

General Purpose Generative AI Tools (Updated 8/19/2025)

Created by Hastings Initiative Members

These generative AI tools can be used as a thought partner for a variety of purposes from writing and research development to summarizing text and generating code.

Tool	Description	Key Features	Model Comparison	Tiers of Access	Data Privacy
ChatGPT	Generative AI chatbot created by OpenAI. Through conversations with the user it can generate text, images, code, etc.	Text generation, web search, voice chat, image and video generation, custom GPTs.	<p>GPT-5 - best model for coding and agentic tasks</p> <p>GPT-5 mini - faster, cost-efficient version of GPT-5</p> <p>GPT-5-nano - fastest, most cost-efficient version of GPT-5</p> <p>GPT-4.1 mini - fast and efficient model</p> <p>GPT-4.1 - smartest non-reasoning model</p> <p>GPT-4o - reasoning model across audio, vision, and text</p> <p>o1 and o1-mini - reasoning models without advanced features like memory and file uploads</p> <p>For more in-depth comparison, go here</p>	<p>Free - limited access to newer models, limited access to file uploads, advanced data analysis, image generation, limited voice mode</p> <p>Plus - (\$20/month) higher limits than free, limited access to Sora video generation, advanced voice mode, limited Deep Research feature</p> <p>Team - (\$25/month) everything in Plus, unlimited GPT-5, increased security features, business features, multimodal creation</p> <p>Pro - (\$200/month) unlimited access to most features including Sora, higher query limit on Deep Research</p>	Personal data collected (but not sold) includes account information, user content (including prompts and uploaded content), usage data including log data, device information, location information, cookies. Collected data is used by OpenAI to train their LLMs. Users can control how OpenAI uses their data by submitting a Privacy Request on the Open AI Privacy Portal.
Claude	Generative AI chatbot created by Anthropic using Constitutional AI, that uses principles to guide outputs.	Text generation, web search, Artifacts (easily shareable pieces of content such as documents, code,	<p>Claude Opus 4.1 - most capable and intelligent model best for complex reasoning and advanced coding</p> <p>Claude Opus 4 - previous flagship model</p> <p>Claude Sonnet 4 - high-performance, good</p>	<p>Free - generate text, visualize data, analyze texts and images, search the web</p> <p>Pro - (\$17/month) increased access to models, Claude Code, unlimited Projects, connect to Google Workspace, Research</p>	Data is automatically encrypted and Anthropic employees cannot access your conversations by default. Anthropic does not actively collect personal data to train their

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		diagrams).	reasoning <u>Claude Sonnet 3.7</u> - high-performance, early extended thinking <u>Claude Haiku 3.5</u> - fastest model For more in-depth comparison, go here	feature <u>Team</u> - everything in Pro plus increased usage, early access to collaboration features <u>Max</u> - (\$100/month) increased access, higher output limits, early access to new features, priority access at high traffic times	models. For commercial plans (Team plan, Anthropic API) Anthropic does not use inputs or outputs to train their models.
Gemini	Generative AI chatbot developed by Google built to be multimodal.	Text generation, recognizes text, images, audio, and more as inputs, real-time web search, Gemini Gems (various premade and customizable versions of Gemini).	<u>2.5 Pro</u> - most powerful thinking and response accuracy <u>2.5 Flash</u> - best price-performance <u>2.5 Flash-Lite</u> - optimized for cost efficiency and low latency For more in-depth comparison, go here	<u>Free</u> - limited access to newer models, limited image generation and animation with Imagen 4 and Veo 2, Deep Research, Gems <u>Pro</u> - (\$19.99/month) more access to newest models, including Deep Research using newest model, video generation with Veo 3 Fast <u>Ultra</u> - (124.99/month) highest access to Veo 3, highest access to advanced reasoning models	Data collected includes: chats, content shared with Gemini, product usage information, location info. This data is used by Google to improve their products. For users 18 or older, human reviewers may review chats for product improvement, although this can be prevented by turning off Gemini Apps Activity in settings.
Perplexity	AI-powered search engine that delivers direct, cited answers in a conversational	Real-time web search, source citations, file uploads, multiple AI model access,	<u>Sonar Large</u> - Perplexity's fast model built on LLaMa 3.1 70B <u>Claude 4.0 Sonnet</u> - Anthropic's advanced model	<u>Free</u> - unlimited quick searches and 5 pro searches daily <u>Pro</u> - (\$20/month) 300+ daily pro searches <u>Max</u> - (\$200/month)	Data collected includes: device information, interaction data with the site. Perplexity does not sell data. Data is retained as long

