

You're in. Here's your first five minutes.

Your complimentary CoChat Pro account from the AAC&U Institute is ready to go. Write a draft. Research a topic. