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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing higher education by enhancing operations and educational offerings. Recent research shows that 72% of educators and 65% of students use AI tools, with 47% of education leaders incorporating AI daily to streamline processes.

Adobe Acrobat AI Assistant offers substantial benefits to higher education institutions, including document interaction, content creation, mobile voice prompts, cross-document insights, and generative summaries and transcripts.

This resource highlights the advantages of integrating AI into higher education, addressing common concerns and showcasing its potential through practical scenarios.

For a comprehensive, longform breakdown of the impact of Acrobat AI Assistant across disciplines, along with specific time saving measurements, check out this study, commissioned by Adobe and conducted by Pfeiffer Consulting.




**72%** of educators use AI tools.





of students use AI tools. **65%**



**47%** of education leaders incorporating AI daily to streamline processes.

 **Automate routine tasks:** Save time and improve efficiency by automating administrative processes.

 **Empower educators and students:** Utilize AI-driven tools to enhance teaching and learning. Educators can provide personalized learning experiences, and tailor educational content to meet individual student needs, boosting engagement and outcomes.

 **Diverse applications:** Address unique needs across various departments, such as business, science, engineering, law, and literature.

The modern campus is inundated with unstructured data in the form of documents — often briefs, research papers, and policy memos. Adobe’s responsibly designed and implemented approach to Generative AI acts as the missing link, automating the extraction and analysis of this data to provide actionable insights. This significantly enhances productivity and strategic decision-making.

### Exploring the potential of AI

**Imagine a university where administrative tasks are no longer a burden, where faculty can dedicate more time to teaching and research, and where students have access to personalized learning experiences. This is the reality that Adobe Acrobat AI brings to your campus.**

By streamlining administrative processes, AI frees up valuable time for staff and faculty, allowing them to focus on what truly matters — educating and inspiring students.

This paper explores how AI, particularly Acrobat AI Assistant, can meet the diverse needs of higher education institutions. Let’s take a closer look at the full potential of AI in higher education and how it can benefit your institution.



# AI's role in transforming higher education.

Practical applications and benefits for all academic roles.





AI-powered tools create an inclusive and efficient learning environment by providing personalized resources and making education accessible to all. Data-driven insights help educators tailor their teaching strategies, ensuring every student can thrive and prepare for a digital future.

Adobe Acrobat AI fosters collaboration by simplifying communication and project management, enabling seamless teamwork, and driving creativity and innovation. This results in a vibrant, forward-thinking institution that stands out in higher education.

Overall, Adobe Acrobat AI positions your university as a leader in adopting cutting-edge technology, transforming it into a hub of efficiency, quality education, and innovation. Let's explore how different roles within your institution can leverage AI to tackle their unique challenges and enhance their roles.

### Senior managers, deans, and board members:

“How can AI improve our institution’s efficiency and what is the ROI of implementing AI?”

AI automates administrative tasks like document management and data analysis, freeing up staff to focus on strategic activities. The return on investment includes time savings, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced educational outcomes, justifying the initial investment.

**Example:** Compiling a strategic report on new educational regulations might usually take around an hour. With Acrobat AI Assistant, distilling this information and summarizing the key points could be reduced to a fraction of this time.

**These time and monetary savings can be reinvested into academic programs and student services, leading to measurable improvements in student outcomes, research progress, and campus efficiency.**

### IT director:

“Are existing AI tools secure and easy to integrate with our existing systems?”

Ensuring the security of institutional data is paramount, as it often contains sensitive information. AI tools must provide robust security features and integrate seamlessly with existing IT infrastructure to protect this data. **Acrobat AI Assistant is designed with advanced encryption and secure access controls, ensuring that all user data remains protected, and cached content is cleared after 12 hours. It integrates easily with existing systems, and is embedded within Adobe Acrobat — requiring minimal workflow adjustments.**

For a detailed security fact sheet that illustrates the flow and security of user data with Acrobat AI Assistant, [check out this resource from the Adobe Trust Center.](#)

Since your campus community is likely already spending significant time in Adobe Acrobat and working with various document formats, Acrobat AI Assistant’s user-friendly interface allows for quick training of staff and students. IT administrators can confidently safeguard their institution's data while streamlining operations.