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	nal format.	image generation, and academic research focus. File analysis: Can analyze documents like PDFs and CSVs, unlimited file uploads on Pro plan.	<u>GPT-5</u> - OpenAI's advanced model <u>Gemini 2.5 Pro</u> - Google's newest model <u>Grok 4</u> - xAI's smartest assistant <u>R1 1776</u> - Perplexity's reasoning model <u>o3</u> - OpenAI's reasoning model <u>o3-pro</u> - OpenAI's most powerful reasoning model <u>Claude 4.0 Sonnet Thinking</u> - Anthropic's reasoning model <u>Claude 4.0 Opus Thinking</u> - Anthropic's reasoning model with thinking	unlimited access to most advanced features	as the account is active, personal information is removed within 30 days of deletion. Users may change their data usage settings and opt out of their chats being used for training.
Copilot	Microsoft's generative AI assistant that integrates into other Microsoft 365 to increase productivity .	Integration with Microsoft products such as Word, Outlook, Excel, and Teams, includes OpenAI's DALL-E 3 image generator	Powered by a combination of models provided by Azure OpenAI Service	<u>Free</u> - limited use of features in Microsoft apps using AI credits, create podcasts <u>Pro</u> - (\$20/month) preferred access to models during peak times, increased use Copilot in select Microsoft 365 apps, Deep Research	Copilot can access user organizational data such as documents, calendars, meetings, contacts through Microsoft Graph. Data from user interactions with Copilot are encrypted and stored, but not used to train models.

Generative AI Content Creation Tools (Updated 7/15/2025)

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These tools can be used to generate visual content such as images, videos, and more.

Tool	Description	Key Features	Tiers of Access	Data Privacy
Adobe Firefly	Generative AI tool that can create images, videos, audio, and vector graphics through text prompts. Trained on dataset of licensed content and public domain content.	Create collaborative moodboards with generated images, generate content in various styles.	<p><u>Free</u> - limited generative credits (1,000 per month)</p> <p><u>Standard</u> - (\$9.99/month) unlimited access to image and vector graphics generation, 2,000 generative credits per month for video generation, limited access to audio and translation features</p> <p><u>Pro</u> - (\$29.99) same as Standard but 7,000 generative credits per month, and increased access to audio and translation features</p> <p><u>Premium</u> - (\$199.99) unlimited image generation, vector features, and access to Generate Video using Firefly Video Model, 50,000 monthly credits to access video generation and non-Adobe models</p>	Data collected includes: contact information (when signing up for an account or purchasing a license), analytics and other network activity including IP address, device information. Content generated by users is not used to train Firefly.
DALL-E 3	Created by OpenAI and integrated into the ChatGPT interface, DALL-E 3 can generate images in a range of different styles.	Image generation using text prompts.	<p><u>Free</u> - available for free through Microsoft Copilot or Bing.com/create</p> <p><u>ChatGPT Plus</u> - (\$20/month) DALL-E 3 is available in ChatGPT with a Plus subscription</p>	See ChatGPT privacy information and Copilot privacy information
Imagen 4	Google's newest image generation tool that can be used in Gemini or Whisk.	Image generation using text prompts.	<p><u>Gemini</u> - limited access available for each price tier</p> <p><u>Whisk</u> - limited access through Google's experimental tool</p>	See Gemini privacy information.
Midjourney	Subscription-based image and short video	Custom profiles to create specific styles of images,	<u>Basic</u> - (\$10/month) less hours of Fast GPU hours per month (3.3hr/month using faster GPU),	Data collected includes: IP address, usage data, tracking and cookies,

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	generator.	moodboards, edit images, turn images into 5-second videos	<p>less concurrent and queued prompts</p> <p><u>Standard</u> - (\$30/month) 15 hr/month Fast GPU time, unlimited images using Relax GPU (slower image generation), increased concurrent, queued, and repeat prompts</p> <p><u>Pro</u> - (\$60/month) 30 hr/month Fast GPU time, unlimited images and videos using Relax GPU, Stealth Mode, increased concurrent, queued, and repeat prompts</p> <p><u>Mega</u> - (\$120) 60 hr/month Fast GPU time, increased maximum repeat prompts</p>	<p>contact information, prompts and other inputs. User personal information will not be sold, but it may be shared with service providers, third party vendors, consultants, and business partners. Users may opt out of this in the Privacy Settings.</p>
Runway	A creative assistant that can generate images, videos, and audio from text, image, and video inputs, as well as help brainstorm creative ideas.	Customizable tools that allow for control and consistency across styles, characters, and narrative	<p><u>Free</u> - 125 credits one time (25 seconds of Gen-4 Turbo (image to video) or Gen-3 Alpha Turbo (image to video)), 3 video editor projects, no Gen-4 video, limited storage</p> <p><u>Standard</u> - (\$15/user/month) 625 credits monthly, access to Gen-4 (image to video) and Gen-3 Alpha (text, image, and video to video), remove watermarks, better resolution, more storage, max 5 users per workspace</p> <p><u>Pro</u> - (\$35/user/month) 2250 credits monthly, custom voices for lip sync and text to speech, more storage, max 10 users per workspace</p> <p><u>Unlimited</u> - (\$95/user/month) 2250 credits monthly, unlimited generations at relaxed rate, max 10</p>	<p>Data collected includes: identifiers and contact info, demographic data, user-generated content, biometric data (when using certain features to create videos and audio using voice or face), device data, cookies. Face scans and voiceprints are stored no longer than the earlier of the date the initial purpose for the data collection is satisfied or within three years of the users' last interaction with Runway.</p>

