

Agentic AI in Research: RDA Community Consultation Survey

Section 1: Your Background and Role

Are you a member of the Research Data Alliance?

The RDA is free and open to all. Join our global community to advance research data sharing and management

- Yes
- No

Which stakeholder group best describes your primary role?
(Select one)

- Early Career Individuals
- Funders & Policy Makers
- Industry & Private Sector
- Infrastructure Providers
- Libraries
- Regions & Nations
- Researchers & Scientists
- Research Performing Organisations
- Other (please specify): _____

In which country are you based?
(Free text)

Section 2: Your Experience with Agentic AI

Agentic AI systems are AI tools that can autonomously plan, make decisions, and execute multi-step tasks with minimal human supervision.

What is your experience using AI and machine learning tools in your professional role?

Please select all that apply:

- I have used generative AI tools
- I have used traditional AI/machine learning tools
- I have used both generative AI and traditional AI/ML tools
- I have not used AI or machine learning tools in my professional role
- I'm not sure what these terms mean

Have you used any AI systems that can autonomously perform multi-step tasks in your professional role?
(Select one)

- Yes, I have used agentic AI systems
- No, I haven't used agentic AI systems
- I'm not sure if the tools I use qualify as 'agentic'

For which stages of the research lifecycle have you used agentic AI OR would you find it most beneficial?

(Select all that apply)

- Planning research and applying for funding
- Conducting research activities
- Publishing research
- Presenting research
- Reporting on research output and impact
- Formulating new research questions
- Other (please specify): _____

Section 3: Priority AI Agents for Planning Research and Applying for Funding

Based on consultation with UK researchers, the following have been identified as priority areas for agentic AI development.

Funding Finder

How useful would an agentic AI funding finder be that identifies relevant funding opportunities and supports the application process?

This tool would:

- **Scan funding databases and match opportunities to research ideas**
- **Provide application templates and ensure funder guidelines are met**
- **Suggest improvements based on previously successful applications from a university**
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Ethics Reviewer

How useful would an agentic AI ethics review tool be that identifies potential ethical issues in your research and guides users through ethics approval requirements?

This tool would:

- **Identify potential ethical issues in project proposals**
- **Provide guidance on meeting ethics requirements based on institutional guidelines and previous ethics board decisions**
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Existing Tools

Are you aware of any existing AI agents or agentic AI systems currently being used to support planning research and applying for funding?

- Yes (Please specify which tools or systems: _____)
- No
- Unsure

Additional Capabilities

Beyond the tools mentioned above, what other agentic AI capabilities do you think would be most valuable for planning research and applying for funding? (Optional)

Section 4: Priority AI Agents for Conducting Research Activities

Based on consultation with UK researchers, the following have been identified as priority areas for agentic AI development.

Resource Finder

How useful would an agentic AI resource finder be that identifies available university support services based on research needs?

This tool would:

- **Match research goals to relevant university services**
- **Connect users with lab facilities, IT infrastructure, research software engineers (RSEs), seminar groups, and internal funding opportunities**
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful

- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Collaboration Catalyst

How useful would an agentic AI collaboration tool be that connects users with potential research partners and resources within their institution?

This tool would:

- **Suggest colleagues to collaborate with based on expertise, interests, and research needs**
- **Identify individuals and groups with relevant datasets, facilities, or resources for specific projects**
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Existing Tools

Are you aware of any existing AI agents or agentic AI systems currently being used to support conducting research activities?

- Yes (Please specify which tools or systems: _____)
- No
- Unsure

Additional Capabilities

Beyond the tools mentioned above, what other agentic AI capabilities do you think would be most valuable for conducting research activities? (Optional)

Section 5: Priority AI Agents for Publishing Research

Based on consultation with UK researchers, the following have been identified as priority areas for agentic AI development.

Publication Preparer

How useful would an agentic AI publication tool be that helps identify suitable journals and prepare manuscripts that meet publishing requirements?

This tool would:

- Identify appropriate journals and special collections for research
- Check that work is in scope for target journals, reducing rejection rates
- Provide journal-specific templates and rewrite content to meet their guidelines
- Generate evidenced novelty statements for editors

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Data Director

How useful would an agentic AI data management tool be that supports research data preparation and sharing in compliance with FAIR principles and institutional requirements?

This tool would:

- Automatically create metadata following FAIR principles
- Mint DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) for datasets
- Recommend appropriate data repositories to ensure compliance with funder and institutional requirements

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Existing Tools

Are you aware of any existing AI agents or agentic AI systems currently being used for publishing research?