### Educators and teaching assistants:

“How does AI help me save time and effort preparing my lessons?”

Acrobat AI Assistant can enhance lesson planning by providing structured, accurate insights tailored to the specific needs of higher education. For example, according to a recent report by Pfeiffer Consulting, tasks like summarizing research papers and compiling lecture notes could be accomplished 17% faster<sup>1</sup>.

Similarly, tasks like preparing a summary of a textbook chapter, creating a presentation for a lecture, and writing an email to students about the key points could be accomplished significantly faster.

Using Acrobat AI Assistant, educators and teaching assistants can save time and energy and focus on what matters most: effective pedagogy and engaging with students.

AI Assistant

Create a presentation structure from these papers and focus on transition between the ideas.

- Introduction:** Importance of Gen Z in shaping digital marketing.
- Economic Impacts:** Boost to e-commerce and job creation.
- Key Marketing Methods:** Personalization: AI-driven experiences. Influencer marketing - Trust through relatability.
- Challenges & Opportunities:** Challenges: Short attention spans, ad saturation. Opportunities: Emerging tech like AI and VR.
- Conclusion:** Adapt and innovate using data-driven strategies.

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**Business-Management.pdf**

The term "digital marketing" has changed over time from a mere buzzword to a comprehensive strategy that encompasses all aspects of a business's online presence. It involves using digital technologies to reach and engage with target audiences, often through various channels such as social media, search engines, and email. This approach allows for more personalized and targeted marketing efforts, leading to increased brand awareness and customer loyalty. The evolution of digital marketing has been driven by advancements in technology and the growing reliance on digital devices for communication and information consumption.

Administrative staff:

“Can Acrobat AI Assistant help streamline administrative tasks?”

Yes, Acrobat AI Assistant can automate routine tasks such as creating meeting transcripts, summarizing documents, and finding information quickly. For example, campus admin staff use Acrobat AI Assistant to transcribe meeting notes, summarize lengthy documents, and chat with documents to quickly find specific information — with citations provided for easy verification.

Research shows that 90% of organizational data is unstructured<sup>2</sup>, and institutions spend an average of 8 hours per week<sup>3</sup> just looking for information. Staff can use Acrobat AI Assistant and focus on more complex, impactful tasks.

**AI Assistant**

**Meeting Transcript: Digital Literacy Strategies**  
Date: November 19, 2024  
Time: 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
Location: Conference Room 1, HED Institute

**Attendees:**

- Dr. Emily Carter, Dean
- Dr. John Smith, Head of the English Department
- Dr. Sarah Johnson, Head of the Computer Science Department
- Dr. Michael Brown, Head of the History Department
- Dr. Laura Davis, Head of the Education Department

**Dr. Emily Carter (Dean):** Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining this meeting on such short notice. As you know, our focus today is on developing strategies to enhance digital literacy across our institution. This is a critical area for us, given the increasing importance of digital skills in both academic and professional settings.

**Dr. John Smith (English Department):** Good morning, Emily. I agree, digital literacy is essential. In the English Department, we've been integrating more digital tools into our curriculum, but I think we need a more cohesive strategy across all departments.

**Dr. Sarah Johnson (Computer Science Department):** Absolutely. From a technical perspective, we need to ensure that both faculty and students are proficient in using digital tools. This includes everything from basic software skills to more advanced topics like data analysis and cybersecurity.

**Dr. Michael Brown (History Department):** I think we also need to consider the historical context of digital literacy. Understanding the evolution of digital technology can provide valuable insights for our students. We could incorporate this into our history courses.

