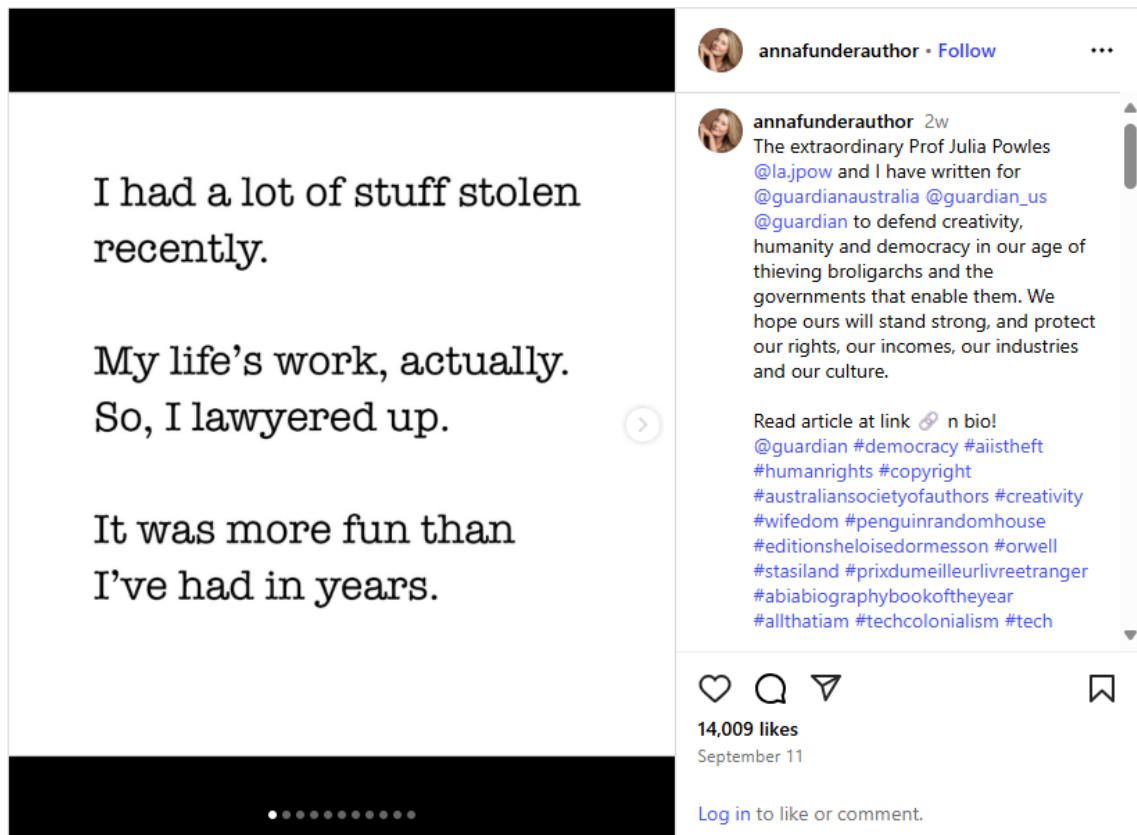


Instagram post by Dr Anna Funder, 11 Sept 2025

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DOdk\\_mICfUG/?img\\_index=11](https://www.instagram.com/p/DOdk_mICfUG/?img_index=11)



Professor Julia Powles is one of Australia's brightest minds, working at the intersection of tech, AI, privacy and human rights.

She's the new Executive Director of the University of California Los Angeles Institute for Technology, Law, and Policy.



annafunderauthor • Follow



annafunderauthor 2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles @la.jpaw and I have written for @guardianaustralia @guardian\_us @guardian to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving broligarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link [n bio!](#)  
@guardian #democracy #aiistheft  
#humanrights #copyright  
#australiansocietyofauthors #creativity  
#wifedom #penguinrandomhouse  
#editionsheloisedormesson #orwell  
#stasiland #prixdumeilleurlivreetranger  
#abiabiographybookoftheyear  
#allthatiam #techcolonialism #tech



14,009 likes

September 11

[Log in](#) to like or comment.

Together we wrote this piece for The Guardian. I brought the outrage, she brought the brilliance, like this:

**"Artificial intelligence has captured the public imagination—scraped, pilfered and swallowed it whole. It's time to claim it back."**



annafunderauthor • Follow



annafunderauthor 2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles @la.jpaw and I have written for @guardianaustralia @guardian\_us @guardian to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving broligarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link [n bio!](#)  
@guardian #democracy #aiistheft  
#humanrights #copyright  
#australiansocietyofauthors #creativity  
#wifedom #penguinrandomhouse  
#editionsheloisedormesson #orwell  
#stasiland #prixdumeilleurlivreetranger  
#abiabiographybookoftheyear  
#allthatiam #techcolonialism #tech




14,009 likes

September 11


[Log in](#) to like or comment.

