacher serious about continuous professional development. I highly recommend starting with a powerful reference manager. I personally use Zotero and find it invaluable for organizing my professional learning. Beyond saving and organizing your sources, it provides a built-in reader similar to Acrobat PDF reader that allows you to highlight passages, add notes, and create connections between different resources. What sets Zotero apart is its ability to capture not just PDFs but also web pages, blog posts, YouTube videos, and even tweets, maintaining a complete record of your learning journey.

The real power of Zotero emerges when you develop a robust tagging system that reflects your evolving professional interests. Tags act as cross-cutting threads that connect resources across different collections, revealing unexpected relationships between ideas. As your tag library grows, it becomes a map of your professional knowledge, showing which areas you've explored deeply and where gaps remain.

In Zotero, you can create collections related to your specific research interests. For instance, one collection for materials on differentiation strategies another for classroom management techniques or whatever areas you're focusing on. The Chrome extension makes capturing resources effortless;

one click saves an article along with its metadata, and you can add tags and notes immediately or during weekly review sessions.

Over time, your Zotero library becomes more than just storage; it becomes an external brain that remembers every useful idea you've encountered, ready to surface relevant resources exactly when you need them for lesson planning, professional development presentations, or graduate coursework. Having a strong system to capture your sources and notes enables you to build a personal library of professional knowledge that grows with you throughout your career and beyond.

7. Building Your Professional Learning Network

Online professional learning networks (PLNs) enable you to connect with educators worldwide. They play an important role in breaking down the isolation that many teachers feel in their individual classrooms. My favorite platform is LinkedIn, and for obvious reasons: it's where professional conversations happen. It’s where professional conversations happen in real time, where teachers, researchers, and edtech innovators share insights, resources, and reflections. It’s also a space where you can build your professional identity by sharing your work, learning from others’ experiences, and engaging in meaningful discussions that expand your perspective beyond your own school or district.

X (formerly Twitter) remains another vibrant platform where educational conversations unfold in real-time. Use hashtags like #EdChat, #Edtech or subject-specific tags like #EnglishTeachers to find discussions relevant to your practice. The platform's fast pace means you can get quick answers to pressing questions or immediate feedback on ideas you're considering. Substack is another valuable space for long-form professional reflection and knowledge exchange. Many educators and researchers now use it to publish newsletters that blend classroom insights, practical strategies, and commentary on current issues in education. Subscribing to a few trusted voices can help you stay informed without being overwhelmed by the noise of social media.

To get the most out of any professional learning network, start with authentic engagement. Don’t just scroll through posts, respond thoughtfully to what others share. Leave constructive comments that add value to the conversation, offer encouragement, or share a relevant resource or experience from your own classroom.

When you comment regularly on educators’ posts, you begin to build visibility and relationships rooted in genuine exchange. Avoid getting pulled into unproductive debates or polarizing

discussions; instead, focus on collaboration and shared learning. Thoughtful engagement creates a sense of community, and over time, people begin to recognize your voice as one that contributes meaningfully to professional dialogue.

Another important tip to keep in mind as you build your online professional network is that consistency matters more than volume. It's better to engage meaningfully a few times a week than to post sporadically and disappear for months. Regular participation such as sharing an article that resonated with you, commenting thoughtfully on a colleague's post, or summarizing a takeaway from a webinar keeps your voice present in the conversation. Over time, this steady rhythm builds credibility and trust, signaling that you're not just collecting connections but contributing to the collective learning of the community.

8. Develop Your AI Literacy with Core AI Guides

A growing number of global and national bodies have produced detailed frameworks and reports that help educators make sense of AI's role in teaching and learning. These guides occupy a unique space in professional literature: they're not peer-reviewed academic studies, but they're not casual blog posts either. Consider them grey literature that bridges research and practice, offering authoritative perspectives grounded in extensive consultation with educators, policymakers, and technologists worldwide.

What makes these frameworks particularly valuable is their synthesis of diverse viewpoints and practical wisdom. They distill complex technical and pedagogical concepts into actionable guidance that teachers can actually use. They also address questions that academic research often overlooks: How should schools handle parent concerns about AI? What professional development do teachers need? How can districts evaluate AI tools before purchasing them? and many more.

These guides also reflect evolving consensus about best practices in educational AI. While individual research studies might offer conflicting findings or narrow perspectives, these frameworks represent negotiated agreements among diverse stakeholders about what responsible AI integration looks like.

They provide common vocabulary and shared standards that help educators communicate across schools, districts, and even countries. Whether you're looking for competency frameworks to guide student AI literacy, ethical guidelines for tool selection, or practical implementation checklists, these resources offer tested approaches refined through real-world application. The collection below

includes both broad international frameworks and specific state-level guidance, giving you multiple lenses through which to understand and implement AI in your educational context.

Over the past few years, I've maintained a growing Zotero collection titled "Reports & Guides" where I systematically archive every substantial AI education framework I encounter through my research, professional networks, and teaching practice. This collection has become an invaluable resource, expanding from a handful of early policy papers to hundreds of documents representing diverse perspectives from around the globe.

