

Ourbit Vendor-Neutral AI - Day 12: Research and Knowledge Work

Day 12 - Research and Knowledge Work

Programme: Vendor-Neutral AI - 15-Day Certification Programme

Purpose: Use AI to accelerate research and synthesis while preserving source quality, traceability and uncertainty.

Learning outcomes

- Turn a broad topic into a bounded research question.
- Plan evidence before asking for conclusions.
- Separate source-supported fact, inference and unresolved uncertainty.
- Maintain claim-to-source traceability.
- Use AI for organization without outsourcing evidence judgment.

1. Bound the question

Research quality improves when the question defines subject, purpose, time period, population or market where relevant, and the decision the research should support. “Research AI adoption” is too broad; a bounded question tells you what evidence is relevant and what lies outside scope.

2. Evidence before synthesis

AI can help generate search terms, organize notes and compare supplied material, but conclusions should not outrun the evidence. Decide what kinds of sources are appropriate, how recent they need to be and which claims require primary or authoritative support.

3. Keep a claim trail

For important statements, record the source, relevant passage or data, date and any limitation. This makes later review possible and prevents a polished synthesis from erasing the distinction between source material and model inference.

4. Treat disagreement as information

Sources may use different definitions, periods or methods. Do not force them into artificial agreement. Identify the difference, determine whether one source has stronger authority for the question, and preserve unresolved uncertainty where necessary.

Worked example - market adoption

Two reports give different adoption rates. One surveys large enterprises globally; another surveys small businesses in one country. The numbers are not automatically contradictory because the populations differ. A responsible synthesis identifies each population and avoids presenting either rate as universal.

Guided practice

Convert “How is AI changing education?” into a bounded research question. Specify the time period, population, decision purpose, preferred evidence types and a simple claim log with fields for source, claim, support and limitation.

Knowledge check

- What makes a research question bounded?
- Why plan evidence before synthesis?
- What should a claim trail contain?
- Why can two different statistics both be valid?
- What role should AI play when evidence is unresolved?

Applied evidence task

An AI-generated research summary cites weak or inaccessible material for three important claims. Create a correction plan: identify replacement-source criteria, show how unsupported claims will be qualified or removed, and preserve a record of what remains uncertain.

Day 12 takeaway

AI can accelerate knowledge work, but trustworthy research still depends on bounded questions, appropriate evidence, traceable claims and honest uncertainty.

Assessment boundary

This learning evidence belongs only to vendor-neutral-ai-15-day.

Key concepts for assessment

An inference is a conclusion drawn from evidence, rather than a fact directly stated by a source.

Learning comes before credentials. Completing this reading alone does not issue a certificate. Programme assessment and practical requirements apply.