



# From Assistants to Agents What's Next for Academic AI?

Christine Stohn | Marta Enciso

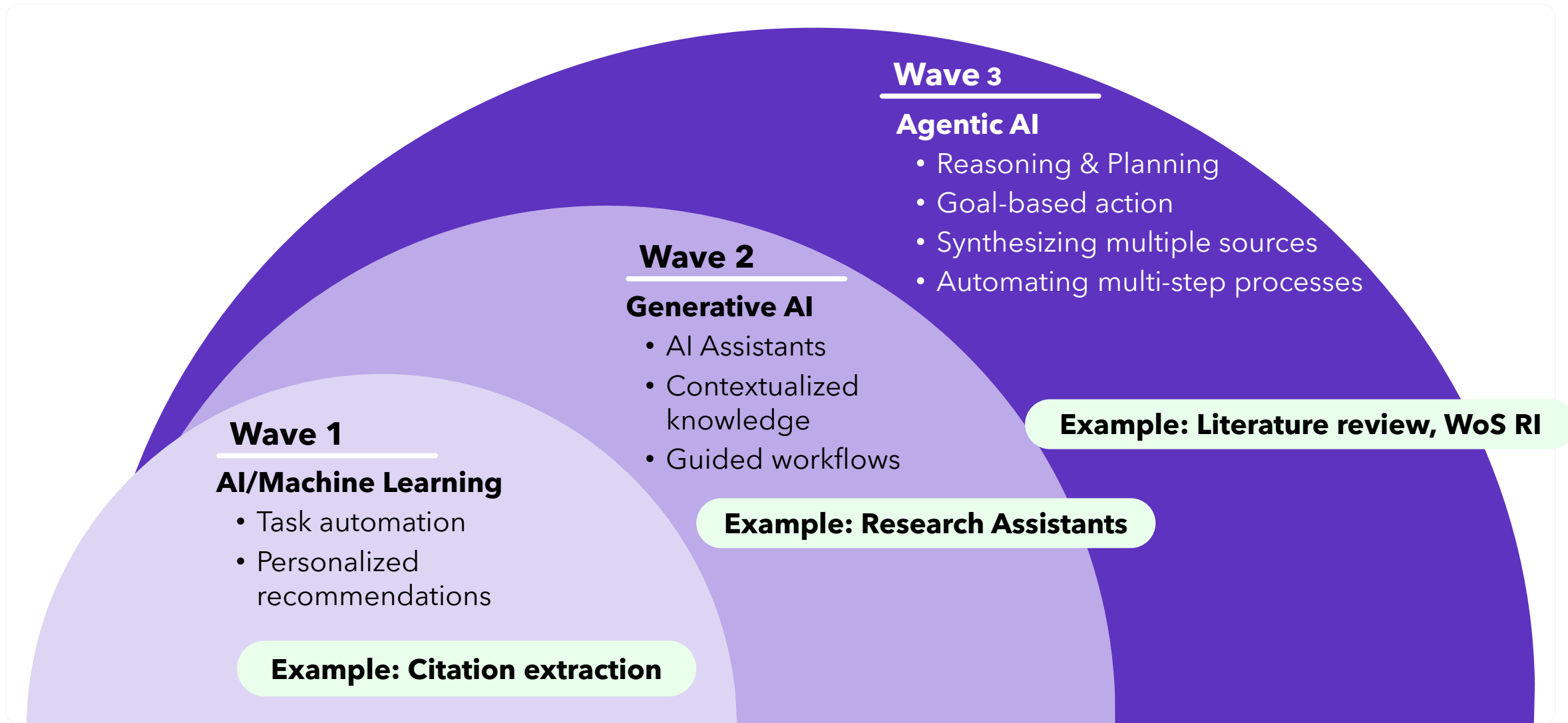
**October 2025**

# In this session

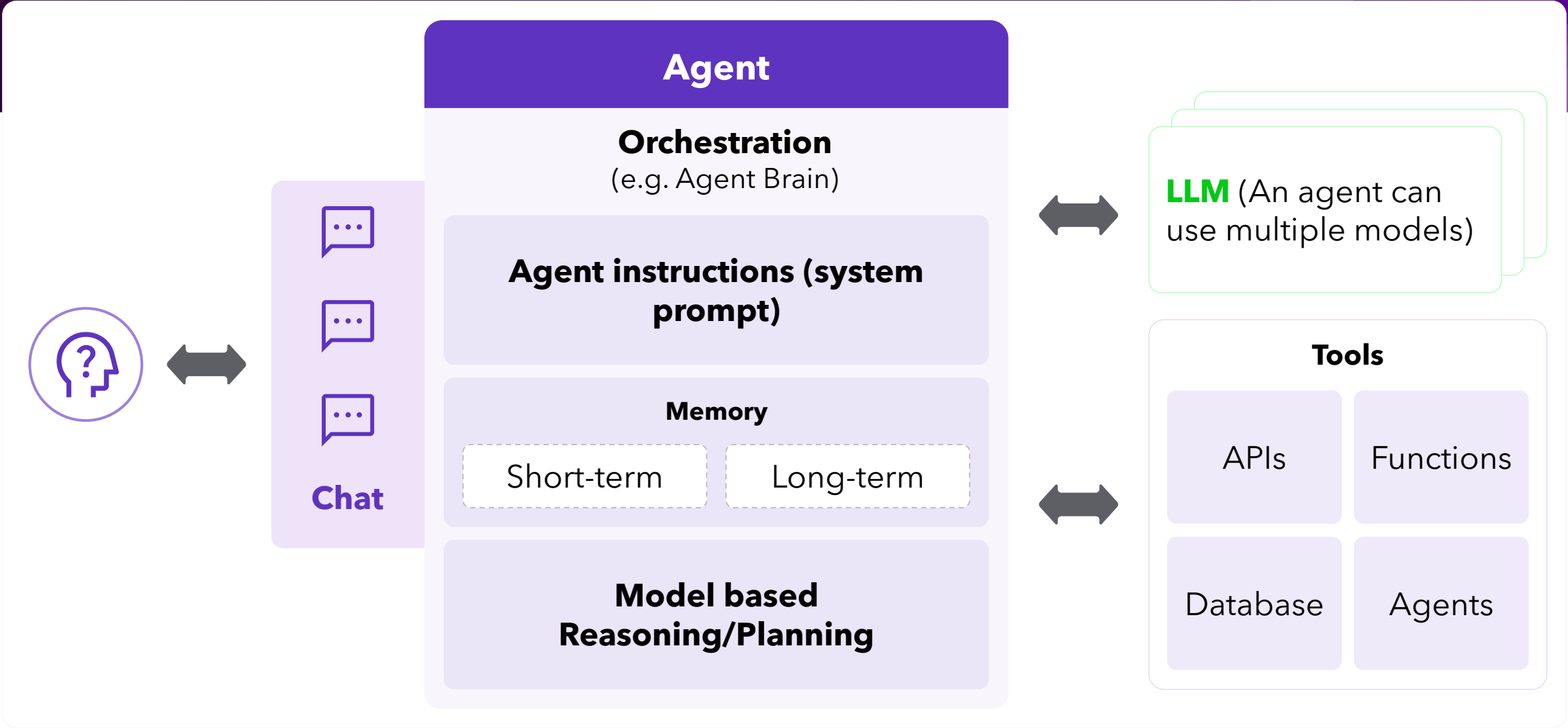
- What are Agents?
- Agents at Clarivate
- Designing for AI Literacy
- Agents in the library
- Connecting the dots: MCP
- Pulse of the library