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			users per workspace	
Flow	Google's AI filmmaking tool that utilizes models such as Google's most advanced models of Veo, Imagen, and Gemini.	Add sound effects, ambient noise, and dialogue, use a reference image to generate a video, utilize camera controls, create transitions, add or remove objects to videos	<p><u>Google AI Pro</u> - (\$19.99/month) limited Veo 3 credits, text and frames to video, video extension, camera control, scene builder, 1080p upscaling</p> <p><u>Google AI Ultra</u> - (\$249.99/month) everything in Pro plus ingredients to video (create assets or characters), highest monthly generation limits</p>	Data collected includes: personal information, apps, browsers, and devices, to access Google services, activity, location information. Personally identifiable information is not shared with advertisers.
Sora	OpenAI's video generation tool available through ChatGPT subscriptions.	Generate videos based on text prompts, edit elements of videos, complete scenes by extending frames, create a storyboard, loop videos, blend clips together, create preset styles	<p><u>ChatGPT Plus</u> - (\$20/month) up to 720p resolution and 10s duration videos</p> <p><u>ChatGPT Pro</u> (\$200/month) faster generations, up to 1080p and 20s duration videos, up to 5 concurrent generations, download videos without a watermark</p>	See ChatGPT privacy information.
Magic Studio	Canva's suite of AI-powered creative tools.	Edit visual content, generate images and graphics, generate and edit voice, animate visuals	<p><u>Free</u> - limited access to AI features (up to 25 times per feature)</p> <p><u>Canva Pro</u> - (\$120/year) access to 25+ AI tools, including video clips using Veo 3, up to 250 times per month</p> <p><u>Canva Teams</u> - (\$100/person/year) same as Pro, 3 people minimum,</p>	Data collected includes: personal information provided upon account setup, info from third-party sources, use of service info, cookies, device identifiers, location info, content users upload. Canva may share user info to third party services. Users can delete or download data and make other privacy requests by emailing privacy@canva.com .

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				User content is not used to train models without permission.
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AI Research Tools (Updated 7/15/2025)

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These tools can assist with various stages of the research process such as finding papers, literature reviews, creating interactive graphics, and summarizing texts.

Tool	Description	Key Features	Tiers of Access	Data Privacy
Connected Papers	Visual literature mapping tool that creates interactive graphs showing relationships between academic papers. Input a “seed paper” and discover related works.	Visual graphs, prior and derivative works, multi-origin graphs, saved papers and graph history, discovery of related works, integration (DOIs, arXiv, Semantic Scholar, and PubMed).	<u>Free tier</u> - 5 graphs per month, all features. <u>Academic Plan</u> - (\$6/month) unlimited graphs	Collects data provided by users and uses third-party analytics tools. They do not sell data for marketing purposes. GDPR compliance.
Research Rabbit	Literature mapping tool that helps researchers discover and explore academic papers. Often described as the “Spotify for papers,” it allows users to start with a few seed papers and then it recommends similar works and influential authors in the field.	Citation-based literature mapping: interactive graphs that show relationships between papers, “Seed Paper” approach: Users add one or more papers, then it finds related literature. Discovery of similar, earlier, and later works. Author network visualization: helps discover prominent authors in the field, their	<u>Free</u> - Completely free for researchers. All features are available.	Collects personal data and usage data from user interactions. Data is encrypted and not sold for marketing purposes. GDPR compliance.

