Al Agents: Labor Augmentation & Automation

A Literature Review

David Spencer
FamilySearch International
February 2025

Overview

- 1. Technical Foundations
- 2. Al Assistants & Research Tools
- 3. Enterprise Software Analysis
- 4. Venture Capital Perspectives
- 5. Implementation Recommendations

Technical vs Marketing Definition

Technical Definition

- Autonomous decision-making
- Tool-calling capabilities
- Planning and decomposition
- Memory and state management

Marketing Definition

- Broader scope of Al-powered software
- Focus on business value proposition
- Often includes simpler automation systems

Al Assistants & Research Tools

Key Capabilities

- Natural Language Processing
- Autonomous Decision-Making
- Literature Discovery
- Data Synthesis

Applications

- Academic Research
- Knowledge Work
- Enterprise Productivity
- Data Analysis

Enterprise Software Landscape

Major Players

- Salesforce AgentForce
- Microsoft Copilot
- ServiceNow Al Agents
- Google DeepMind
- Amazon Enterprise Al

Common Features

- Human-Al Collaboration
- Workflow Automation
- Domain Specialization
- Enterprise Integration

Venture Capital Insights

Key Players

- Andreessen Horowitz (a16z)
- Y Combinator
- NFX
- Insight Partners

Market Trends

- Vertical Al Agents
- B2B SaaS Evolution
- Labor Market Impact
- Implementation Strategies

Implementation Framework

Saffold; then Crawl, Walk, Run

- 1. Start with simple tasks
- 2. Build proper infrastructure
- 3. Gradually increase complexity
- 4. Scale with growing capabilities

Recommendations

Labor Augmentation

- Focus on proven capabilities
- Clear human-Al collaboration
- Regular performance monitoring
- Capability evolution tracking

Autonomous Alternatives

- Task-specific implementation
- Strong oversight mechanisms
- Clear success metrics
- Continuous evaluation

Key Findings

- 1. Al agents represent significant shift in automation
- 2. Success requires balanced human-Al collaboration
- 3. Implementation should be gradual and measured
- 4. Market rapidly evolving with new solutions
- 5. Focus on vertical-specific applications

Questions?

Contact: David Spencer

FamilySearch International

References available in full paper