# The next wave of AI is here: Agents



# Agents





# Agents at Clarivate



# AI Frontdoor Agents at Clarivate



## First Clarivate use cases:

1

### **Web of Science Research Assistant**

**Literature review agent**

*Released: April 2025*

**Topic exploration agent** (*Planned for Q4, 2025*)

2

### **Web of Science Research Intelligence**

**Funding agent**

**Emerging Topics**

**Impact evaluation**

**Collaboration analysis**

*Partner release: Q3, 2025*

3

### **PQ Chat with a document**

*Release: Q3, 2025*



# Hi Marta, how can I help you?

✦ Smart AI assistants to help you identify opportunities, evaluate impact and explore partnerships

**Funding Discovery**  
Discover potential funding sources for your research projects, tailored to your specific needs.



**Emerging Topics**  
Identify new and trending topics in your field to stay ahead of the curve.



**Impact Evaluation**  
Measure and visualize research performance. Benchmark impact against peers.



**Collaboration Analysis**  
Assess collaborations, evaluate existing partnerships and identify new partners.



## Key reports and tools to guide your research strategy

**Research Performance**  
Your organization's performance this year (2025)  
**1.86K**

**Funding Opportunities**  
Recently added funding opportunities  
Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget

**Societal Impact**  
Evaluate the impact of research on policy, technology, the environment and more.





→ History



Hello! I'm here to help you discover academic funding opportunities.

- What is your research topic or area of interest?
- Where are you or your institution located?

You can also share additional details to refine your search, such as your career stage (e.g., early-career, established researcher), the type of funding you're seeking (research grant, travel, collaboration), minimum funding amount, deadlines, or specific funders you're interested in. The more information you provide, the more tailored your funding results will be!



Home



Assistant



Discover



Report



Saved Items



Enter your question...







→| History

I'm a biochemist postdoc at CERN

ME



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Thank you for sharing your details! Here's what I know so far:

- Research topic/area: Biochemistry
- Career stage: Postdoctoral researcher
- Location: CERN (Switzerland)

To further refine your search, could you let me know if you have any preferences for:

- Type of funding (e.g., research grants, travel, collaboration)
- Minimum funding amount
- Deadlines or timing
- Specific funders you're interested in

If you don't have specific preferences, I'll proceed to search for funding opportunities for postdoctoral biochemists at CERN. Please let me know if you'd like to add any of the above details, or I can start the search now!

Enter your question...



→ History

go ahead

ME



Home



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Search strategy ▾

I searched for funding opportunities for postdoctoral researchers in biochemistry at CERN (Switzerland), focusing on early-career stage, international funders, and activities based in Switzerland. The search used the "Biochemistry & Molecular Biology" taxonomy and included child topics, with results sorted by highest funding amount.

Parameters used:

- Research area: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (including child topics)
- Career stage: Early Career and Emerging in Field (postdoc)
- Location: Switzerland (including unrestricted and child locations)
- Funder location: International Organization

Results found: 22 funding opportunities.

Analysis of results:



Enter your question...





→ History

go ahead

ME



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## Search strategy

- **Keywords (including sub-topics):** Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- **Funder Locations:** International Organization
- **Career Stage:** Early Career and Emerging in Field
- **Activity Location (including sub-entities and super-entities):** Switzerland, unrestricted location

I searched for funding opportunities for postdoctoral researchers in biochemistry at CERN (Switzerland), focusing on early-career stage, international funders, and activities based in Switzerland. The search used the "Biochemistry & Molecular Biology" taxonomy and included child topics, with results sorted by highest funding amount.

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Enter your question...





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→ History

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Results found: 22 funding opportunities.

Analysis of results:

There is a strong presence of international and European professional societies and foundations supporting biochemistry postdocs in Switzerland, with 22 opportunities available. The majority of funders are professional societies (11) and private foundations (10), with one multinational organization. Award types are diverse: conferences/events (8), travel grants (7), fellowships/postdoctoral awards (5), collaboration/networking (4), and research project grants (4). Most opportunities are for early-career researchers, but 14 also support mid-career applicants. Funding is available in EUR (16), USD (5), and some unrestricted. Deadlines are mostly confirmed (14) or anticipated (8), with upcoming dates in 2026. Eligibility is broad, with many grants open to academic institutions and some to non-profits, government, or commercial entities. Switzerland is well-represented, but many grants are also open to applicants from other European and global locations.



◆◆ Enter your question...







→ History

**Summary:** The EMBO Global Lecture Series fosters international collaboration by supporting lectures delivered by EMBO Members, Young Investigators, and Emerging researchers. Priority is given to engagements involving scientists from EMBC Associate Member States, focusing on biochemistry and molecular biology.

**Award Type:** Conferences, Events or Seminars

**Funder:** European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), Professional Society or Association, International

**Deadline:** (Confirmed)

**Amount:** 3,500 EUR

**Career stage:** Early Career and Emerging in Field

[View All Funding Opportunities →](#)

## Suggestions for query refinement:

- If you want to focus on a specific subfield (e.g., protein engineering, molecular biochemistry, clinical chemistry), let me know.
- You can filter by award type (e.g., only fellowships, only travel grants).
- If you have a minimum funding amount or a specific deadline, I can narrow results.
- Interested in opportunities from a particular funder or country? Specify for a more targeted list.
- Adjacent topics: computational biology, medicinal chemistry, biophysical chemistry, synthetic biology, or biochemical engineering—these may yield additional relevant opportunities. Let me know if you'd like to explore these!

Home

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Enter your question...



→ History

- Connective Tissue: 1 opportunity
- Musculoskeletal System: 1 opportunity
- Sensory System: 1 opportunity

This distribution shows that the majority of international opportunities for postdoctoral researchers at CERN are concentrated in biochemistry and molecular biology, with additional options in biotechnology, bone marrow research, and several other specialized areas. If you wish to focus on a particular subfield, I can refine the search further.

Bar Chart

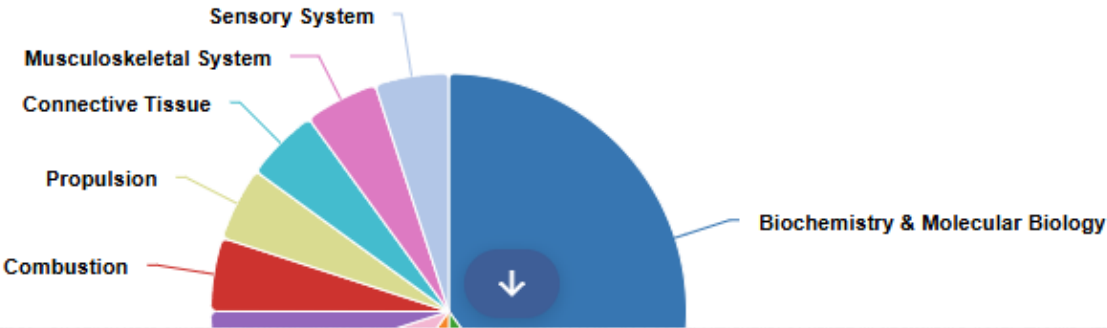
✓ Pie Chart

Treemap Chart

Data Table

### Funding Opportunities by Subfield

Number of international funding opportunities for postdoctoral biochemistry researchers at CERN, grouped by subfield.

