Al-Assisted Literature Review

A Systematic Approach for Research Excellence

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October 12, 2025

Al Has Suddenly Arrived

The Current Moment

Where we find ourselves:

- Al entered our lives suddenly
- We're all oscillating between over-enthusiasm and unfounded fear
- It's being marketed as: "Work much faster!"

But is that really what matters?

The Reality of Al as a Tool

A Tool Is Only as Good as Its Use

My experience with AI:

- Less time on boring, repetitive tasks
- MORE time on what I cherish and care about
- Not about speed about focus and intentionality

The value isn't faster work - it's better allocation of your time

The Temptation

"Vibe Research"?

In IT, there's "vibe coding":

- Describe what you want
- Let agents execute unsupervised
- Hope for the best

We could imagine "vibe research writing"...

- Describe your literature review needs
- Let Al run unsupervised
- Trust the output

But should we?

Our Approach

Intentional & Methodological

This course demonstrates:

- Everything you do is intentional
- Everything remains under your control
- Everything is **grounded** in theory and traditional experimental methods

Use case: Literature review done right with Al

The Week Ahead

Our Journey

5 Days of hands-on practice:

- Day 1: Experience the challenges (foundations)
- Day 2: Build effective prompts
- **Day 3:** Evaluate systematically
- Day 4: Synthesize literature reviews
- Day 5: Real-world applications & planning

Full agenda in GitHub repo

How We'll Work Together

Collaborative & Iterative

Our approach:

- Hands-on practice each day
- Shared Google docs for observations and collaboration
- Your feedback shapes the course
- We're exploring together

This is exploratory - your input matters

What We'll Create

Individual & Collective Outputs

By the end of the week:

- Individual: Your own prompts and workflows for your domain
- Collective: Collaborative documentation/report
- Goal: A methodological approach you can actually use

Not templates to copy - principles to adapt

Let's Begin

Next Steps

Coming up:

- **Session 1B:** Al Platforms overview
- Session 1C: You'll try paper extraction yourself (hands-on)
- Session 1D: Making sense of the experience (Three Gulfs)
- Session 1E: Collaborative discussion

Ready to explore?