

Help us to test the new Limo AI assistant !



AI COMES TO LIMO

CLICK HERE

Experiences with the Primo Research Assistant @ KU Leuven Association

What we learned from user perceptions & expectations

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IGELU 2025



- Part of KU Leuven Libraries and Leuven R&D
- 32 highly skilled persons
- Manages library network of > 80 libraries
- Digital service provider managing KU Leuven wide solutions
 - Incl archival management, heritage collections, Institutional repository of publications and of Research data, Digital preservation platform
 - ... these solutions are also offered to external organisations.



KU Leuven

Internationally-oriented research
university

- Academic literature,
relating to research
- Majority of publications in
forum languages



6 university colleges

Professionally-oriented
higher education

- Professional literature,
focused on everyday practice
- Many publications in local
languages

Why evaluate the Research Assistant?



Test interest in the tool



Gain insight into user needs 'in the field'



Observe where users struggle to provide better help

How we evaluated the Research Assistant

- 'Beta' trial at KU Leuven Association February-May 2025
 - 'Invitation to test' for all users
 - User survey
 - Gauge attitudes towards GenAI tools
 - Experiences with the RA



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How we evaluated the Research Assistant


- Enter into conversation with users
 - Expert discussion group @ KU Leuven Libraries
 - Workshop @ VIVES
 - Info booth @ Agora Learning Centre



KU LEUVEN

AI is coming to LIMO!

Discover a new search experience powered by generative AI in the LIMO AI Assistant.
Curious? Try it out at <https://lib.is/76bkv4> and let us know what you think!



The LIMO AI Assistant allows you to formulate search questions in natural language

How to ask questions in the LIMO AI Assistant?

- Formulate a complete question
- Do not use single search terms
- Be specific and use relevant terms
- Write in your language (Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, etc.)
- Use language functions: 'Try it in French' or 'Search only in Dutch'

Using generative AI, the tool gets to work with your question

How are the answers generated?

- 1 Enter search request
- 2 Analysing results
- 3 Select most relevant results
- 4 Dynamic response generation

The AI converts your question to a search query, such as AND NOT combinations.
The AI collects summaries of the top 30 results.
The AI selects the 5 top results based on relevance.
Each search will yield different answers, depending on the results.

Use the 'Try again' button

To ensure reliable results, it draws on a rich collection of academic sources

Which sources does the LIMO AI assistant search?

The AI only searches data from central databases in LIMO, not local collections

Searchable	Not searchable
central collection with more than 5 billion international scientific publications	physical materials, some e-book collections, local magazines and parts of LIBIS
new articles, publications without abstract, restricted publications, and restricted sources	
limited access to data: e.g. among others, APA, Elsevier, JSTOR	
sometimes, sources may be absent to which your library does not have access	

Get a first view on your topic via an AI-generated summary and 5 top results.
Or delve deeper by exploring more relevant sources.

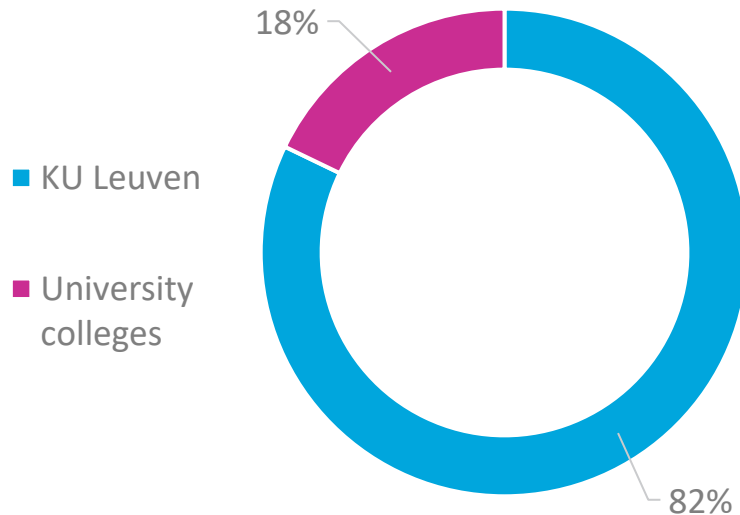
Use your search string here

Your search filters

Different ranking of sources (AI and LIMO use different algorithms)