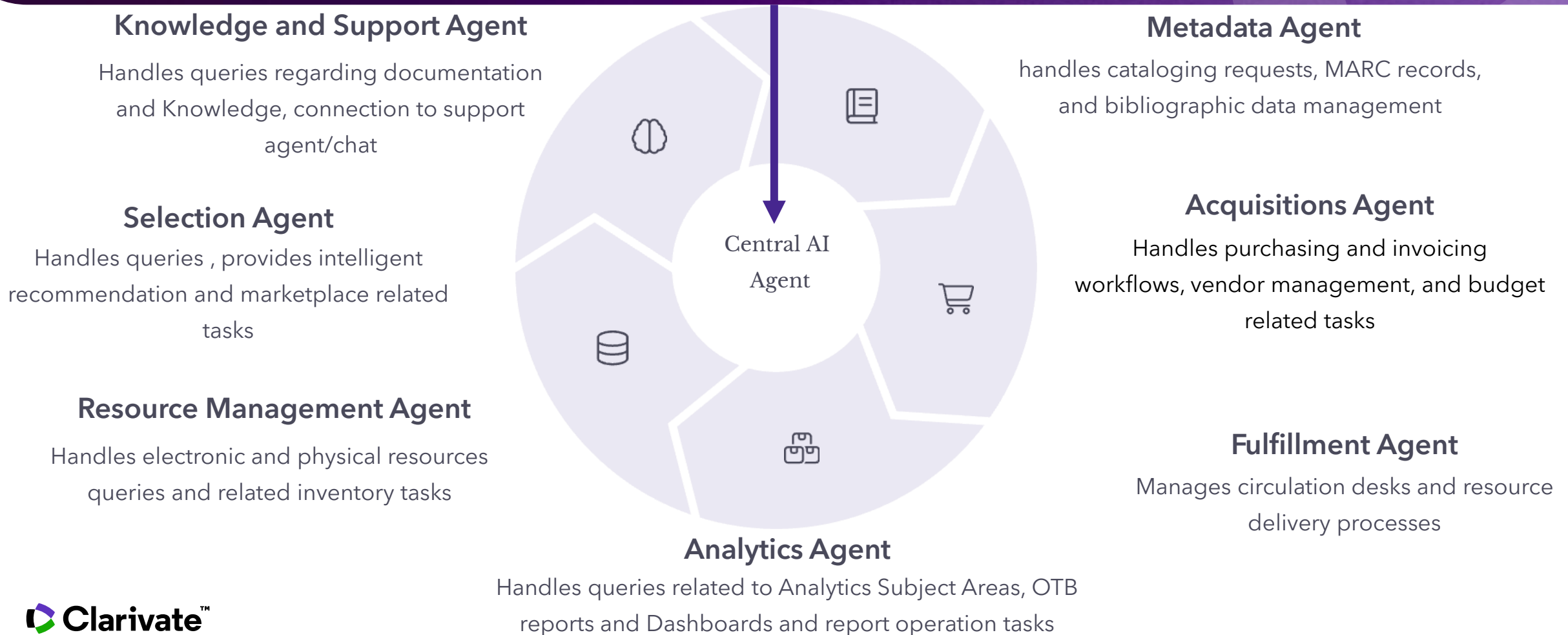


Enter your question...

# From Front door to back end: AI Assistant Orchestration in the Library Platform

Our vision: providing librarians an alternative experience - interact with the Library Platform through AI orchestration

Main conversational interface that understands user intent and coordinates specialized responses.





# Designing for AI literacy






# Designing for AI literacy: What we've learned so far

- **Transparency builds trust:** Highlighting sources, enabling users to validate and cite, in context
  - **Explainability matters:** Making it easy to develop, adapt and re-produce research strategy
  - **Grounding is key:** Base outputs on vetted scholarly content is key
  - **Support critical thinking:** Prompting users to go deeper and explore assumptions
- 

## Keeping humans in control:

- Prompt design and quality testing
- Evaluation of outputs

# Reinforcing AI literacy principles through product design



How does climate change impact biodiversity?

How are these results generated? ▲

**Overview**

The impact of climate change on biodiversity is multifaceted, encompassing "changes in species diversity and ecosystem functions", "the role of anthropogenic factors", and "the importance of ecological restoration". These themes highlight how climate variability and human activities are reshaping ecosystems and the urgent need for effective management strategies.

How are these results generated? ▼

Using your query, I searched the Web of Science Core Collection for documents with topic "(climate change OR global warming OR climate variation OR climatic changes OR climate variability OR climate crisis OR climate emergency OR greenhouse gases OR anthropogenic climate change OR carbon emissions) AND (biodiversity OR species diversity OR ecosystem diversity OR biological diversity OR ecological diversity)" and found 74,787 results.

responses ③.

**The role of anthropogenic factors:**

- Anthropogenic impacts, including habitat alteration and pollution, exacerbate the effects of climate change on biodiversity, as seen in the Gokceada Salt Lake, where human activities have led to significant changes in aquatic species diversity ⑦.
- The Hindu Kush Himalayan region is experiencing biodiversity losses due to rapid climatic warming and unsustainable resource use, highlighting the critical intersection of human activity and climate change ⑤.
- The interaction between natural climatic events and human-induced changes has been shown to lead to biodiversity losses over time, particularly in estuarine environments ①.

**The importance of ecological restoration:**

- Effective ecological restoration is essential for maintaining biodiversity amidst climate change, as it can help overcome barriers to plant community recovery ②.
- The conservation of non-crop habitats in agricultural landscapes has been identified as a strategy to enhance ecosystem resilience and support biodiversity

Web of Science  
Research Assistant

# Reinforcing AI literacy principles through product design

## What are the effects of income inequality on political stability?

### Sources

#### 1 ARTICLE

Political instability, economic inequality and social conflict: The case in Italy  
Ippolito, Marzia et al. 2019

#### 2 ARTICLE

The erosion of democracy in an age of wealth inequality: Unravelling the impact of subjective socioeconomic stratification  
Han, Seungwoo 2024

#### 3 ARTICLE

Income Shocks, Inequality, and Democracy  
Kotschy, Rainer et al. 2021

#### 4 ARTICLE

Income Inequality and Political Trust: Do Fairness Perceptions Matter?  
Bobzien, Licia 2023

#### 5 ARTICLE

How does income inequality affects economic growth at different income levels?  
Shen, Chengfang et al. 2023



View more results from your library search

### Overview of sources

Income inequality has significant implications for political stability, as evidenced by various studies. Rising economic inequality can lead to a contraction of political stability and an increase in social conflict. This phenomenon is explained by the theory of relative power, which posits that the distribution of incomes affects political participation. The relatively wealthy may use their power to maintain the status quo, while the relatively poor may withdraw from political engagement when they perceive their demands will not be addressed. This dynamic can alter the distribution of votes among political factions, ultimately disadvantaging the poorer segments of society and affecting their political influence <sup>1</sup>