**Dr. Laura Davis (Education Department):** That's a great point, Michael. In the Education Department, we're focusing on how to teach digital literacy effectively. We need to equip our future educators with the skills to teach these concepts in their own classrooms.

**Dr. Emily Carter (Dean):** These are all excellent points. I propose we develop a comprehensive digital literacy program that includes the following components:

1. **Curriculum Integration:** Ensure that digital literacy is embedded in the curriculum across all departments.

**What are the ideas shared in the meeting?**

The key ideas shared in the meeting are:

1. Integrating digital literacy into the curriculum across all departments. <sup>1</sup>
2. Providing ongoing faculty training on digital skills. <sup>2</sup>
3. Offering student workshops and online modules for digital literacy. <sup>3</sup>
4. Organizing regular seminars for faculty on best practices. <sup>4</sup>
5. Forming a task force with representatives

**Marketing director:**

“How can Generative AI help marketers create content better and faster?”

Acrobat AI Assistant can significantly enhance the efficiency and quality of content creation, enabling marketing directors to produce engaging promotional materials more quickly. For example, a marketing director might need to write an article to increase the visibility and engagement of their school. Traditionally, creating a blog post about a 3000-word research article could take almost 90 minutes. However, using Acrobat AI, this task can be completed in just 19 minutes<sup>4</sup>.

The time saved allows the marketing director to focus on additional campaigns, optimize outreach strategies, and engage with prospective students through various channels, ultimately boosting the institution's visibility and appeal.