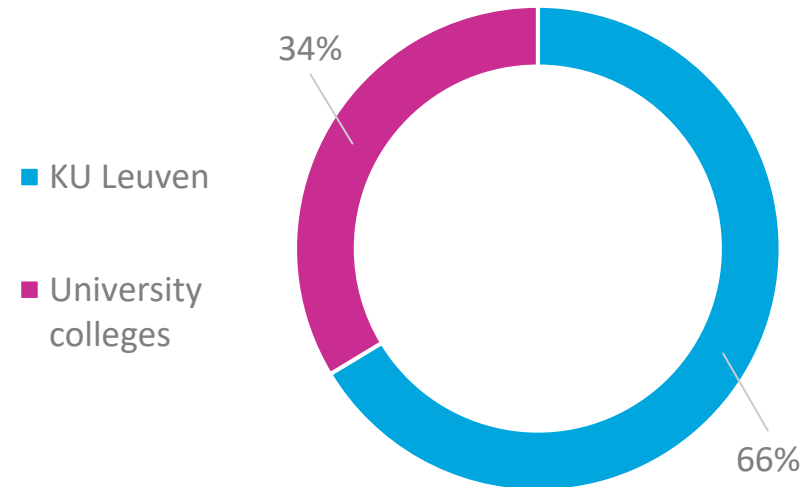
Responses by institution type

RA Test sessions per institution type



Total RA Test sessions: 6 798

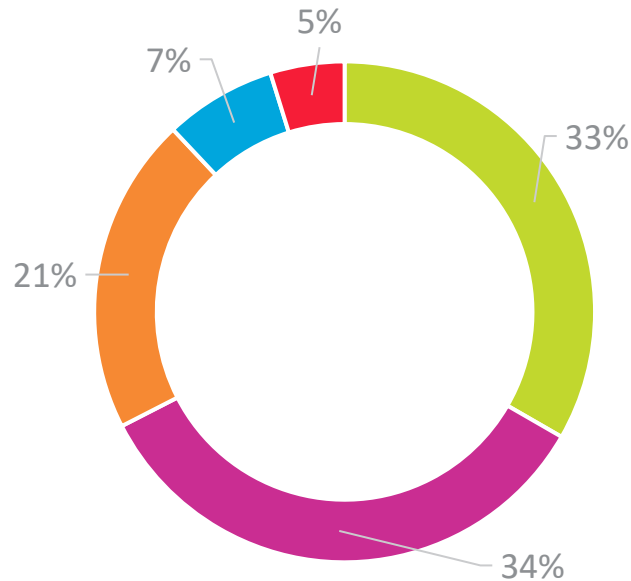
Survey responses by institution type



Total Survey responses: 104

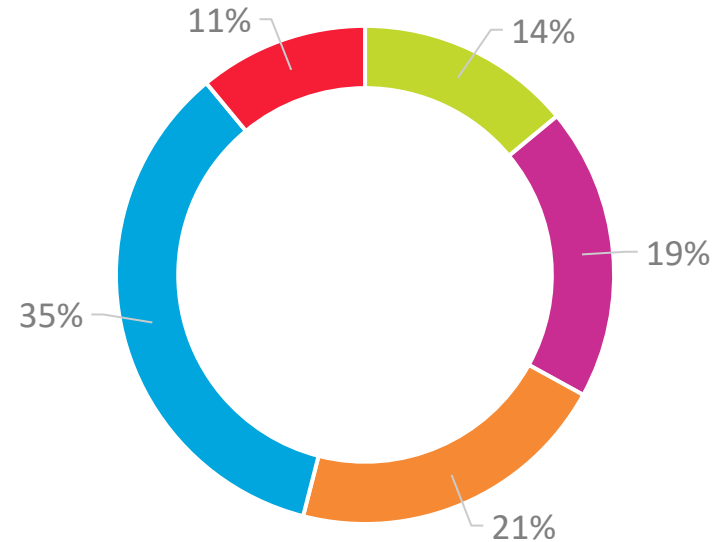
Responses by user type

RA test sessions by user group



- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Staff
- Library staff
- Other

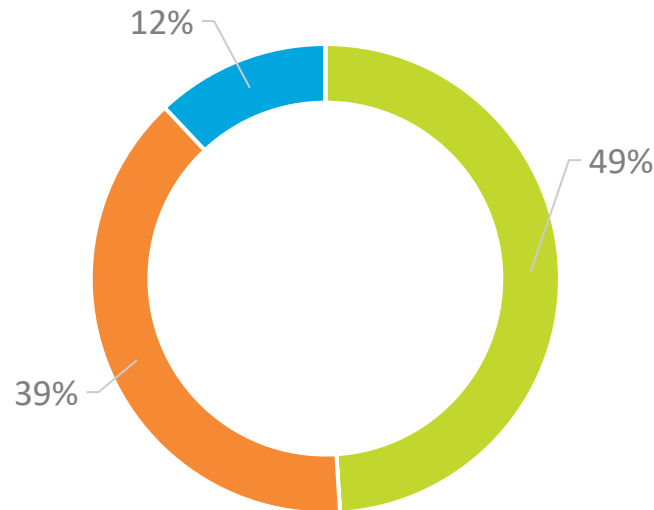
Survey responses by user group



- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Staff
- Library staff
- Other