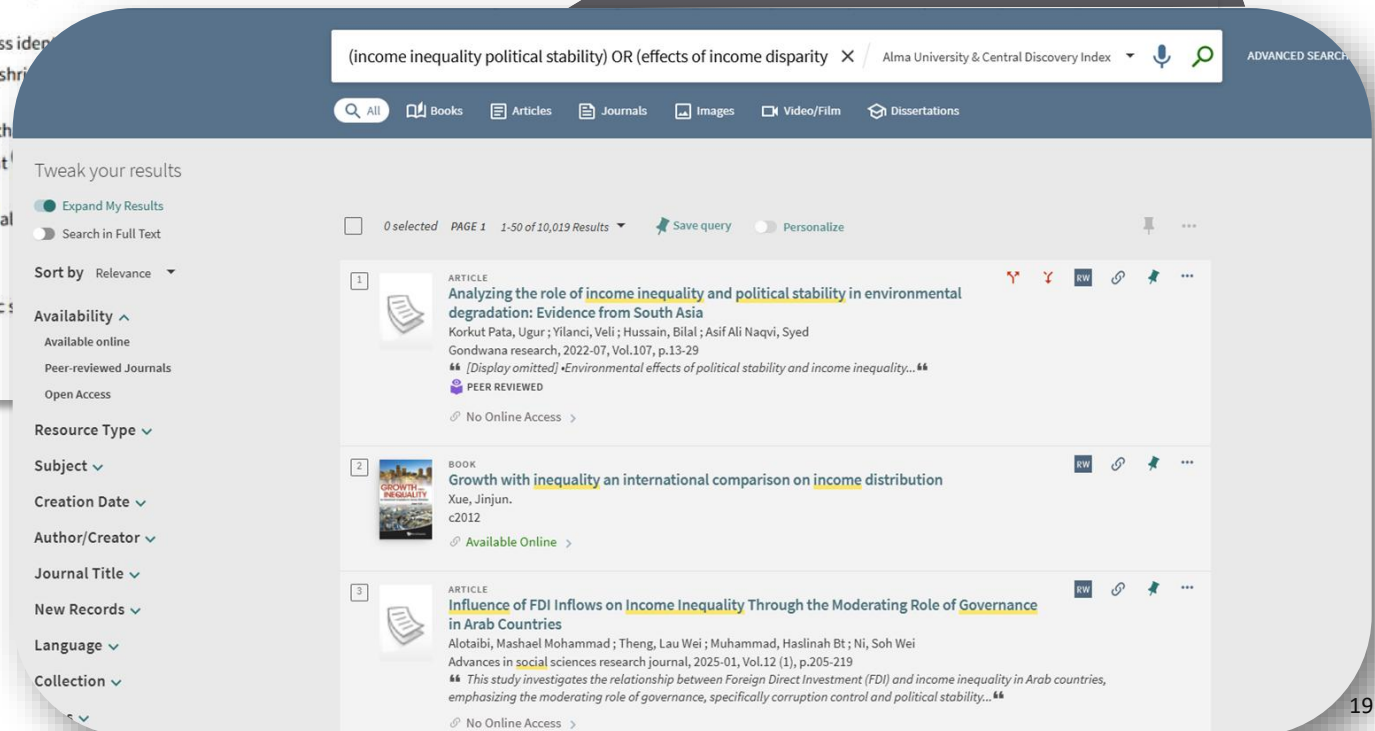
Furthermore, the erosion of democratic institutions is linked to increasing wealth inequality. As disparities in wealth grow, class inequality poses risks to democratic stability, particularly as the subjective middle class, which traditionally upholds democratic values, shrinks.

Additionally, the relationship between income shocks and democracy suggests that significant fluctuations in income, rather than income inequality, may undermine democratic quality, indicating that the effects of economic conditions on political stability are complex and context-dependent <sup>2</sup>

Political trust, a crucial element for the stability of democracy, is also influenced by perceptions of income inequality. Individual-level trust in political institutions can undermine political stability <sup>3</sup>

In summary, income inequality affects political stability through mechanisms that influence political participation, democratic quality, and political trust.

## Primo Research Assistant



The screenshot shows the Primo Research Assistant search results page. The search bar contains the query "(income inequality political stability) OR (effects of income disparity)". The results are displayed in a list format, showing the first three results. The first result is an article titled "Analyzing the role of income inequality and political stability in environmental degradation: Evidence from South Asia" by Korkut Pata, Ugur; Yilanci, Veli; Hussain, Bilal; Asif Ali Naqvi, Syed, published in Gondwana research, 2022-07, Vol.107, p.13-29. The second result is a book titled "Growth with inequality an international comparison on income distribution" by Xue, Jinjun, published in 2012. The third result is an article titled "Influence of FDI Inflows on Income Inequality Through the Moderating Role of Governance in Arab Countries" by Alotaibi, Mashael Mohammad; Theng, Lau Wei; Muhammad, Haslinah Bt; Ni, Soh Wei, published in Advances in social sciences research journal, 2025-01, Vol.12 (1), p.205-219. The page also includes a sidebar with filters for Availability, Resource Type, Subject, Creation Date, Author/Creator, Journal Title, New Records, Language, and Collection. The top of the page shows the search bar and the Alma University & Central Discovery Index logo.

# Reinforcing AI literacy principles through product design



Create a detailed literature review about global income distribution



To create a detailed literature review, you need a clear search strategy. Given the broad nature of the topic, it's best to start with a main topic and then narrow it down to specific subtopics.

- Historical trends in global income distribution
- Factors influencing global income inequality
- Economic inequality and its impact on development
- The impact of globalization on income distribution
- Policy interventions to address global income inequality

Could you please let me know what specific subtopics you would like to explore? This will help me refine the search strategy.

Enter your question here



Let's also add Trade and inequality as subtopic



Great addition! Including "Trade and inequality" as a subtopic will allow us to explore how international trade affects economic inequality between countries.

Here's the updated search strategy:

**Main Topic:** Economic inequality between countries

**Subtopics/Synonyms:**

- Income disparity between nations
- Cross-country income inequality
- International economic inequality
- Global wealth distribution
- Economic divergence
- Developed vs. developing countries income gap
- Trade and inequality
- Impact of international trade on inequality
- Trade policies and income distribution