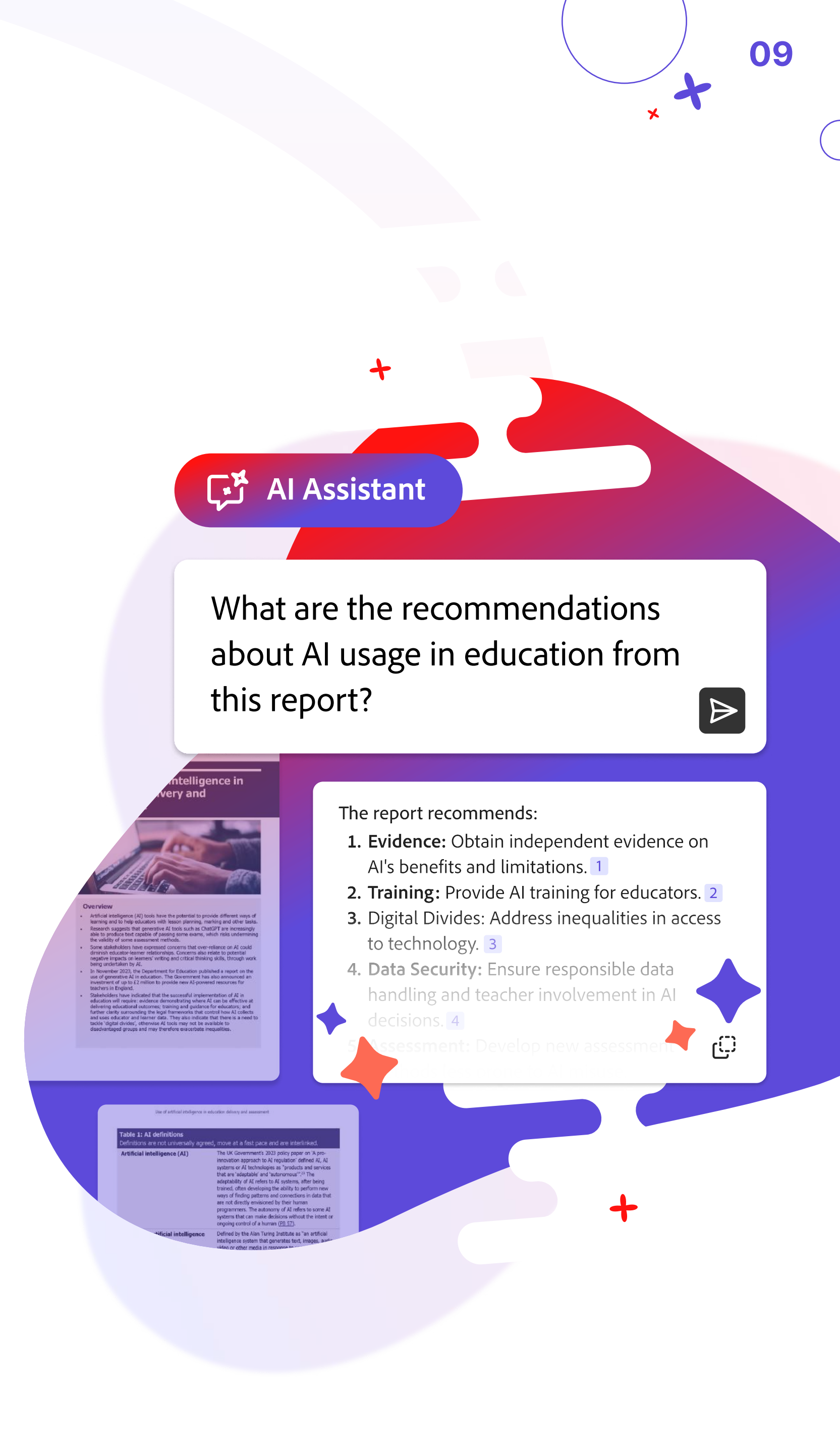
**Student:**

“How can AI help me study more effectively and manage my coursework?”

AI can create study guides, summarize readings, and provide personalized feedback, helping students learn and engage with coursework more efficiently. For example, students use Acrobat AI Assistant to generate summaries of their readings, highlighting key concepts and details. They can also create personalized study guides by compiling relevant notes and resources.

Additionally, students can chat with their documents to quickly find answers to specific questions and clarify complex topics. They might ask, “What are the key points of this chapter?” or “Can you explain this concept in simpler terms?” This enhances their studying and exam preparation, while retaining crucial elements of critical thinking and reading comprehension.

This time-saving aspect allows students to focus more on understanding the material and engaging in meaningful discussions with course staff and peers.



**AI Assistant**

What are the recommendations about AI usage in education from this report?

- The report recommends:
- Evidence:** Obtain independent evidence on AI's benefits and limitations. <sup>1</sup>
  - Training:** Provide AI training for educators. <sup>2</sup>
  - Digital Divides:** Address inequalities in access to technology. <sup>3</sup>
  - Data Security:** Ensure responsible data handling and teacher involvement in AI decisions. <sup>4</sup>
  - Assessment:** Develop new assessment <sup>5</sup>

**Intelligence in Delivery and Assessment**

Overview

- Artificial intelligence (AI) tools have the potential to provide different ways of learning and to help educators with lesson planning, marking and other tasks.
- Research suggests that generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are increasingly able to produce text capable of passing some exams, which raises concerns over the validity of some assessment methods.
- Some stakeholders have expressed concerns that over-reliance on AI could disrupt risk-poor-learner relationships. Concerns also relate to potential negative impacts on agency, writing and critical thinking skills, through work being undertaken by AI.
- In November 2023, the Department for Education published a report on the use of generative AI in education. The Government has also announced an investment of up to £2 million to provide new AI-powered resources for teachers in England.
- Stakeholders have indicated that the successful implementation of AI in education will require evidence demonstrating where AI can be effective at addressing educational outcomes, training and evidence for educators, and further clarity surrounding the legal frameworks that control how AI collects and uses educator and learner data. They also indicate that there is a need to better regulate existing, off-the-shelf AI tools that may not be suitable for disadvantaged groups and may further exacerbate inequalities.

