



by Melanie Mitchell

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Mitchell (computer science, Portland State Univ.; *Complexity: A Guided Tour*) aims to impart understanding of the new wave of

artificial intelligence (AI) influencing all aspects of digital living. The content straddles both a historical and a contemporary perspective, detailing approaches to AI development in the post–World War II era, including expert systems and reasoning, while also covering the now popular approach of deep learning, its early dismissal by the field, and subsequent validation. This historical grounding makes for a worthy and compelling narrative in itself. There are also ample contemporary topics explored in great detail, such as AI applications in image recognition, autonomous vehicles, voice recognition, and the impressive translation that today's popular search engines now provide.

VERDICT This work will mainly interest technologists who are exploring the computational and technological foundations of AI and the present implications these bring to the digital era.

Reviewed by [Jim Hahn, Univ. Lib., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana](#) , Sep 01, 2019

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