Enter your question here

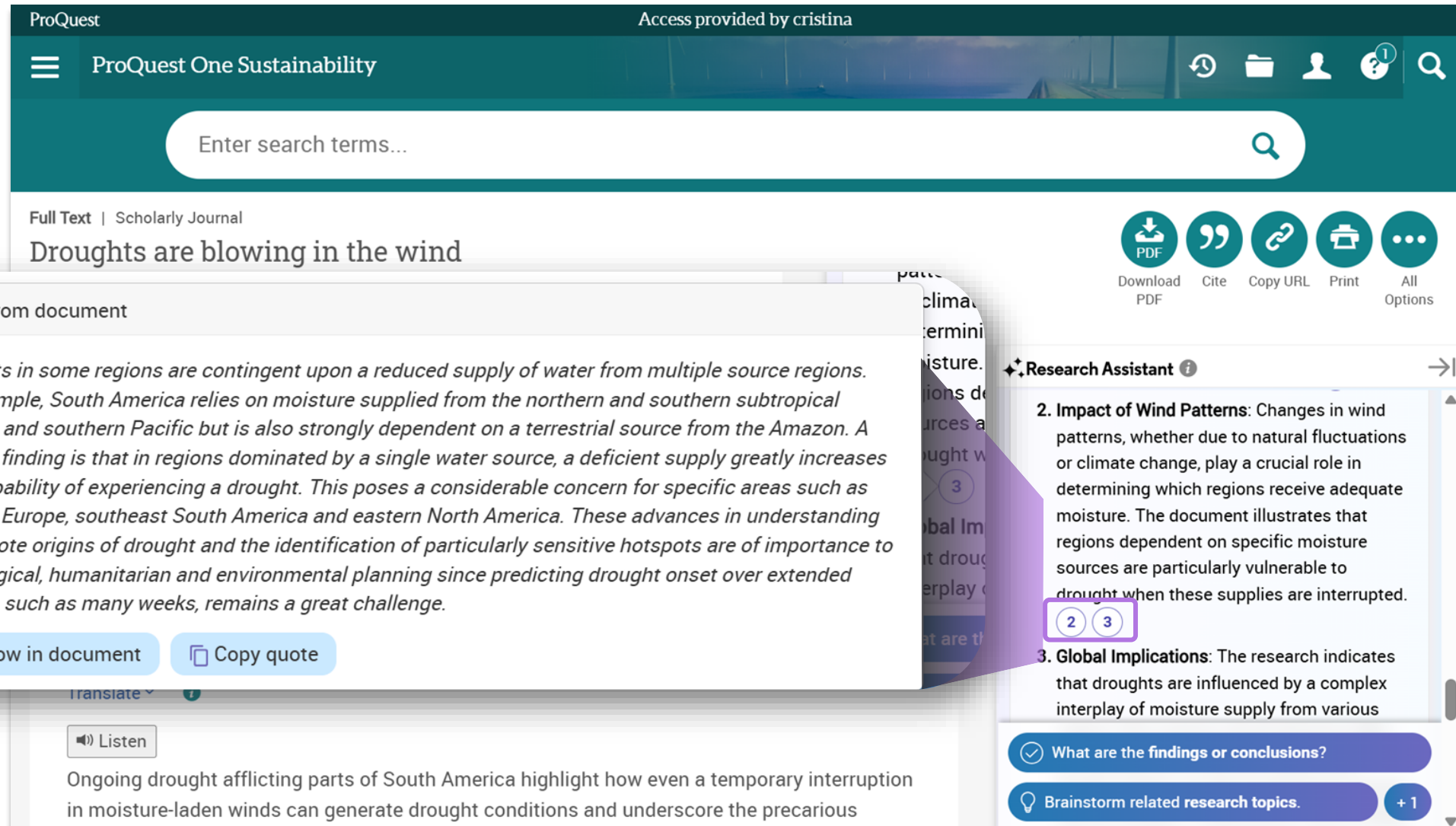




# Reinforcing AI literacy principles through product design

**Impact:**  
+20% returning users

ProQuest Research  
Assistant



ProQuest Access provided by cristina

ProQuest One Sustainability

Enter search terms...

Full Text | Scholarly Journal

Droughts are blowing in the wind

Quote from document

*Droughts in some regions are contingent upon a reduced supply of water from multiple source regions. For example, South America relies on moisture supplied from the northern and southern subtropical Atlantic and southern Pacific but is also strongly dependent on a terrestrial source from the Amazon. A notable finding is that in regions dominated by a single water source, a deficient supply greatly increases the probability of experiencing a drought. This poses a considerable concern for specific areas such as eastern Europe, southeast South America and eastern North America. These advances in understanding the remote origins of drought and the identification of particularly sensitive hotspots are of importance to hydrological, humanitarian and environmental planning since predicting drought onset over extended periods, such as many weeks, remains a great challenge.*

Show in document Copy quote

Listen

Ongoing drought afflicting parts of South America highlight how even a temporary interruption in moisture-laden winds can generate drought conditions and underscore the precarious

Download PDF Cite Copy URL Print All Options

Research Assistant

2. Impact of Wind Patterns: Changes in wind patterns, whether due to natural fluctuations or climate change, play a crucial role in determining which regions receive adequate moisture. The document illustrates that regions dependent on specific moisture sources are particularly vulnerable to drought when these supplies are interrupted.

3. Global Implications: The research indicates that droughts are influenced by a complex interplay of moisture supply from various

What are the findings or conclusions?

Brainstorm related research topics. +1



# Agents in the library

# Agents in libraries and academia – Some basic ideas



## Institutional student assistant

- Can answer questions about anything on the Institution's website
- Can find information about specific curricula, courses or research projects
- Can find material in the library
- Chat with course material to support the student's learning progress



## Library assistant

- Can answer any question from LibGuides
- Can act as a reference desk front door and refer to a real person when necessary
- Can determine best source of information or material based on user context
- Can find material that user needs, taking their context into account



## Productivity assistant

- **In the library** – Automate time consuming tasks
- **In the institution** – Tackle tasks that require different data sources and basic decision making cycles
- **For researchers** – Guide them through tedious tasks, e.g. find funding and collaboration opportunities, fill out forms etc

