

# City Tech Library Series for Honors Scholars

Library L540 — Fifth Floor (please enter on the Fourth Floor)  
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## Rethinking Authority Across Platforms, Research & AI

Information does not simply appear; it is amplified, organized, and generated within systems designed with specific goals in mind. This three-part workshop series examines how credibility is shaped across platforms, scholarly research environments, and generative AI tools. Each session focuses on a distinct information environment and helps students develop practical strategies for evaluating information intentionally rather than reacting to what appears most visible, authoritative, or convenient.

### ***Authority, Algorithmic Amplification & Engagement-Based Platforms***

*Thursday, September 17, 1:00-2:00 PM*

Why do certain stories dominate a feed while others remain invisible? This session examines how algorithms, emotional cues, and engagement metrics influence what becomes visible in news and social media environments. Students analyze headlines, viral posts, and platform signals to distinguish popularity from credibility and identify practical verification steps before sharing or relying on information.

### ***Research Authority, Institutional Credibility & Scholarly Systems***

*Thursday, October 15, 1:00-2:00 PM*

This session examines how authority operates within academic research environments, where credibility is shaped through peer review, citation practices, institutional affiliation, and disciplinary conversation. Students compare engagement-driven visibility in public platforms with scholarly systems that legitimize knowledge through formal review and evidence-based dialogue, strengthening their ability to determine when a source should be trusted and cited in academic work.

### ***AI as Information Mediator***

*Thursday, November 12, 1:00-2:00 PM*

Generative AI tools can summarize, explain, and produce information rapidly, but fluent output does not guarantee reliability. Students compare AI-generated responses with scholarly sources to identify omissions, unsupported claims, and fabricated authority. Emphasis is placed on verification as a recurring research practice, helping students distinguish convenience from authority before relying on AI-mediated information.