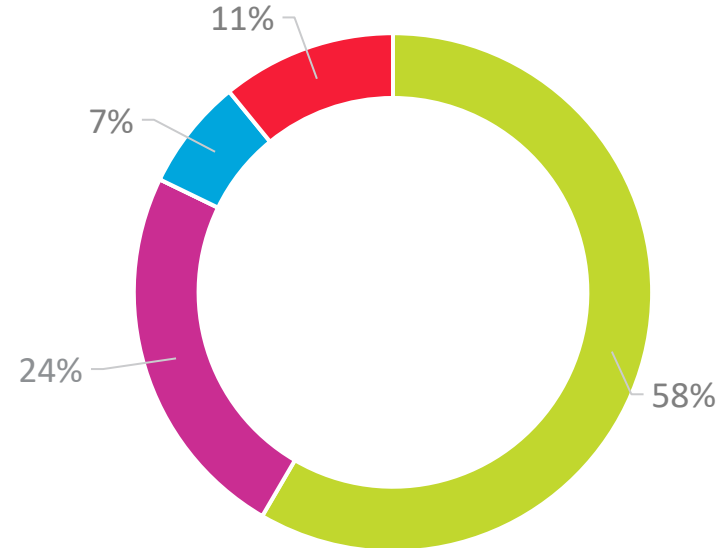
Overall appreciation was positive

Has the Research Assistant helped you find the information you need?



■ Yes ■ Partially ■ No

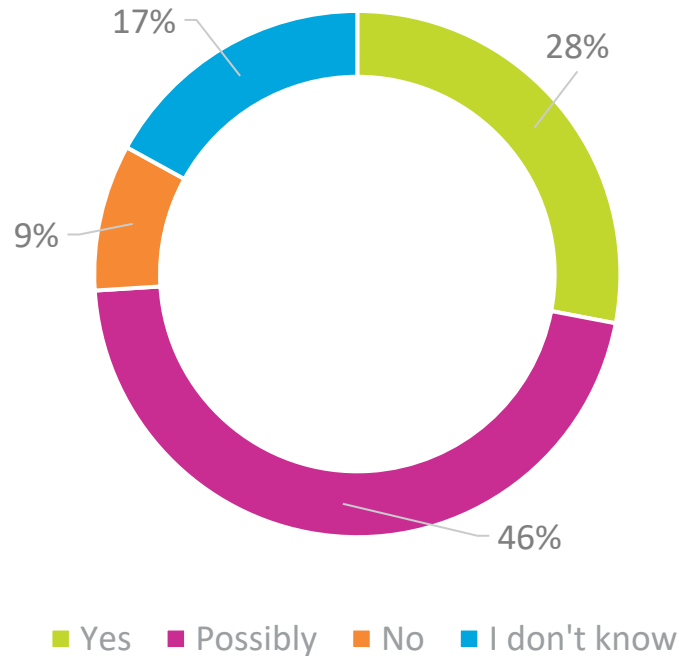
Would you consider using the Research Assistant in the future?



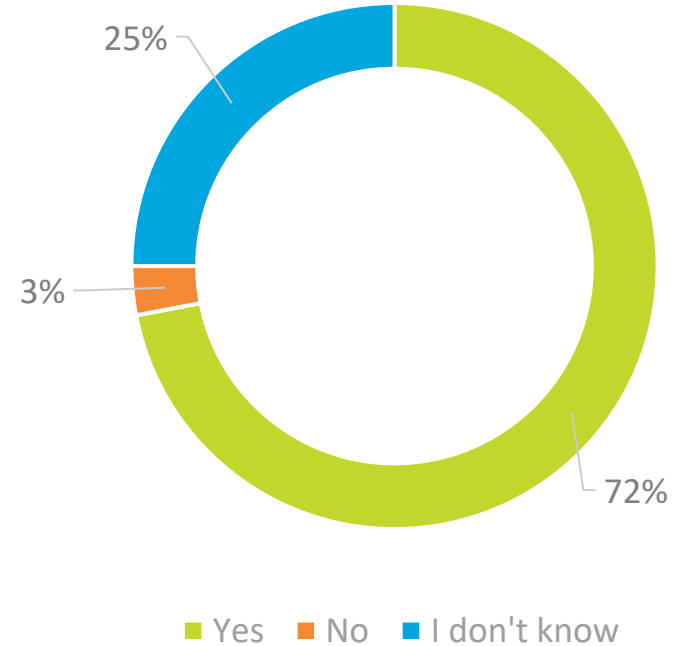
■ Yes ■ Yes, under certain conditions ■ No ■ I'm not sure

Many were open to students using the RA

Would you recommend the Research Assistant to students?



Can the Research Assistant be used in educational contexts



... but there were also important critical notes LIBIS

It's not the tool,
it's the sources

"I will consider using the Research Assistant only if I'm 100% certain that the tool really works, and all collections and content from the library catalogue are in there."