- Yes (Please specify which tools or systems: _____)
- No
- Unsure

Additional Capabilities

Beyond the tools mentioned above, what other agentic AI capabilities do you think would be most valuable for publishing research? (Optional)

Section 6: Priority AI Agents for Presenting Research

Based on consultation with UK researchers, the following has been identified as priority areas for agentic AI development.

Research Refiner

How useful would an agentic AI research refinement tool be that helps present your research effectively to different audiences?

This tool would:

- **Provide critical feedback on data presentation to improve communication quality**
- **Translate research literature and figures for specific audiences (domain experts, general researchers, or the public)**
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Existing Tools

Are you aware of any existing AI agents or agentic AI systems currently being used to support presenting research?

- Yes (Please specify which tools or systems: _____)
- No
- Unsure

Additional Capabilities

Beyond the tools mentioned above, what other agentic AI capabilities do you think would be most valuable for presenting research? (Optional)

Section 7: Priority AI Agents for Reporting on Research Output and Impact

Based on consultation with UK researchers, the following has been identified as priority areas for agentic AI development.

Research Reporter

How useful would an agentic AI reporting tool be that automatically completes research impact reports and funder updates?

This tool would:

- Automatically populate Researchfish or similar reporting platforms based on research information
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Research Assessment Supporter

How useful would an agentic AI tool be that helps prepare research assessment submissions for national evaluation exercises?

This tool would:

- For researchers: Convert research information into the required assessment format and template
- For institutions: Collect information from multiple researchers and compile it into standardised assessment templates
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

3. Existing Tools

Are you aware of any existing AI agents or agentic AI systems currently being used to support reporting on research output and impact?

- Yes (Please specify which tools or systems: _____)
- No
- Unsure

4. Additional Capabilities

Beyond the tools mentioned above, what other agentic AI capabilities do you think would be most valuable for reporting on research output and impact? (Optional)

Section 8: Priority AI Agents for Formulating New Research Questions

Based on consultation with UK researchers, the following have been identified as priority areas for agentic AI development.

Literature and Data Wrangler

How useful would an agentic AI tool be that analyses existing research and data to identify gaps, overlaps, and opportunities?

This tool would:

- **Scan the literature to identify gaps in knowledge and emerging research opportunities**
- **Identify overlaps between ideas and existing research to avoid duplication and encourage data reuse**
- **Find relevant datasets within institutions that could support new projects**

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Literature Librarian

How useful would an agentic AI literature search tool be that finds relevant research articles using natural language queries and library access?

This tool would:

- **Search literature using natural language queries (asking questions in everyday language)**
- **Integrate with library subscriptions to access both open access articles and those behind paywalls**

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not useful at all
- Unsure

Please explain your answer or describe what features would make this tool more useful: (Optional)

Existing Tools

Are you aware of any existing AI agents or agentic AI systems currently being used to support formulating new research questions?

- Yes (Please specify which tools or systems: _____)
- No
- Unsure

Additional Capabilities

Beyond the tools mentioned above, what other agentic AI capabilities do you think would be most valuable for formulating new research questions? (Optional)

Section 9: Stay Involved

How would you like to stay involved in this initiative?

Register to attend information sessions in November 2025 (*optional*)

- **November 11 (Tuesday) - EU/US session - 16:00-16:45 UTC**
- **November 12 (Wednesday) - EU/AU session - 05:00-05:45 UTC**
- **November 13 (Thursday) - EU/US session - 16:00-16:45 UTC**
- **November 27 (Thursday) - EU/AU session - 05:00-05:45 UTC**

Would you like to speak or present during one of the information sessions?

We are looking for someone to give a 10-minute presentation on the use of agentic AI in research, sharing your thoughts or experiences.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Would you like to contribute to blueprint development?

This involves validating impact, technical specifications, and feasibility.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you selected any of the options above, please provide your email address: [Text field]

Section 10: Final

Is there anything else you'd like to share that we haven't asked about? [Large text box]

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your insights and feedback are invaluable in shaping the future of agentic AI in research. We truly appreciate your contribution to this important work.

Data Privacy Statement

The information you have provided will be stored securely and used solely for the purpose of developing this report and informing the prioritisation of agentic AI in research. Your responses will be kept confidential, and any identifying information will be anonymised in published materials unless you have explicitly opted in to participate in follow-up activities. If you have any questions about how your data will be used, please contact the RDA secretariat (secretariat@rda-foundation.org)