**Table 1: AI definitions**

Definitions are not universally agreed, grow at a fast pace and are inter-related.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The UK Government's 2023 policy paper on AI, a pre-provision approach to AI regulation, defined AI, AI systems or AI technologies as "products and services that are 'adaptable' and 'autonomous'".<sup>17</sup> The adaptability of AI refers to AI systems, after being trained, often developing the ability to perform new ways of finding patterns and connections in data that are not directly envisioned by their human programmers. The autonomy of AI refers to some AI systems that can make decisions without the input or ongoing control of a human (23.37).

**Artificial Intelligence**

Defined by the Alan Turing Institute as "an artificial intelligence system that generates text, images, audio or other media in response to user prompts".

# Transforming higher education with Acrobat AI.

Case studies and creative scenarios across academic departments.



Building on the understanding of how Acrobat AI Assistant can benefit different personas, let's examine specific case studies and hypothetical scenarios.

These examples demonstrate the practical applications of the tool in various academic settings, showcasing its impact across different departments.

### Business school:

Business school students work on lengthy financial reports or business case studies.

Students can quickly gain insights from extensive financial documents. Acrobat AI Assistant analyzes and compares data across different reports, highlighting key performance indicators and trends.

Students can chat with the documents to ask specific questions, such as "What are the main revenue drivers for this company?" or "How does this company's financial health compare to its competitors?" Additionally, students can utilize business case studies to analyze marketing research papers and understand customer behavior, gaining practical insights and enhancing their learning experience.



How does Generation Z's upbringing influence their marketing preferences?



Generation Z's upbringing with digital devices and social media makes them favor personalized and interactive marketing. 1 They prefer social media marketing, influencer endorsements, and user-generated content. 2 Authenticity and emotional appeal in ads are important for them, and they are heavily influenced by peer reviews and recommendations online.

## Science departments:

Science students and researchers handle a wide range of data and documents, including research papers, lab reports, and confidential project files.

With Acrobat AI Assistant, science departments can ensure that students and researchers work in a safe and secure environment. The tool can organize and analyze unstructured data, such as research papers and lab reports, while maintaining strict confidentiality protocols. Students can interact with the documents to ask specific questions like, “What are the key findings of this experiment?” or “How do these results compare to previous studies?” The tool will provide citations, allowing easy navigation to the specific section of the documents it collected insights from — allowing for quick verification and deeper analysis.

Additionally, the generative summary feature quickly summarizes complex documents, saving valuable time and enhancing the accuracy and depth of scientific research. The Pfeiffer study found that comparing findings and methodologies across multiple documents like research papers can take 3-4 hours. With Acrobat AI Assistant, this task can be completed in about 30 minutes, a significant time savings.

Knowing that their data and papers remain confidential and are not used to train language models, researchers can pursue their work with confidence.



AI Assistant

What are the main benefits of consuming dark chocolate?

**Antioxidant Properties:** Dark chocolate is rich in polyphenols, which act as free radical scavengers, demonstrating antioxidant effects that can improve immune function and reduce oxidative stress.

### Engineering schools:

**Engineering students and faculty work on complex projects that require extensive documentation and technical reports.**

Acrobat AI Assistant can revolutionize how engineering schools manage project documentation. By automating the organization and retrieval of technical reports and design specifications, Acrobat AI allows students to quickly access the information they need. They can ask questions like, “What are the key design parameters for this project?” or “How does this prototype compare to previous versions?” The tool will provide citations, allowing easy navigation to the specific sections of the document it collected insights from — allowing for quick verification and deeper analysis.