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		<p>collaborations, and other papers.</p> <p>Personalized recommendations as you add more papers to your collections.</p> <p>Citation export and ability to share collections for collaborative research.</p>		
Consensus	<p>Academic search engine designed to help find and synthesize peer-reviewed scientific research. Extracts and summarizes claims from a vast database of academic papers, always linking back to the original and citable sources.</p>	<p>AI-powered search engine: searches over 220 million peer-reviewed papers using hybrid semantic search.</p> <p>Pro Analysis: uses GPT-4 to synthesize key findings from relevant papers: high-level summary with in-text citations.</p> <p>Consensus Meter: Visual tool that analyzes yes/no research question and indicates the level of agreement among the literature.</p> <p>Ask paper: Users can chat with the full text of an individual paper to get in-depth answers.</p> <p>Study Snapshots: Quick overview of population, sample size, location, results, outcomes, duration, and methods.</p> <p>Quality indicators: Labels like “Highly Cited” or</p>	<p><u>Free</u> - 10 GPT-4 powered “Pro Analyses” per month, 10 “Study Snapshots” per month, 10 “Ask Paper” messages per month, unlimited searches across their database, unlimited bookmarks.</p> <p><u>Premium</u> - (\$12/month) Unlimited GPT-4 power Pro Analyses, Study Snapshots, Ask paper messages, bookmarks, and research quality indicators.</p> <p>*Students can get 3 months free with a school email.</p>	<p>Data is never used to train any AI models. No tracking, selling, or sharing user data for themselves or third-parties. They collect anonymous usage data (anonymized query text) to improve their search engine. GDPR compliance.</p>

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		“Rigorous Journal” to assess source credibility.		
Keenious	AI-powered research recommendation tool that analyses text documents to suggest relevant academic articles and topics. Uses machine learning to understand the context and meaning of your writing, automatically finding research that connects to your work.	<p>AI-powered text analysis, highlight search (tailored research recommendations based on sections), topic suggestions, cross-language support, citation generation and export.</p> <p>Built on OpenAlex dataset with over 200 million publications.</p> <p>Integration options with Microsoft and Google Docs.</p>	<p><u>Free plan</u> - basic research functions, limited to top 10 results per search, analyze up to 2 pages</p> <p><u>Individual Plan</u> - (\$10/month) Analyze up to 50 pages, top 1000 research recommendations per search</p> <p><u>Team Plan</u> - (\$20/user/month) Admin for team management</p> <p><u>Institutions</u> - (\$0.10/FTE/month) Access for all students and faculty, two-factor authentication</p>	Collects personal information when creating an account. Also collects device and usage information, but does not store or train their AI models on the full text of documents submitted by users. They do not sell personal information to third-parties. GDPR Compliant.
Undermind	Personal research assistant that mimics the systematic and iterative search process of a human expert to read and analyze relevant papers and helps users deeply understand a research topic.	AI-driven Deep Search, Intelligent literature review, LLM-Generated Summaries and Insights, Organized reports, “Discuss Results” with the AI expert, In-line citations, relevance gauging (relevance of a paper to specific research question), custom tables, novelty assessment (whether an idea has been explored before, identify research gaps), cross-disciplinary insights	<p><u>Free</u> - 10 searches per month, 50 papers analyzed per search.</p> <p><u>Individual (Pro) Plan</u> - (\$16/month) Full access, uses the latest and best AI models, analyzes full texts of papers (150 analyzed per search), extending searches, export of references, unlimited report chats.</p> <p><u>Team Plan</u> - (\$60/person/month minimum 5 seats) Includes features of the Pro plan, designed for groups and departments.</p>	Collects non-personal information (like anonymous usage data, browser type) and Personal information (email and contact information). Personal information is used for communication with users and non-personal information to improve service. Does not sell or share personal information with third parties, but reserves the right to

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				use and disclose Non-personal information to partners and third parties.
Scholarcy	AI-powered article summarizer that transforms academic papers and other documents into flashcards. It quickly extracts key facts, figures, references from complex texts.	AI-powered summarization, interactive flashcards, personal library, note-taking and annotation, multi-format import, literature matrix (themes and differences), generated bibliographies	<p><u>Free tier</u> - 1 summary per day, basic summarization features</p> <p><u>Personal Plan</u> - (\$10/month) unlimited summarization, enhanced summaries, save flashcards, notes and edit within flashcards, export flashcards, literature matrix, one-click bibliographies.</p>	Collects essential information provided by the user. It collects usage data through essential and non-essential cookies. Data is used to improve the service, all data is encrypted. GDPR compliance.
Scite	AI-powered research platform that helps researchers discover, evaluate, and understand scientific literature through "Smart Citations." Scite analyzes over 1.2 billion citation statements to provide context on how papers are cited, and whether citation support, contradict or only mention the referenced work. Allows researchers to assess the	<p>Citation classification: Categorizes citations as Supporting, Contrasting, or mentioning</p> <p>Context analysis: Provides full context for how papers are cited in other research</p> <p>Citation location: Shows which section of citing paper the citation appeared in</p> <p>AI powered research assistant, research discovery tools, analysis and visualization tools, quality assurance features.</p>	<p><u>Free Plan</u> - Basic access to Smart Citations database, limited search, generate 1 Scite report per month</p> <p><u>Personal Plan</u> - (\$20/month) Unlimited access to Smart Citations, unlimited assistant chats, unlimited Scite reports, advanced search capabilities.</p> <p>*Student and academics discount available</p>	Stores basic account creation information, collects anonymized usage statistics for service improvement, may retain search queries for personalization and service improvement. Does not see user data to third parties. GDPR compliance.