I don't need AI

"I'm not sure the Research Assistant has added value for me, as I am used to working with filters and advanced search"

I don't want AI

"Please keep AI out of academia"

Not all parts are equal

General usability

4.02

Gemiddelde
beoordeling



Related research
questions

3.96

Gemiddelde
beoordeling



‘More results’

3.89

Gemiddelde
beoordeling



Brief overview

3.55

Gemiddelde
beoordeling



Selected sources

2.96

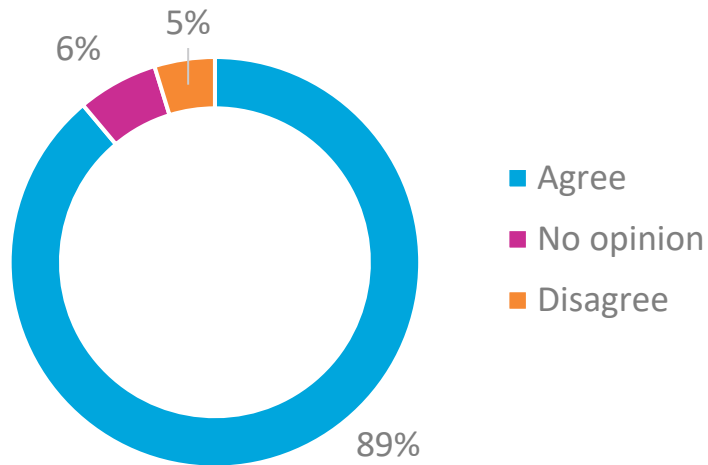
Gemiddelde
beoordeling



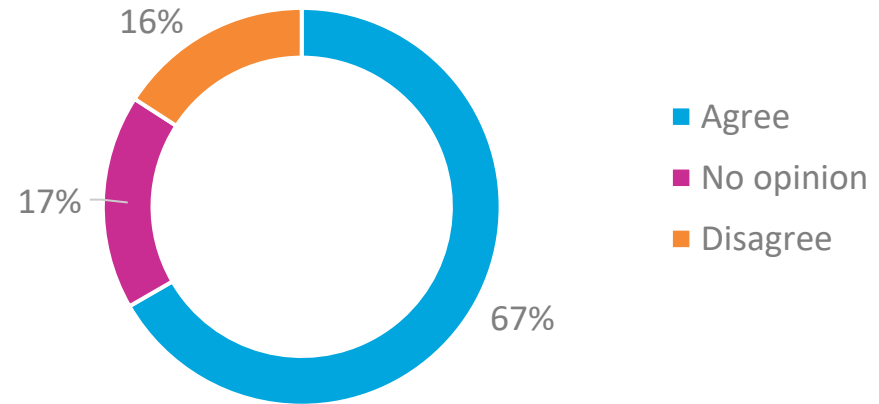
The Research Assistant excels in exploration...



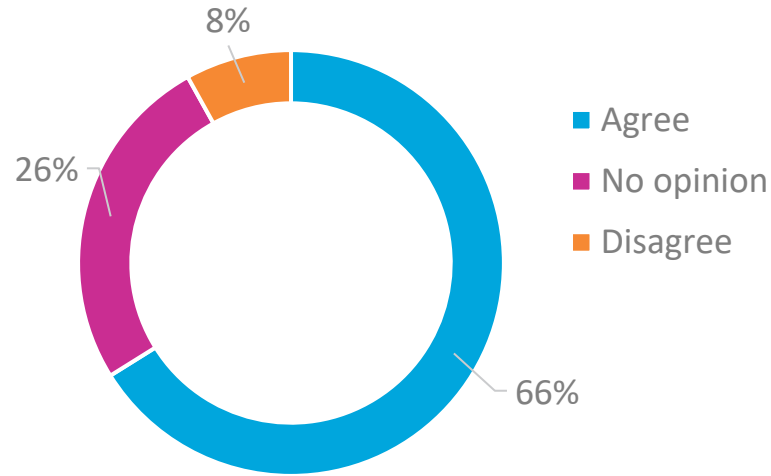
To explore a new topic?



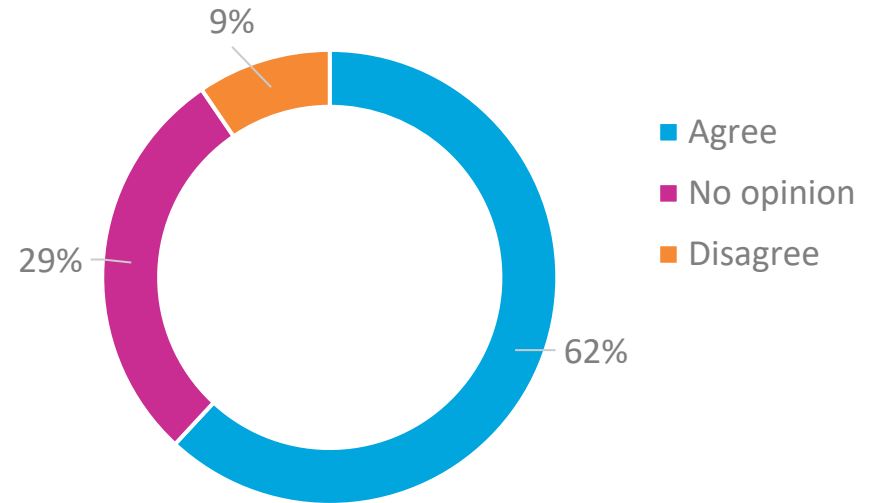
As starting point for a literature search?