## Important

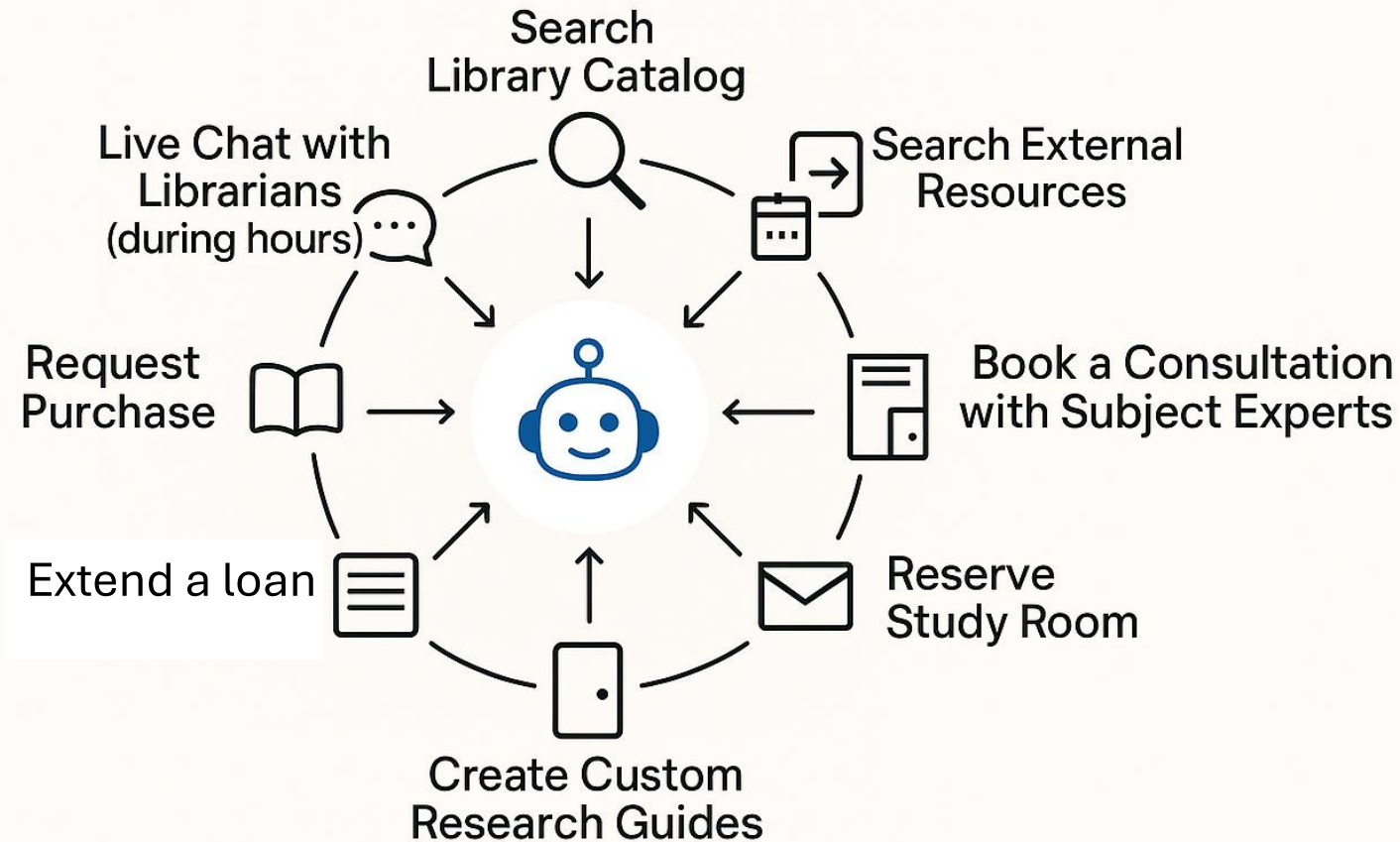
### The Human in the loop

- The user has the last word
- Information is always referenced

# What about: A unified access point to library services

What if you could ask the library webpage any question, at any time and get an immediate answer?

## Library Front-Door Agent: A Unified Access Point





# SEARCH & DISCOVER

LIBRARY CATALOG

DIGITAL ARCHIVES

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

LIBRARY WEBSITE

Search for books, articles, journals, & more

Advanced Search

## QUICK LINKS

STUDENTS

FACULTY

ALUMNI



Book a Room



Databases A-Z



1-on-1 Consultations



Printing & Scanning



Renew Items



Research Guides

## LIBRARY HOURS

Thursday, August 7th

List Center Library	10:00am - 6:00pm
Performing Arts Library	10:45am - 4:45pm
University Center Library	10:00am - 8:00pm
Archives & Special Collections	Open 10 am to 5 pm by appointment. Contact the archives at archivist@newschool.edu.
Live Chat	10:00am - 5:00pm

Ask Us

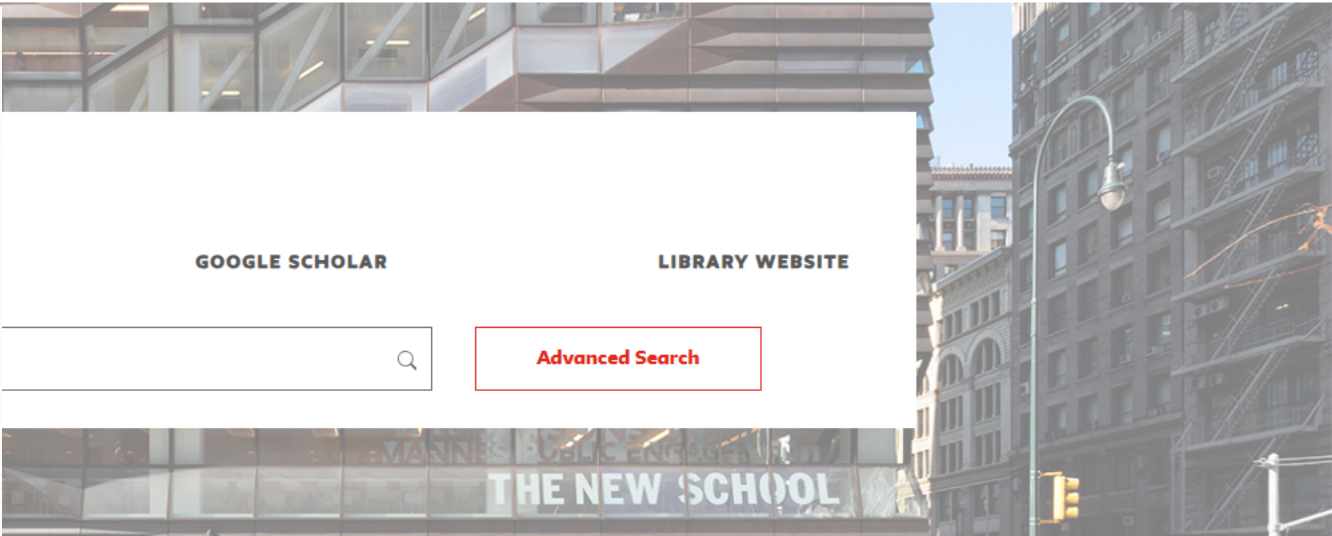




# Hello! How can I assist you today?

I can help you find material (books, articles, videos, images and more) or renew an item, I can answer topic related questions from the research guides and connect you to an expert for more in-depth help, either by email or by booking an appointment. I can also book a study room for you and help you to find your way in our collections and services. Just ask!

Type a message...



# LIBRARY HOURS

Thursday, August 7th

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Live Chat	10:00am - 5:00pm

Ask Us

# The promises of MCP\* (Model Context Protocol): An new (quasi) standard?

## What is MCP?

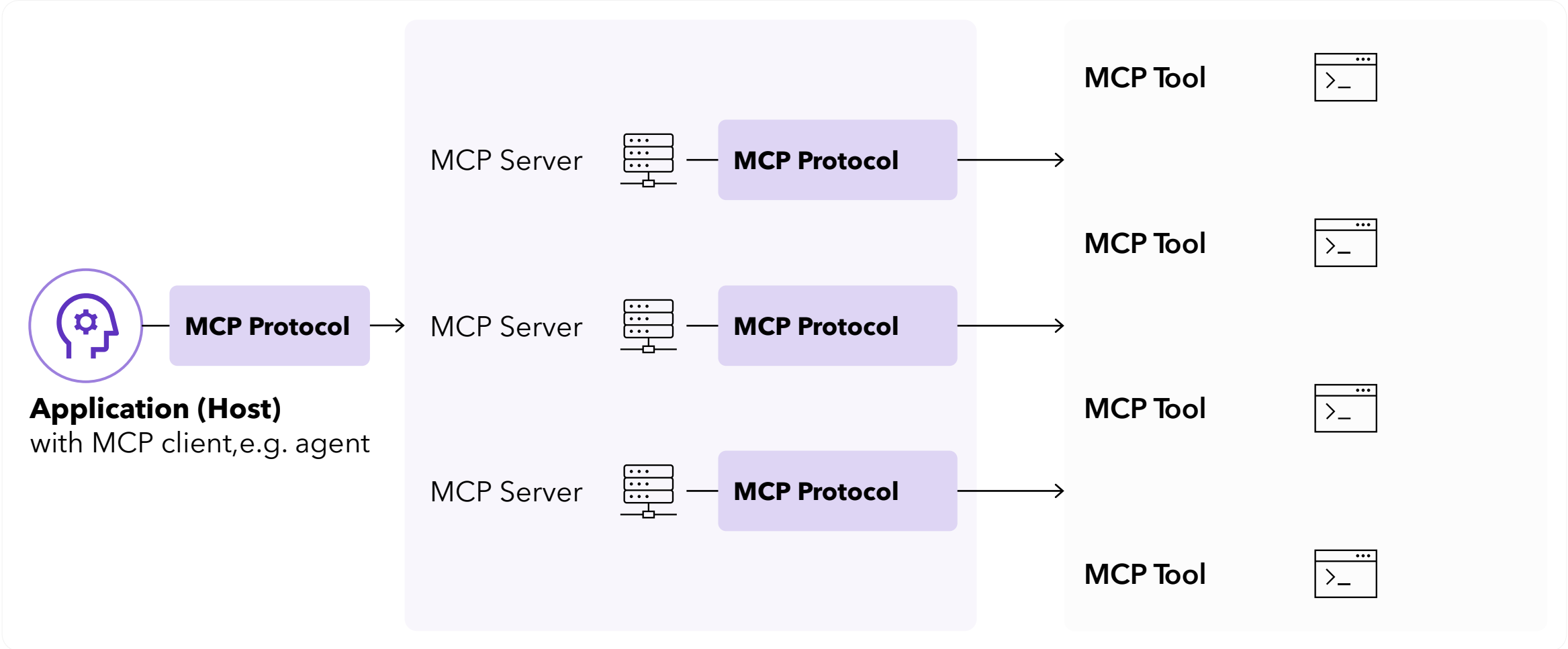
- A lightweight, open protocol (JSON-RPC 2.0 based) that standardizes how an AI agent calls external tools (databases, apps, local resources)
- Ensures agents have access to structured, relevant, and interoperable information
- Supports modularity and composability across systems, it provides a framework for interaction between applications and tools