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	credibility, relevance, and impact of academic articles.			
Semantic Scholar	A free AI-powered academic search engine developed by the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2). Provides access to over 200 million scientific papers, using AI to understand the semantics of scientific literature.	<p>AI-powered search technology: semantic understanding, intelligent recommendations, hidden connections, contextual relevance.</p> <p>Paper analysis: TL;DR summaries, key insights, citation analysis, figure and table extraction, entity recognition.</p> <p>Research management tools: personal library, research feeds, author alerts, topic tracking, export options.</p> <p>Author and institutional analysis: author profiles, collaboration networks, institutional affiliations, impact metrics, co-author analysis.</p>	<p><u>Free plan</u> -Full access to 200+ million academic papers, AI-powered search and recommendations, summaries and key insights, citation analysis, citation exports.</p> <p><u>Semantic Scholar API</u> - Three API's. Returns details about papers, paper authors, paper citations, and references. Also recommends paper based on the papers you give it. Allows you download Semantic Scholar's datasets onto your local machine. (programming knowledge required for API integration)</p>	<p>AI2 is a nonprofit that aims to make scientific knowledge freely accessible. They have clear documentation of data sources and collection practices. Users have options to control data sharing and personalization.</p> <p>May store search queries to improve recommendations, anonymized usage data for service improvement, does not store user research files. Users have options to disable tracking and personalization. GDPR compliant.</p>
NotebookLM	AI-powered research and note-taking tool designed to help users synthesize information from multiple sources, create summaries, and generate insights. The tool can analyze uploaded documents,	<p>AI capabilities: Source grounding (analyzes uploaded documents), multi-document synthesis, contextual understanding, personalized responses (specific research needs).</p> <p>Document processing: up to 500,000 words per document, batch processing.</p>	<p><u>Free plan</u> - Up to 100 notebooks, 50 sources per notebook, 3 audio overview per day, document upload, basic AI summaries and insights. FAQ, timeline, and study guide generation.</p> <p>NotebookLM Plus - (\$20/month) Student discount available. 500 notebooks, 300 sources per notebook, 500 chat queries</p>	<p>User data is explicitly not used to train AI models, search queries are not saved or stored. Limited human review possible for feedback and troubleshooting. Users have full control over data deletion and sharing. GDPR compliance.</p>

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	generate summaries, answer questions, create study guides, and even transform written content into podcast-style audio discussions.	Automatic generation features: Automatic summaries, FAQ generation, study guides, timeline creation, briefing documents, table of contents. Audio Overview: podcast generation, AI hosts to discuss your content in natural conversation, interactive mode (join and ask questions), customizable length.	per day, 20 audio overviews per day, customizable response styles, Gemini Advanced access.	
Elicit	AI research assistant that helps users find academic papers, summarize papers, synthesize findings, ask questions to papers.	Systematic reviews: Beginning with a research question, this workflow that guides users through paper search, title and abstract screening, and full-text data extraction. Research reports: Ask a question and receive a report based on various papers that meet the criteria. Users may edit every step of the report creation process.	<u>Free</u> - unlimited search, view sources for answers, unlimited summaries of and chat with 4 papers at once, extract data from 20 papers per month <u>Plus</u> - (\$10/month) unlimited chat with and summaries of 8 full-text papers at once, export to RIS, CSV, BIB, extract data from 600 papers per year <u>Pro</u> - (\$42/month) extract data from 2,400 papers per year, dedicated workflows for systematic reviews, subscribe to 10 personalized research alerts, explanations for AI-generated answers <u>Team</u> - (\$65/user/month) extract data from 3,600 papers per user per year, live-editing for Notebooks and Systematic Reviews	Data collected includes: personal information provided, device and IP information, usage information. This data is used for legitimate business interests, but it is only shared to comply with laws or protect user rights. Cookies and tracking technologies may be used to help customize user experience. Uploaded papers remain private and are not shared.

