

A Collaborative Approach to Evaluating AI-powered Research Tools

Exploring the role of academic libraries in assessing and providing access to cutting-edge AI research tools

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The AI Research Tool Landscape



Libraries Bridging the Digital Divide

Academic libraries have long served as equalizers, providing universal access to essential research tools like citation managers and data analysis software for all scholars, regardless of resources.

Today, this vital mission extends to democratizing access to powerful AI-powered research tools, ensuring that cutting-edge technology remains accessible to the entire academic community.



The Selection Challenge



Numerous Tools Available

Difficulty in choosing which to support



Rapid Evolution

Tools constantly updating and improving



Limited Resources

Constraints on staff and budget



Tools already seeing adoption by JULAC libraries



Scite

Large citation database augmented with an AI research assistant



Elicit

AI-powered literature review assistant



Consensus

Academic search engine powered by AI



Tools on the Horizon

Just a few of the AI -powered research platforms recently released or under development...

Scopus AI

Next-generation bibliometric analysis platform bringing advanced analytics to citation research

Web of Science Research Assistant

Enhanced literature discovery tool designed to transform scholarly search workflows

Primo Research Assistant

AI-powered library discovery system integrating intelligent search capabilities

JSTOR AI

Intelligent academic content exploration platform for deeper research insights

ProQuest Ebook Central AI

Smart ebook research companion enhancing digital reading experiences

JULAC LSC Working Group Approach

1

Step 1: Create Shared Guidelines

Develop a comprehensive assessment framework together

2

Step 2: Divide and Conquer

Distributing assessment responsibilities across member libraries

3

Step 3: Share Knowledge

Disseminating findings and insights with each other

Assessment Guidelines for AI Research Tools

1. **Accessibility:** Ease of access and use.
2. **Pricing:** Evaluate pricing model and value of the free version (if provided).
3. **Data Sources and Coverage:** Breadth and depth of information sources supported.
4. **Search Capabilities:** Flexibility and effectiveness of search functions.
5. **Performance on Source Retrieval:** Relevance and recall in retrieving documents.
6. **Performance on Source Summary:** Quality and conciseness of AI - generated summaries.
7. **Output and Export Options:** Flexibility in saving and sharing research findings.
8. **Other Features:** Additional functionality that enhances the research experience.
9. **Data Privacy and Ethics:** Safeguards for user privacy and responsible use of AI.
10. **Vendor Viability:** Stability and long - term commitment of the tool's provider.

Ongoing Evaluation Process



1

Initial Analysis

First round of assessments

2

Regular Updates

Subsequent rounds to track tool evolution

3

Continuous Improvement

Refine assessment process based on feedback

Future Plans and Next Steps

1 Disseminate Findings

Share results within and beyond JULAC

2 Expand Collaboration

Invite more librarians to participate in assessments



Thank You!