## Why MCP Matters for Agentic AI

- Enables agents to reason and act based on shared academic context (e.g., metadata, ontologies, workflows)
- Facilitates **interoperability** between agents, models, and scholarly infrastructure
- Enhances **traceability**, **reproducibility**, and **governance** of agent behavior

# Agents and tools

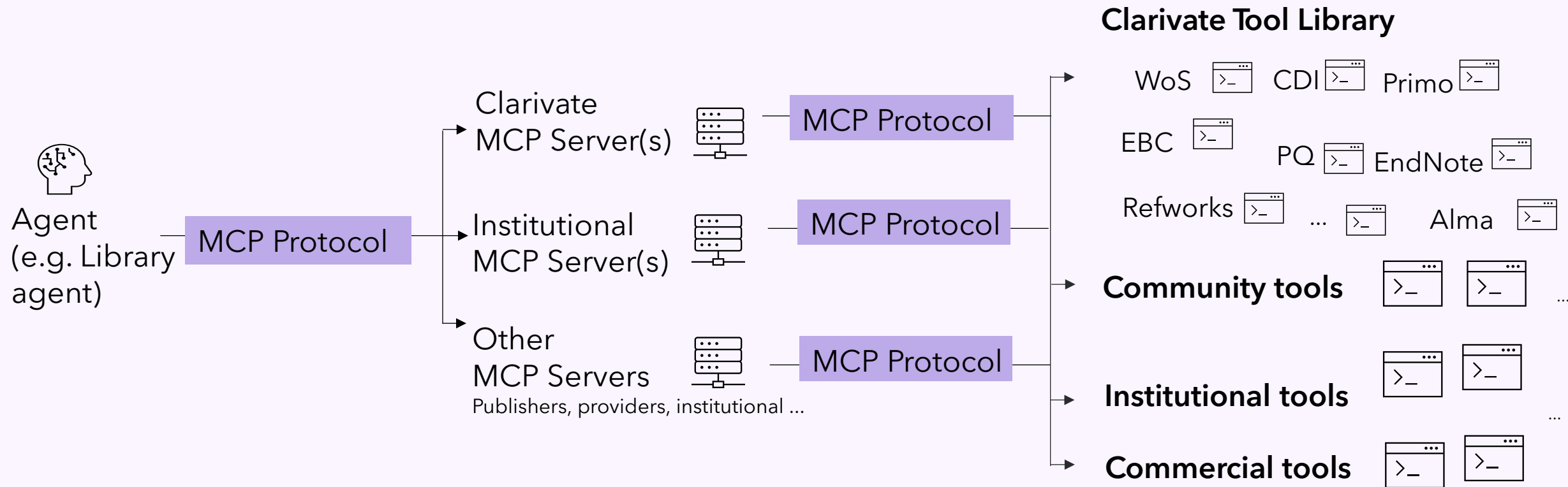
## The MCP\* architecture and MCP\* tool library





# The MCP architecture

With the Clarivate context



# Clarivate Agent Builder



**MCP compliant** – use your own agents or use the Clarivate agent builder to create one



**MCP Tool library for seamless integration**

- **Clarivate services**
- **Community built**, to share, adapt, and build on
- **Institutional (private)**



**Low-code/no-code environment** to create and deploy AI agents for research, teaching, and library workflows



**Built-in tools** like a prompt builder, workflow orchestration, and system connectors to accelerate development



**Designed for rapid prototyping** so institutions can test quickly and scale what works



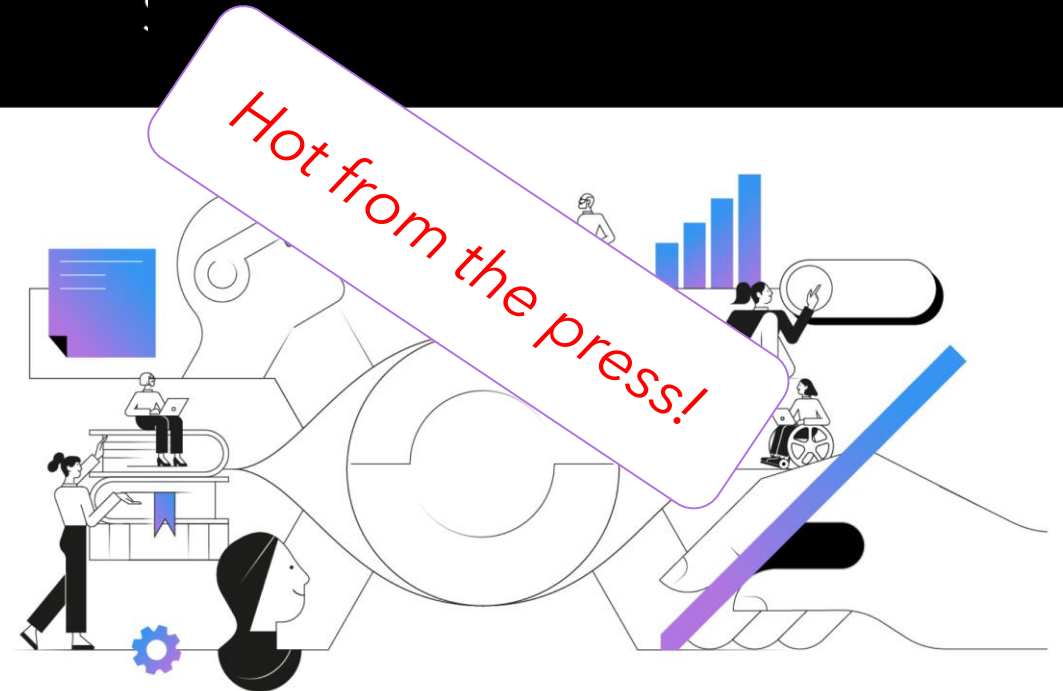
# Pulse of the library

The stakes are high.

