



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

# Testing and Evaluation of AI-Driven Search and AI-Assisted Description at the National Archives

Jill Reilly

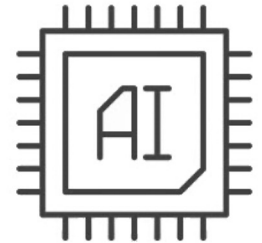
Digital Engagement Director, Office of Innovation

*CNI Fall 2024 Member Meeting*

December 9, 2024

# AI Strategies at NARA

- Responsible and Trustworthy
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Archivists in the Loop and Building Our Staff
- Collaboration and Citizen Archivists in the Loop
- Planning for the Future: Innovation, Testing and Evaluation
- Use Cases at [archives.gov/ai](https://www.archives.gov/ai)



# AI in Production: Transparency and Collaboration

## 1950 Census

Official 1950 Census Website

Search FAQs Resources About





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Welcome to the Official  
1950 Census Website

The 1950 census records were released by the U.S. National Archives on April 1, 2022. This website provides full access to the 1950 census images, including population schedules, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

Begin Search

Resources

Photograph of a Census Enumerator Thomas Cronin Interviewing Thomas Weckenman During the 1950 Census 207899870

SCROLL



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Machine Learning (AI) Extracted Names \*

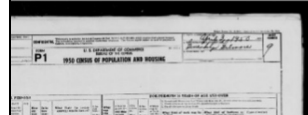
- 8: Buckwalter Bertha • 9: Pensler Eenert • our • 13: **Reilly Hugh** •
- 17: Omans Robert J. • 19: Jane • 19: Happy Lawrence • 20: Theresa •
- 21: Juliette • 25: unna m. • 26: Henry • 2: one • one • one •

County/City  
Detroit, Wayne

Matched Name(s)  
**Reilly Hugh**

[Share](#)
[Population Schedules](#)

[Help Us Transcribe Names](#)

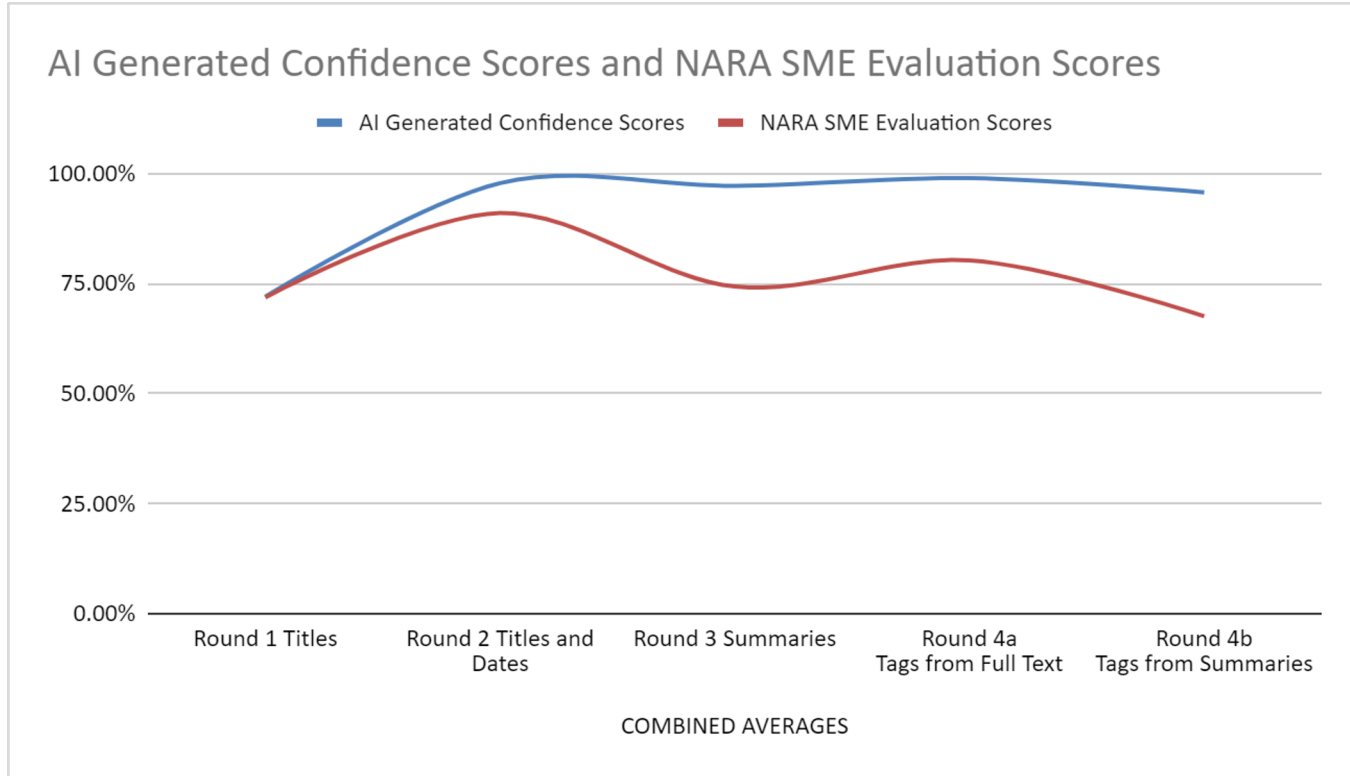


- An experiment / proof of concept
- Natural language queries: Ask a question
- Semantic search running in the background
- Get AI-generated summaries
- Citations and links to sources in the digitized documents
- An opportunity to gather feedback from staff, stakeholders, and the public





# Testing and Evaluation: AI-Assisted Description



# Vision for the Future

- Digital transformation
- 1 billion digital objects
- Archival data at the core
- Layered approach
- AI-generated natural language exploration