Today's large-scale AI systems are founded on an extraordinarily **brazen criminal enterprise**: the wholesale theft of every available book, work of art and piece of performance that can be rendered digital.



annafunderauthor

Follow







annafunderauthor

2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles [@la.jpow](#) and I have written for [@guardianastralia](#) [@guardian\\_us](#) [@guardian](#) to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving broligarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link [n bio!](#)  
[@guardian](#) [#democracy](#) [#aiistheft](#)  
[#humanrights](#) [#copyright](#)  
[#australiansocietyofauthors](#) [#creativity](#)  
[#wifedom](#) [#penguinrandomhouse](#)  
[#editionsheloisedormesson](#) [#orwell](#)  
[#stasiland](#) [#prixdumeilleurlivretranger](#)  
[#abiabiographybookoftheyear](#)  
[#allthatiam](#) [#techcolonialism](#) [#tech](#)


14,009 likes

September 11

[Log in](#) to like or comment.


To 'train' AI, tech companies started by 'scraping' the internet for publicly available text, a lot of which is rubbish.

They quickly realised that to get high quality writing, thinking and words they would have to **steal our books**.



annafunderauthor

Follow







annafunderauthor

2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles [@la.jpow](#) and I have written for [@guardianastralia](#) [@guardian\\_us](#) [@guardian](#) to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving broligarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link [n bio!](#)  
[@guardian](#) [#democracy](#) [#aiistheft](#)  
[#humanrights](#) [#copyright](#)  
[#australiansocietyofauthors](#) [#creativity](#)  
[#wifedom](#) [#penguinrandomhouse](#)  
[#editionsheloisedormesson](#) [#orwell](#)  
[#stasiland](#) [#prixdumeilleurlivretranger](#)  
[#abiabiographybookoftheyear](#)  
[#allthatiam](#) [#techcolonialism](#) [#tech](#)

14,009 likes

September 11

[Log in](#) to like or comment.

The tech companies are operating as **imperialists**, scouring foreign lands whose resources they can plunder. These resources are the products of our minds and humanity. They are our culture, the archives of our collective imagination.



annafunderauthor • Follow



annafunderauthor 2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles @la.jpow and I have written for @guardianaustralia @guardian\_us @guardian to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving broligarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link n bio!  
[@guardian](#) [#democracy](#) [#aiistheft](#)  
[#humanrights](#) [#copyright](#)  
[#australiansocietyofauthors](#) [#creativity](#)  
[#wifedom](#) [#penguinrandomhouse](#)  
[#editionsheloisedormesson](#) [#orwell](#)  
[#stasiland](#) [#prixdumeilleurlivretranger](#)  
[#abiabiographybookoftheyear](#)  
[#allthatiam](#) [#techcolonialism](#) [#tech](#)



14,009 likes

September 11

[Log in](#) to like or comment.

If we don't resist, Australia will lose the works that delight us by exploring who we are and what we can be. No one will make work that can immediately be stolen. We won't know ourselves anymore. The rule of law will be rendered dust. **Colony, indeed.**



annafunderauthor • Follow



annafunderauthor 2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles @la.jpow and I have written for @guardianaustralia @guardian\_us @guardian to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving broligarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link n bio!  
[@guardian](#) [#democracy](#) [#aiistheft](#)  
[#humanrights](#) [#copyright](#)  
[#australiansocietyofauthors](#) [#creativity](#)  
[#wifedom](#) [#penguinrandomhouse](#)  
[#editionsheloisedormesson](#) [#orwell](#)  
[#stasiland](#) [#prixdumeilleurlivretranger](#)  
[#abiabiographybookoftheyear](#)  
[#allthatiam](#) [#techcolonialism](#) [#tech](#)




14,009 likes

September 11

[Log in](#) to like or comment.


Big Tech's first fortunes were made by **stealing our personal information**, click by click.




And now, to make their second fortune under the guise of 'AI', this sector has **stolen our work**.

 annafunderauthor • Follow

annafunderauthor 2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles @lajpow and I have written for @guardianaustralia @guardian\_us @guardian to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving brologarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link  n bio!  
@guardian #democracy #aiistheft #humanrights #copyright #australiansocietyofauthors #creativity #wifedom #penguinrandomhouse #editionsheloisedormesson #orwell #stasiland #prixdumeilleurlivreetranger #abiabiographybookoftheyear #allthatiam #techcolonialism #tech


  

14,009 likes

September 11


[Log in](#) to like or comment.




Tech companies argue they were acting 'efficiently' by stealing our work. **No kidding**. If you are setting up a business, in farming or mining or manufacturing or AI, it will indeed be **more efficient if you can just steal** what you need – land, the buildings someone else constructed, the perfectly imperfect ideas honed and nourished through dedicated labour, the four corners of a book that ate a decade.

 annafunderauthor • Follow

annafunderauthor 2w

The extraordinary Prof Julia Powles @lajpow and I have written for @guardianaustralia @guardian\_us @guardian to defend creativity, humanity and democracy in our age of thieving brologarchs and the governments that enable them. We hope ours will stand strong, and protect our rights, our incomes, our industries and our culture.

Read article at link  n bio!  
@guardian #democracy #aiistheft #humanrights #copyright #australiansocietyofauthors #creativity #wifedom #penguinrandomhouse #editionsheloisedormesson #orwell #stasiland #prixdumeilleurlivreetranger #abiabiographybookoftheyear #allthatiam #techcolonialism #tech

14,009 likes

September 11

[Log in](#) to like or comment.



Log in to like or comment.



theguardian.com



Log in to like or comment.