We're listening, learning and applying

Following on the 2024 library survey, 2025 results are in.

- 2,032 librarians worldwide
- 77% academic librarians, 23% public & national
- 46% U.S., 23% Asia, 14% Europe, 3% ANZ
- Survey offered in 5 languages





## What the data tells us



Steady but cautious adoption of AI, most libraries are still in evaluation mode



Skills and budgets are the key concerns



Upskilling is critically needed, but formal training is still rare

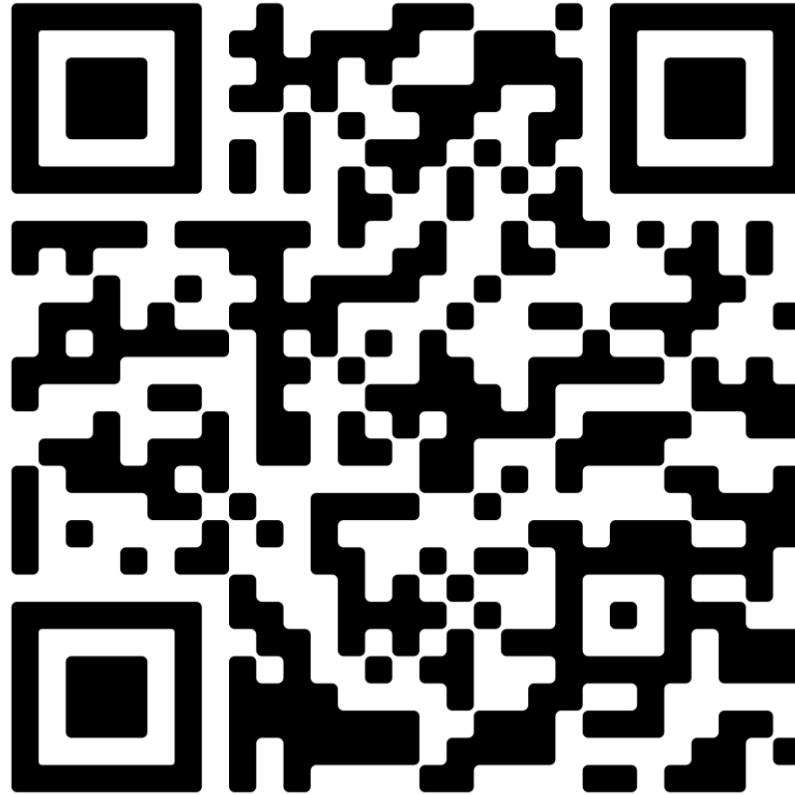


Regional divides are widening – Asia & Europe ahead, US lagging



Libraries see themselves as guardians of trust and responsible use

# Get the report and survey data



AI literacy micro-course



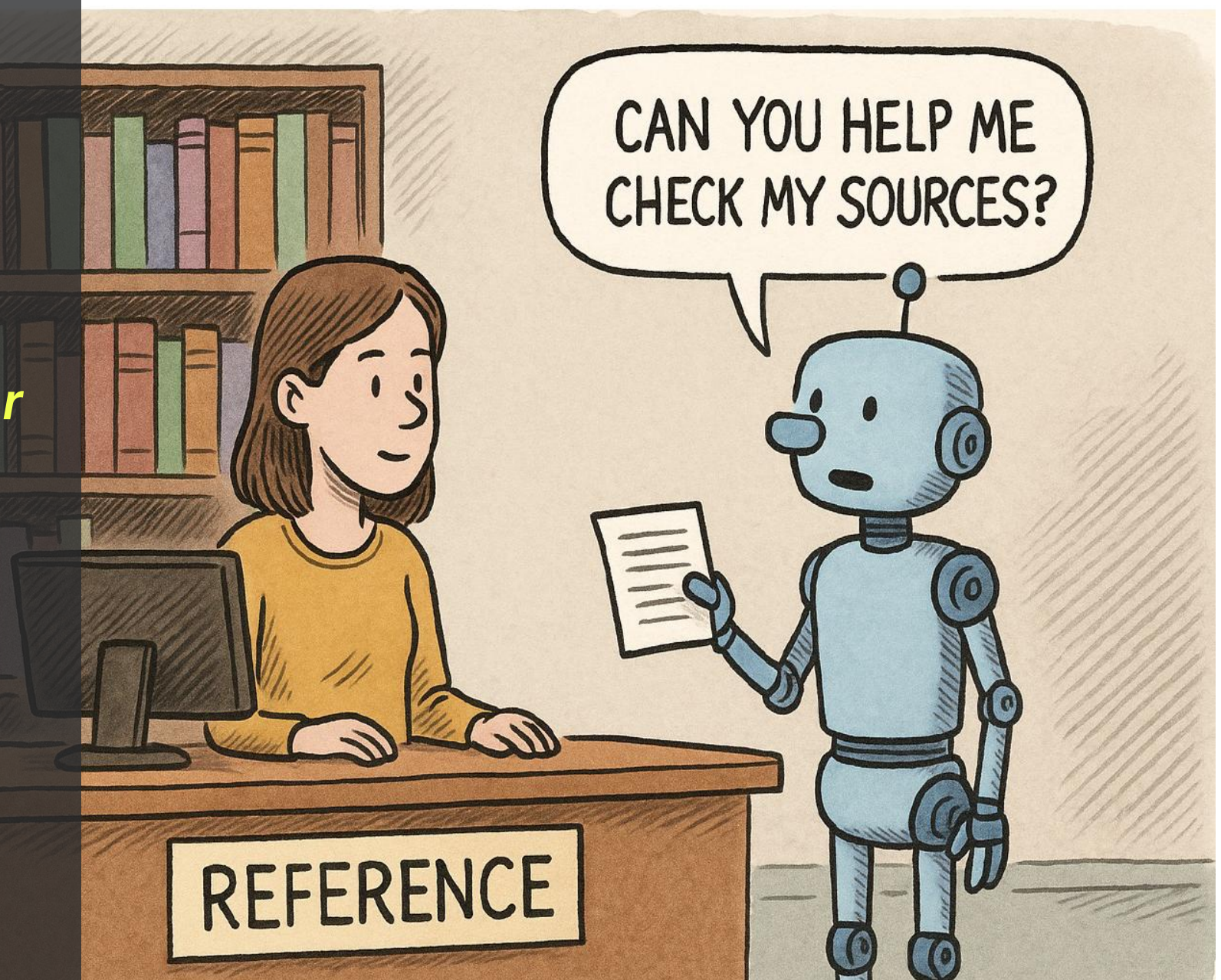
Ongoing webinars



*"Regardless of AI, the most critical tool for a librarian is our mind. I think AI is just another tool and I think that's an important one too. It's not replacing us."*

**John Sandstrom**

Head of Acquisitions,  
New Mexico State University





# Thank You

Christine.stohn@clarivate.com

## About Clarivate

Clarivate is the leading global information services provider. We connect people and organizations to intelligence they can trust to transform their perspective, their work and our world. Our subscription and technology-based solutions are coupled with deep domain expertise and cover the areas of Academia & Government, Life Sciences & Healthcare and Intellectual Property. For more information, please visit [clarivate.com](https://www.clarivate.com)

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