



Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

Information Services



Edinburgh Napier University

Library Approach

AI tools and Library databases



Introduction

The Library supports the University community by ensuring access to information and promoting its responsible use. As AI tools are introduced into Library databases and resources, we recognise the opportunities these technologies offer and the challenges they present for learning, teaching and research. We will follow the University approach to AI.

Our aim is to support the University community to explore the potential of AI technologies in Library resources in ways that strengthen scholarship, uphold academic integrity and enhance the student experience.

Note that not all tool additions and changes in Library databases are optional, meaning control is limited. We will aim to map tools and provide education and awareness raising for the academic community.

Our values

The Library is very aware of ethical considerations including: bias, exploitation, lack of transparency in search and results, issues with data security, endangering intellectual property rights and environmental impact.

Feedback from academic consultation highlights significant caution regarding the use of AI tools for literature searching. Respondents emphasised that searching for and engaging critically with scholarly literature is a core academic skill, and that tools which shortcut this process pose risks to learning, academic integrity, and research quality.

Our adoption of AI tools will be guided by our professional values and principles including:

- **transparency and accuracy**
- **academic integrity**
- **equity of access**



Our commitment

The Library will:

- Adopt a cautious, evidence-led approach to the evaluation and use of AI-enabled features in Library resources.
- Prioritise accuracy, transparency, and alignment with academic and pedagogical values, rather than efficiency gains.
- Aim to educate students and staff with the critical thinking and research skills to effectively use Library AI-enabled resources.
- Clearly communicate tool benefits and limitations and reinforce the importance of engaging with primary sources.
- Explore accessibility gains to support equity of access.

Our aim is to ensure that AI developments within Library systems are understood, used responsibly, and aligned with the values of high-quality scholarship.



The most useful tools will be those that encourage discovery, are transparent about how they work and direct users back to primary sources rather than encouraging reliance on secondary summaries.