Research AI Chatbots

Manus: https://www.manus.ai
- Uses: Long-form research tasks, text-heavy academic research, handling large prompts
- Pros: Designed to handle extensive research tasks; great at analyzing and synthesizing long prompts/research tasks
- Cons: Does not ask follow-up questions or clarify prompt; lacks strong visual search (e.g., charts, graphs)
- Pricing: Free plan available
- Best for humanities and text-based disciplines. Not as interactive as others.

Genspark: https://www.genspark.ai
- Uses: Visual and media-heavy research (charts, graphs, diagrams)
- Pros: Good at retrieving relevant images and visual content
- Cons: Limited depth in textual research; less effective for synthesizing scholarly sources
- Pricing: Currently free in beta
- Best for students creating multimodal projects or needing visual data.

Grok: https://grok.x.ai
- Uses: Casual research, basic Q&A, general knowledge support
- Pros: Conversational
- Cons: Struggles with complex academic tasks; Inconsistent performance
- Pricing: Included with X Premium+ ($16/month)
- Better suited to casual use than academic rigor.

***Abacus* DeepAgent:** https://www.abacus.ai
- Uses: Deep research, scholarly project planning, academic report generation
- Pros: Asks follow-up questions to clarify; good at resource gathering and structured research reports; can include some visuals and figures when relevant
- Cons: May require clear, well-phrased initial prompts for best performance
- Pricing: Free tier available; enterprise pricing for institutions
- Good for both STEM and humanities research. Recommended for advanced writing or senior projects.

ChatGPT (Research Mode): https://chat.openai.com
- Uses: Brainstorming research questions, summarizing topics, organizing notes
- Pros: Responsive and interactive; asks clarifying questions mid-task
- Cons: Limited access to live sources; May return surface-level summaries without citations
- Pricing: Free for GPT-3.5; $20/month for GPT-4 (ChatGPT Plus)
- Great for early-stage ideation or synthesis. Not ideal as a standalone research source.

Gemini (Deep Research Mode): https://gemini.google.com
- Uses: Research planning, search-enhanced synthesis, current events
- Pros: Clearly outlines its research plan and next steps; uses Google Search for up-to-date content
- Cons: May struggle to execute complex or long prompts
- Pricing: Free with Google account; Gemini Advanced (powered by Gemini 1.5 Pro) included with Google One AI Premium ($19.99/month)
- Great for structuring initial research and accessing current information.

Perplexity (Research Mode): https://www.perplexity.ai
- Uses: Quick academic overviews, citations, graph/image retrieval
- Pros: Returns citations with answers; best for general summaries and relevant visuals
- Cons: May over-summarize complex topics
- Pricing: Free basic plan; Pro version $20/month
- Finds sources fast; best used in combination with traditional databases.