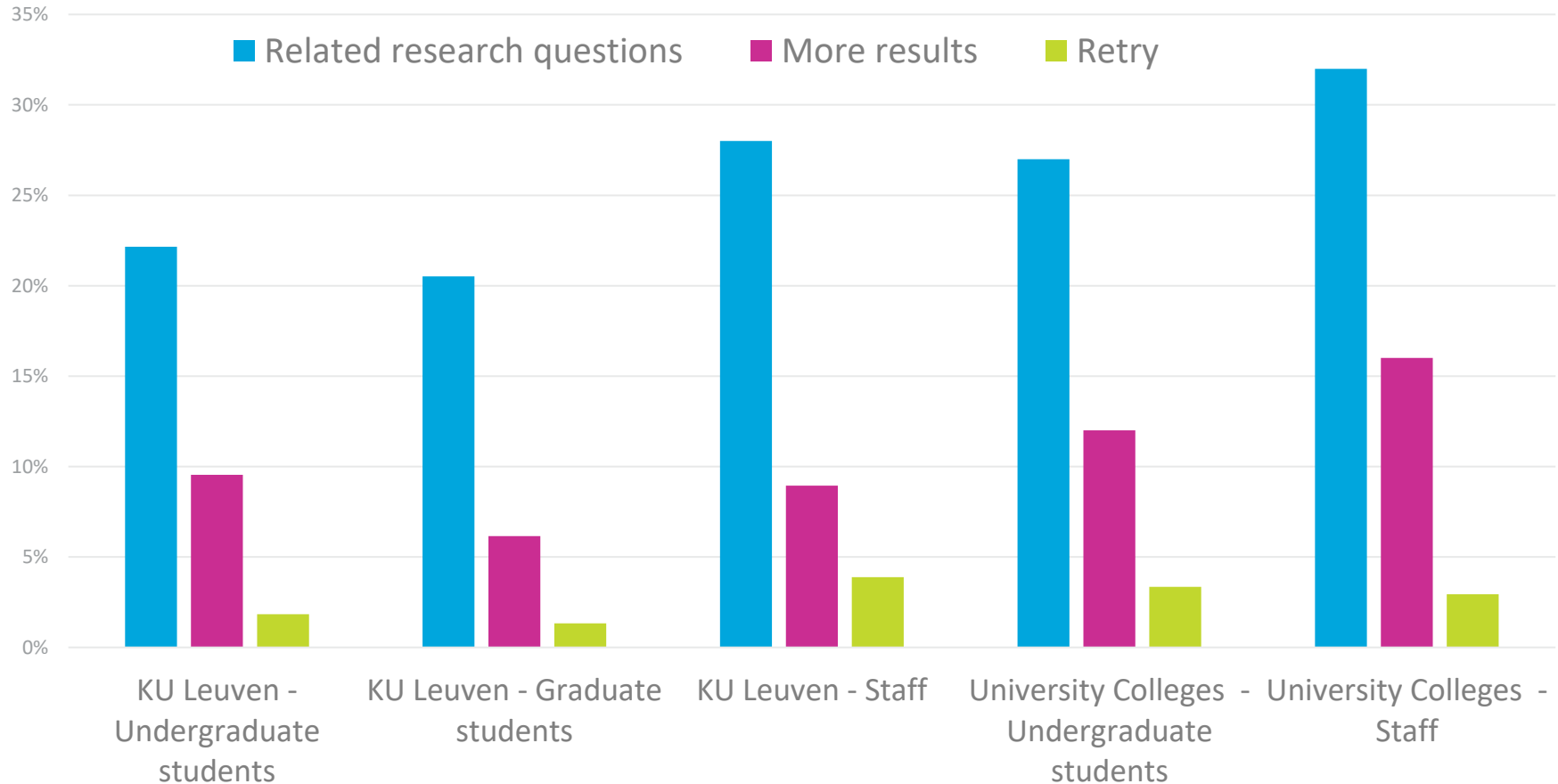
To find more search terms (via the query under 'More results')?



To help formulate a search query?

