

Research with AI

When you get a specification sheet for an assessment, if you are permitted to use AI, this is what it will say about carrying out your research:

For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to support you in research, including searching for bibliography, using tools to summarise, compare, and interrogate materials.

Remember, whenever using AI tools, you must always keep a copy of your drafts, notes, and other resources from both before and after you used them. This is in case they need to be checked to see if you have used AI tools in the proper way for your assessment.

What you can do when using AI tools for research

Create a bibliography

It might be helpful to use AI to assist you in finding books and articles when you are researching your topic for your assessment. One example which you probably already use is **Google Scholar**. The table below gives you some ideas for how you can use AI tools for research.

What are you looking for?	What you can use	Why they are useful
Articles	SCISPACE Semantic Scholar Elicit	These tools are very good at finding the best articles for your assessment. They show the information immediately, including the abstract.
Books	Google Scholar The UWTSO library	Although AI is very useful for articles, these two sources are still better when searching for books

Summarise Content

When reading up on a topic, we try to identify what is useful in the book or article and look at ways to summarise what they have to say. This could include skim-reading, reading article abstracts, and working through book indices.

However, there are AI tools which can create summaries for you when you ask them specific questions which means you do not have to spend time skim reading etc. They can also find references and materials to help guide you as you research your topic.

The table below shows just some examples of AI tools which could make summarising easier.

Name of the AI tool	How it is useful
SCISPACE	Provides summaries, and through Co-pilot you can use the chat function to look at specific parts of the article, for example main points, methodology, or conclusion
Otio	Will create summaries of articles, chapters of books, and webpages that you have already found. You have to upload them first, but it also has a chat function to help your understanding of the article etc
ResearchAide	Very similar to Otio, but will then also help create a structure for your assessment
Elicit	Will help you find articles and then provide a basic summary. Will also summarise an uploaded pdf
Consensus	Slightly different to the others, it will create a basic bibliography but more importantly will identify consensus between the articles on specific issues or questions

All of the AI tools listed here are general tools. There are others which are specific to certain subjects, for example [StatPearls](#) from [Hippocratic AI](#) specialises in medicine and health.

What you cannot do when using AI tools for research

Just as you would not plagiarise a book or article, so you cannot plagiarise using an AI tool by asking it to write all, or any part of your assessment for you.

The example in the box below shows you what you **must not** do when inputting a prompt into an AI tool.

The example is about Athens in the classical period: look carefully at the wording to see how the prompt is more or less asking for the answer to the question rather than researching the topic.

Assessment title: In your considered opinion, why is Athens considered to be the most powerful polity in the classical period?

You must not input:

- Tell me why Athens was the most powerful polity in the classical period
- Write a paragraph on why Athens was powerful

Why you must not use prompts like this

- If you input these prompts, then the AI tool will basically be doing the assessment for you which is not allowed.
- If you submitted what the AI tool produced using these prompts then it is not your work and you will be committing **academic misconduct**, just as you would be if you had copied from a book or another student. This would result in severe penalties.
- If you do not do the reading for the topic yourself you cannot be sure that you have fully understood it, neither can you be sure that what the AI tool has produced is correct

This is one of the reasons why you must remember to keep all drafts, notes, and resources used from both before and after you use AI tools when researching and writing up your assessment.

It may be necessary for your tutor to check them to make sure that you have not gone beyond what you are allowed to do.

THE
END