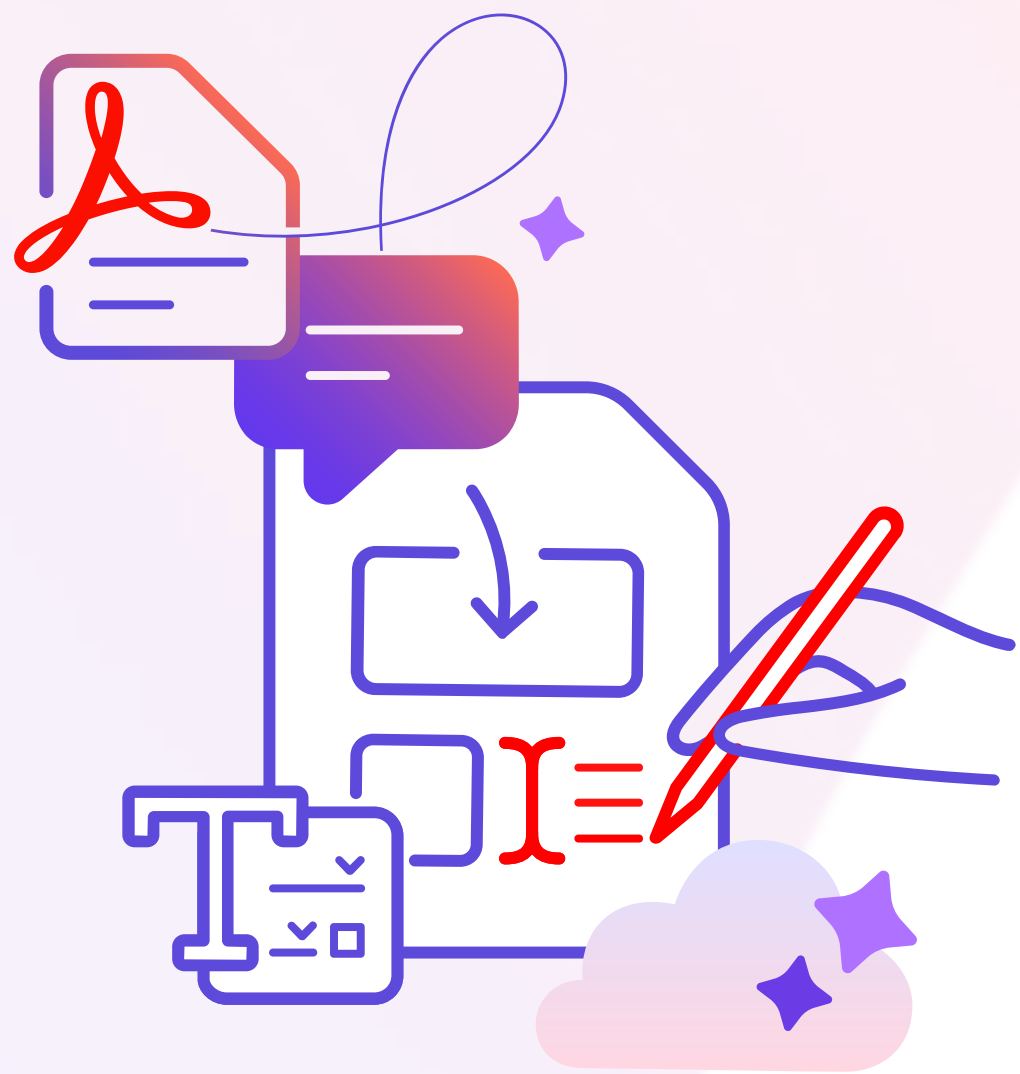
This capability not only streamlines project management but also enhances collaboration and innovation. The ability to easily navigate through complex documents reduces frustration and empowers students to focus on creative problem-solving, making their educational experience more fulfilling.

### Law schools:

**Law students and professors need to sift through large volumes of legal texts, case studies, and statutes.**

In the secure and closed environment of a law school, Acrobat AI can be a game-changer. The AI can efficiently organize and index legal documents, making it easier to find relevant information. Students can ask questions like, “What are the main arguments in this case?” or “How does this ruling compare to similar cases?” The tool will provide citations, allowing easy navigation to the specific sections of the document it collected insights from — allowing for quick verification and deeper analysis.