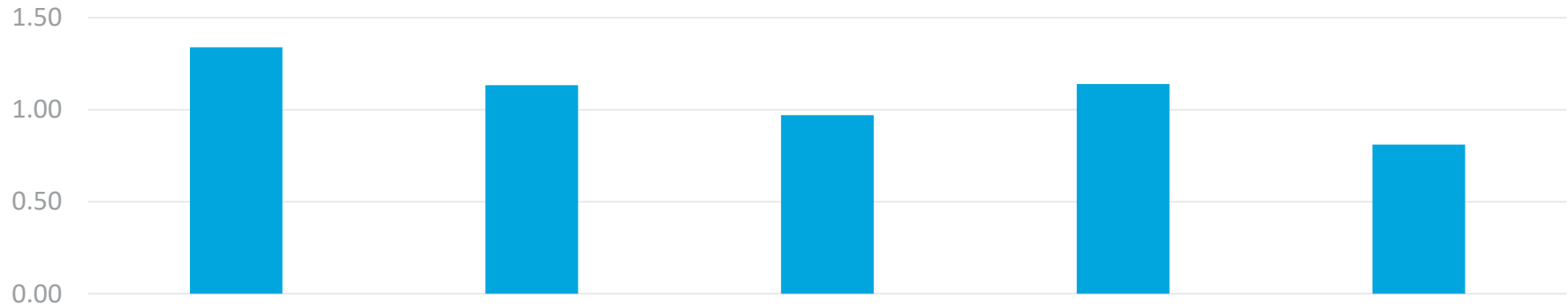


But most do not look any further

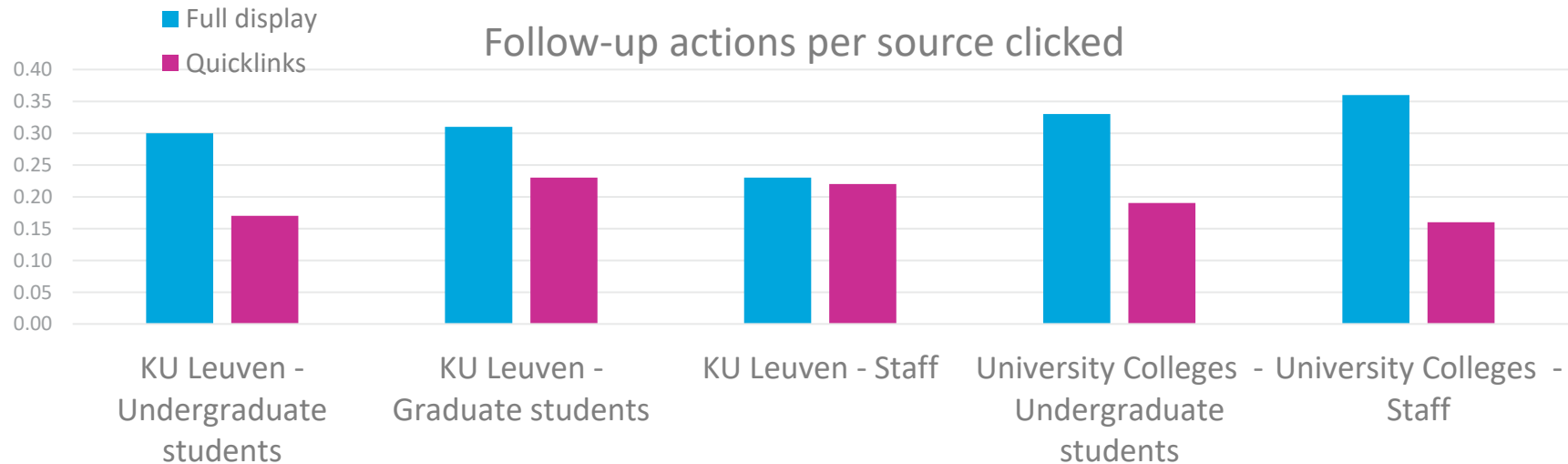


In-depth engagement is limited

Average number of sources clicked from the RA overview per RA search



Follow-up actions per source clicked



There's no one size fits all

KU Leuven

- Focus on search strategies
- Multilingual search does not play a major role
- Good results even with only CDI
 - Some domains have a stronger need for local sources !

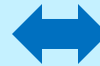


University colleges

- Focus on ease of access
- Multilingual search considered a major advantage
- Lack of search in local sources as a major hindrance

User groups

Students are most positive



Librarians are most critical

Education level

‘Stepping stone’
for undergraduate students



‘Extra sources’
for graduate students and researchers

More experience with GenAI leads to

More positive appreciation



Better scores for usability



Mainly exploratory uses

- A quick first impression
- Inspiration for search terms
- Avoiding 'information overload'

Part of a larger search strategy

- Combined with 'traditional' search
- To 'bookend' a literature search

The tool is very intuitive but...



Not transparent in how it works

Misunderstanding of functioning & scope => mismatched expectations

Online help was rarely consulted

uncertainty about
how the tool works

“View more results”: I get the impression that AI is suddenly no longer being used for that option?”

expectations that it
functions as ChatGPT

“It seems impossible to keep a conversation going, and this would be useful.”

lack of knowledge
about what the tool
can and cannot do

Search question : *“Give me **theses** in **our collections** about ...”*

(Filter “theses” not supported, local sources not searched)

Two goals for better guidance

Make help a “go to” resource

Create more transparency

"It's user-friendly, but a tutorial explaining the ins and outs of the tool could be helpful."