As I prepared this section, I revisited the entire collection with a critical eye, filtering through the noise to identify only the most authoritative and foundational resources that teachers actually need. Many guides repeat similar content or offer superficial treatments; others are too theoretical or too narrowly focused to be broadly useful. The documents that made the final cut represent those that consistently prove their worth: frameworks teachers reference repeatedly, guides that answer real classroom questions, and reports that shape how entire districts approach AI integration.

I've organized these resources into six practical categories. Some provide the foundational understanding you need before making any decisions about AI. Others define specific competencies students and teachers should develop. Several offer concrete tools for assessing your school's readiness or evaluating particular technologies. A crucial set addresses the ethical dimensions we cannot ignore. Finally, you'll find specialized guidance for specific contexts and regional frameworks that account for local policies and cultural considerations.

8.1. Foundational AI Frameworks

Start here for comprehensive overviews of AI in education:

- AI and Education: Guidance for Policy-makers, UNESCO (2021). https://doi.org/10.54675/PCSP7350
- AI and the Future of Education: Disruptions, Dilemmas and Directions, by UNESCO (2025). https://doi.org/10.54675/KECK1261
- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations, by U.S. Department of Education (2023). https://www2.ed.gov/documents/ai-report/ai-report.pdf

- A Guide to AI in Schools: Perspectives for the Perplexed (MIT), by Smith et al. (2025). https://tsl.mit.edu/ai-guidebook/
- Guidance for generative AI in education and research, by UNESCO (2023). https://doi.org/10.54675/EWZM9535

8.2. Competency and Literacy Frameworks

AI Literacy frameworks for students and teachers:

- AI Competency Framework for Teachers, by UNESCO (2024). https://doi.org/10.54675/ZJTE2084
- AI Competency Framework for Students, by UNESCO (2024). https://doi.org/10.54675/JKJB9835
- Empowering Learners for the Age of AI: An AI Literacy Framework, by OECD (2025). https://ailiteracyframework.org
- AI Literacy: A Framework to Understand, Evaluate, and Use Emerging Technology, by Digital Promise (2024). https://doi.org/10.51388/20.500.12265/218
- AI Learning Priorities for All K-12 Students, by CSTA & AI4K12 (2025). https://csteachers.org/ai-priorities.
- DEC AI Literacy Framework: AI Literacy for All, by Digital Education Council (2025). https://www.digitaleducationcouncil.com/post/digital-education-council-ai-literacy-framework

8.3. Implementation and Readiness Guides

Practical resources for schools ready to adopt AI:

- AI Readiness Framework, by aiEDU (2025). https://aiedu.org/ai-readiness-framework
- AI Guidance for Schools Toolkit, by TeachAI. https://www.teachai.org/toolkit
- K-12 Generative AI Readiness Checklist, by Council of the Great City Schools et al. (2023). https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/417/K-12%20Generative%20AI%20Readiness%20Checklist%20October%202023%20v1.1%202.pdf

- AI Toolkit for School Districts, by Common Sense Media. https://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/featured-content/files/csm-ai-risk-assessment-ai-teacher-assistants-final.pdf
- Empowering Education Leaders: A Toolkit for Safe, Ethical, and Equitable AI Integration, by U.S. Department of Education (2024). https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED661924.pdf

8.4. Ethics, Equity, and Safety Guidance

Critical considerations for responsible AI use:

- Ethical Guidelines on the Use of AI and Data in Teaching and Learning, by European Commission (2022). https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/153756
- Responsible AI and Tech Justice: A Guide for K-12 Education, by Kapor Foundation (2024). https://kaporfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Responsible-AI-Guide-Kapor-Foundation.pdf
- AI Risk Assessment: AI Teacher Assistants, by Common Sense Media (2025). https://www.commonsensemedia.org/ai-ratings/ai-risk-assessments
- Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law (Council of Europe), by Leslie, D. et al. (2021). https://edoc.coe.int/en/artificial-intelligence/10206-artificial-intelligence-human-rights-democracy-and-the-rule-of-law-a-primer.html#

8.5. Specialized and Sector-Specific Guidance

Targeted resources for specific contexts:

- Guidance for Generative AI in Education and Research, by UNESCO (2023). https://doi.org/10.54675/EWZM9535
- A Call to Action for Closing the Digital Access, Design, and Use Divides, by U.S. Department of Education (2024). https://portal.ct.gov/das/-/media/das/ctedtech/publications/2025/2025-used-oet-archive/netp24.pdf
- AI in Education: A Microsoft Special Report, by Microsoft (2025). https://cdn-dynmedia-1.microsoft.com/is/content/microsoftcorp/microsoft/bade/documents/products-and-services/en-us/education/2025-Microsoft-AI-in-Education-Report.pdf

8.6. State and Regional Guidance

Location-specific implementation guides:

- Human-Centered AI Guidance for K-12 Public Schools, by Washington OSPI (2024).https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2024-06/comprehensive-ai-guidance.pdf
- Generative AI in K-12 Education: Guidance for Arizona Schools, by Arizona Institute for Education and the Economy (2025). https://legacy.nau.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/222/2024/11/1106_1560229_AZ-GenAI-Guidance-v24.03_ADA-Final-1.pdf
- State AI Guidance for K12 Schools (compilation of 26 states' guidance), by AI for Education. https://www.aiforeducation.io/ai-resources/state-ai-guidance

9. Self-Paced Courses

A habit I've developed over the last couple of years is dedicating weekend time to working through AI courses. These self-paced programs have become a cornerstone of my ongoing professional learning. They allow me to explore emerging topics at my own rhythm, pause to reflect on complex ideas, and revisit modules that I deem relevant to my ongoing AI research.

One of the strengths of self-paced learning is the freedom it gives you to shape your own path. You can select courses that match your professional goals, study pace, and preferred level of depth. Some teachers look for short, practical tutorials they can apply in the classroom right away, while others seek more comprehensive programs that explore the theory, ethics, and societal impact of AI.

Today, a wide range of platforms cater to these different needs, offering flexible, high-quality courses that fit around a busy teaching schedule. Here are some of good places to begin.

- **LinkedIn Learning:** Offers bite-sized courses on specific AI tools and concepts
- **ISTE (iste.org):** Provides educator-focused AI courses with classroom application emphasis
- **Google for Education courses:** Free, practical courses on using AI tools in Google Workspace
- **Anthropic Courses:** Direct insights from AI developers on how to use Claude effectively
- **OpenAI Academy:** Learn ChatGPT capabilities directly from its creators
- **Microsoft Learn:** Integration of AI with Microsoft education tools you might already use

- **Coursera:** Hosts AI courses and professional certificates from top universities like Stanford. Ideal for structured, research-informed learning paths.
- **edX :** Offers self-paced AI and data science programs from institutions such as MIT, Harvard, and the University of Helsinki, including ethics and education-focused courses.
- **Elements of AI:** A free, globally recognized course designed to introduce AI concepts to non-experts, emphasizing accessibility and social implications.

10. Books to Deepen Your AI Understanding

Books continue to be one of the most meaningful ways to engage in slow, deliberate learning. While online posts and quick guides help you keep pace with emerging trends, books allow you to step back and think critically about where AI is taking education. I do most of my reading on the Kindle app which lets me highlight key passages, annotate with teaching applications, and search across my entire library when I need to revisit a concept. The ability to sync highlights across devices means I can capture an insight during my commute and review it later when planning lessons.

I'm a voracious reader, both digital and audio, often alternating between reading and listening depending on my schedule. In this section, I share with you some of the books that have most influenced my understanding of AI in education and expanded my perspective as both an educator and researcher.

- **Brave New Words by Salman Khan:** Explores how AI can personalize education and restore human connection by freeing teachers to focus on creativity and empathy.
- **The Coming Wave by Mustafa Suleyman:** Warns of the societal disruptions unleashed by AI and biotechnology and argues for proactive governance to manage their impact.
- **Co-Intelligence by Ethan Mollick:** Offers a practical guide to working alongside AI as a creative and intellectual partner in every profession, including education.
- **Teaching with AI by José Antonio Bowen and Edward Watson:** Provides educators with a balanced, research-informed framework for integrating AI tools ethically and effectively.
- **The AI Mirror by Shannon Vallor:** Reflects on how AI technologies reveal and reshape human values, ethics, and our sense of moral responsibility.
- **Generative AI in the Classroom by Laura Knight:** Focuses on practical classroom strategies for using generative AI to support teaching, learning, and assessment.

- **Empire of AI by Karen Hao:** Investigates the global power structures, labor systems, and environmental costs underpinning today's AI industry.
- **Practical AI Strategies by Leon Furze:** Delivers hands-on frameworks and classroom-tested approaches for teachers adopting AI in lesson design and pedagogy.
- **Atlas of AI by Kate Crawford:** Uncovers the hidden material, environmental, and political infrastructures that sustain the AI ecosystem.
- **AI and the Future of Education by Priten Shah:** Offers educators a roadmap for leveraging AI responsibly to enhance teaching, learning, and equity in schools.

Conclusion

Professional development in the age of AI brings together human expertise and artificial intelligence in complementary ways. Your growth as an educator can now happen continuously, personally, and in ways that fit your actual schedule and needs. The tools and strategies we've explored throughout this chapter supplement the wisdom of experienced colleagues and the energy of inspiring workshops. They ensure your learning continues even when formal PD opportunities don't quite match what you need right now.

The landscape of AI in education will keep evolving. New tools will emerge, existing ones will improve, and our collective understanding of best practices will deepen. Your professional growth doesn't have to wait for the next conference or workshop. It can start with your next question, your next reflection, your next moment of wondering "What if I tried something different?" The tools are ready when you are.