This not only saves time but also enhances the quality of legal research and education.



## Language and literature departments

Language and literature students and faculty deal with a wide range of texts, from ancient manuscripts to modern literature.

Acrobat AI Assistant can transform the way language and literature departments analyze texts. By digitizing and providing tools for deeper literary analysis, the AI can extract keywords, perform sentiment analysis, and highlight significant passages. Students can ask questions like, “What are the main themes in this text?” or “How do the characters develop over the course of the narrative?” The generative summary feature quickly summarizes lengthy texts, enriching the educational experience by providing new insights into literary works and testing students’ critical thinking. The tool will provide citations, allowing easy navigation to the specific sections of the document it collected insights from — allowing for quick verification and deeper analysis.

These case studies and scenarios illustrate just some of the diverse ways in which Acrobat AI Assistant can enhance the educational experience across various departments. By automating routine tasks, ensuring data security, and providing personalized learning experiences, Acrobat AI addresses the specific needs of higher education institutions.

The image illustrates the use of Acrobat AI Assistant in a language and literature department. A hand is shown holding a tablet that displays the cover of the Folger Shakespeare Library edition of *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. The tablet also shows the library's website (<https://shakespeare.folger.edu/>) and a "Buy a copy" button. To the right of the tablet, an AI Assistant interface is shown, displaying a question: "How does the sentiment change throughout the story?" and a corresponding answer: "The sentiment in Romeo and Juliet shifts from tension and romance to tragedy. It begins with conflict, grows hopeful with Romeo and Juliet's love, and turns tragic with misunderstandings and their deaths, ending in bittersweet reconciliation." The interface includes a red "AI Assistant" button, a play button, and a refresh icon.

Our deep dive into Generative AI in higher education reveals its game-changing potential to boost efficiency, security, and educational quality.

Acrobat AI Assistant stands out as a powerful tool, ready to deliver these benefits to institutions around the globe.



### Summary of key benefits and features

- 1. Faster time to insights:** Acrobat AI Assistant accelerates the process of gaining insights from long documents, including policy briefs, textbooks, class notes, and research papers. The Generative Summary feature allows campus staff, educators, and students to quickly understand key points, providing a starting point for deeper critical thinking and work outputs. Additionally, voice prompts on mobile devices enable learning on the go, making it easier to access information anytime, anywhere.
- 2. Writing made easy:** Acrobat AI Assistant suggests prompts to guide your analysis, clearing the way for human creativity and critical thinking. Whether drafting a report, presentation, or email, it quickly suggests language and key points. It reduces the time and effort required for repetitive tasks, enabling staff, educators, and students to focus on more critical goals.
- 3. Easy to use and deploy:** Integrated directly within Adobe Acrobat, AI Assistant provides users with instant access, facilitating fast time to value without having to leave the document or open a separate Internet browser. This seamless integration streamlines AI data governance efforts, making it easy for institutions to adopt and deploy.
- 4. Secure data privacy:** With Acrobat AI Assistant, your data remains yours. It does not utilize your data for training Large Language Models (LLMs), only accesses the documents you explicitly specify, and clears cached content after 12 hours. This ensures that you retain full control over your data, maintaining strict data privacy and security across campus.
- 5. Efficient content creation:** Chat with your documents to ask questions and get answers with references, boosting your understanding. This helps you create impactful content, whether it's departmental memos, marketing blogs, or study guides.
- 6. Comprehensive insights:** Generate insights and create impactful content based on a group of documents you select. Search for information across different file types and trust the insights with easy-to-navigate citations.
- 7. Enhanced meeting productivity:** Easily generate summaries of meetings, lectures, and discussions. Identify main topics, key points, and action items in an easy-to-digest format, improving meeting productivity and information retention.

Contact your Adobe reseller today to learn more about how we can support your institution's specific needs and help you maximize the benefits of Acrobat AI.