"The Assistant can be an incentive to think critically about search results and the way in which that search result was created"



What You See Is What You Get

Instead of
“View more results”

E-sources

1 ARTICLE

Health consequences of vitamin D deficiency in the human body

Glibowski, Pawel et al. 2021

2 ARTICLE

Can Vitamin D Reduce the Need for SSRI by Modulating Serotonin Synthesis?: A Review of Recent Literature

Bostan, Zekiye Zeynep et al. 2025

3 ARTICLE

Implications of vitamin D deficiency in systemic inflammation and cardiovascular health

Dey, Sanjay Kumar et al. 2024

4 ARTICLE

CONSEQUENCES OF VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IN ORAL CAVITY DISEASES

Raluca Jipu et al. 2024

5 ARTICLE

Impact of vitamin D deficiency on mortality in patients with hip fracture: A meta-analysis

Llombart, Rafael et al. 2024



View all results in Limo

Improve access to Help

🌟 Limo AI Assistant

Ask research questions. Explore new topics.

What is your research question?



Example questions

🔍 [How to use the AI-assistent](#) 🏠

Recent research about how vitamin D deficiency
affects overall health →

Did Picasso's time in Paris influence his artistic style? →

Children and adolescents with chronic illnesses are at particular risk for vitamin D deficiency, with nearly half of a studied cohort showing suboptimal vitamin D status. Age and seasonality influence vitamin D levels, with adolescents and winter months associated with lower concentrations. Vitamin D supplementation and younger age were protective factors, while non-Finnish ethnic background was a risk factor. These findings highlight the importance of identifying at-risk individuals and considering supplementation to prevent deficiency-related health issues . ⁴

Overall, while vitamin D deficiency is associated with various health conditions, current evidence from interventional studies does not strongly support a direct causal effect on many extra-skeletal diseases. The role of vitamin D in immune modulation, chronic illness, and cardiovascular health remains an area for further research . ^{1 2 3 4}

At point of need

🔍 [How is this overview created?](#) 🏠



Copy



Try again

Compromise between quick access & usability

Limo AI Assistant



Start a new topic

Search history

2025



How can Bayesian methods (R-INLA) be used for spatial modelling of gentrification and housing prices?

Find recent research about how vitamin D deficiency impact overall health

How does vitamin D deficiency impact overall health?

Did Picasso's time in Paris influence his artistic style?
(2 questions)


AI-generated content. Quality may vary. Check for accuracy.

 [How to use the AI-assistant](#) 

Go back

How to use the Limo AI Assistant

The Limo AI Assistant helps you to efficiently find reliable scientific information. Whether you are writing a paper or want to quickly gain insight into a topic, the AI Assistant will help you on your way. You ask a question in plain language, and the tool searches through billions of scientific e-sources to formulate a concise answer, including references to the publications that were consulted

 **Good to know:** The AI Assistant doesn't just search for individual (key)words but understands the meaning of your question and compares it with summaries of scientific publications. This gives you an answer that matches your information needs. Please note: this tool **works differently from Copilot and ChatGPT!** Find out how to use the AI Assistant below.

What can and can't you use the AI Assistant for?

How to search efficiently?

- [How to ask the AI Assistant decent questions?](#)
- [Which languages are available to search?](#)
- [How to use filters?](#)
- [What can't the AI Assistant do \(yet\)?](#)
- [What if you are not satisfied with the answer?](#)

Links to external
help site

What can and can't you use the AI Assistant for?

The Limo AI Assistant helps you to get started with your search query, but it is not all-knowing. Below you can read what it is best used for and which tasks you should approach differently.

Use for



Getting an initial overview of an academic or research-related topic.



Questions such as: *"What are the main theories on peer pressure among young people?"*



Finding reliable, scholarly sources that are relevant to your topic.



Gaining insight into the broader scientific context of a theme.

Do not use for



Conducting a full literature review or systematic review.




Answers to quiz or multiple-choice questions.



Follow-up questions where the answer to a previous question is required. (Each question is treated separately.)




Automatically writing papers, summaries, or research reports. (The AI assistant only helps you find relevant information.)

 **Extra tip:** If you don't get the answer you want right away, try rephrasing your question or making it more specific, and ask it again. Small adjustments can make a big difference in the quality of the answer. See also the topic ["What if you are not satisfied with the answer?"](#).

Which languages are available to search?

You can ask questions in Dutch, English, French, German, or other languages. The AI Assistant mainly searches English-language sources, but combines these with publications in other languages where possible. The answer will automatically appear in the language in which you asked the question.

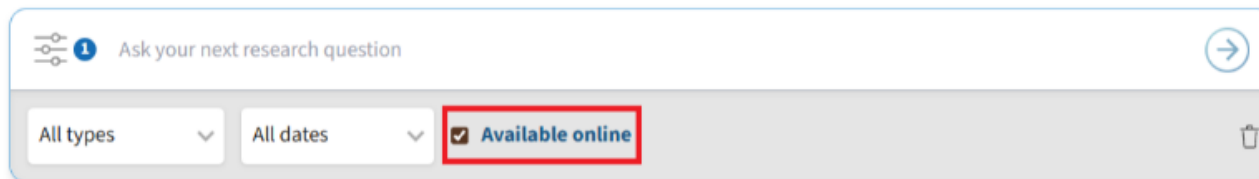


 **Please note :** language recognition is not always consistent. Even if you use a different language, the answer may appear (partly) in English.

More background info, less overload

⚠ Please note:

- Not all sources are accessible within your institution. If you only want to see sources in the overview that you have access to, use the “Available online” filter.



A screenshot of a search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon, a blue information icon, and the text "Ask your next research question". To the right of the search bar is a blue arrow icon. Below the search bar, there are three filter buttons: "All types" with a dropdown arrow, "All dates" with a dropdown arrow, and "Available online" with a checked checkbox and a red rectangular highlight. To the right of these buttons is a trash can icon.

- A number of records (including some publications from Lirias) are incorrectly inaccessible. A solution for this is in the works.

Want to know more?

[What does the assistant's search flow look like?](#)

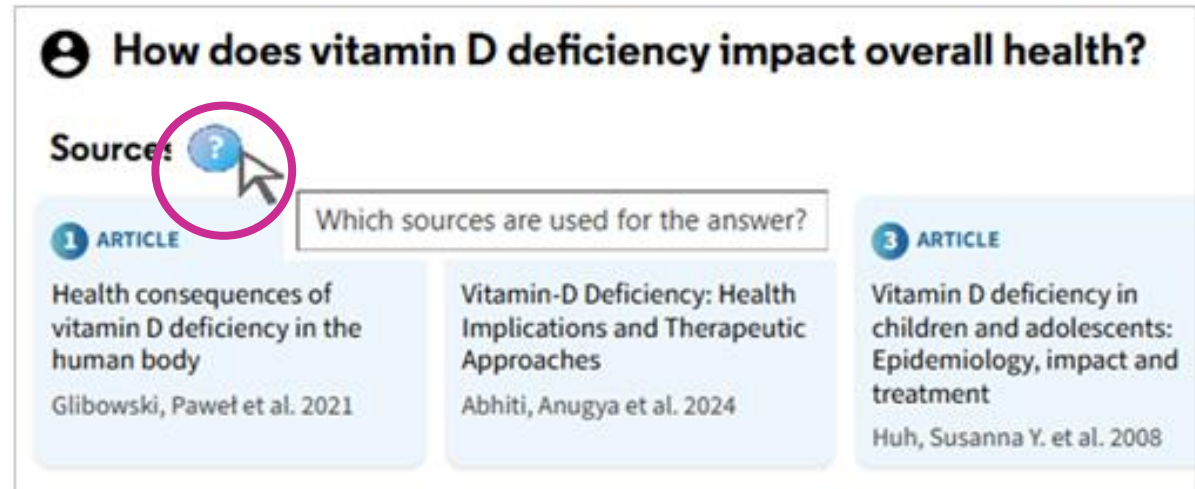
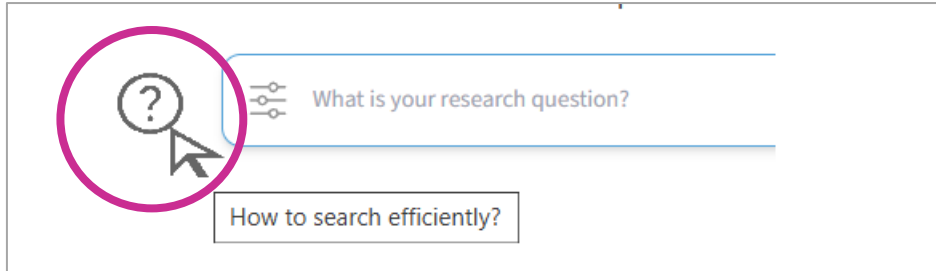
[How is the AI assistant's search query structured?](#)

Distinction between basic & advanced topics

Go to: [5. Tips & tricks](#)

Go to: [Top](#) | [Home page](#)

Wish for future: more help at point of need



In end user guidance

- Evaluation (in progress) & finetuning

When going live?

Every institution makes own decision about STP

- KU Leuven: Expert group on AI-tools will advise management team
- Colleges: Looking forward to extension of search to local sources

Transparency is key

- builds trust & confidence
- prevents disappointment
- enables strategic use of the tool
- supports information literacy skills

Communication – communication - communication





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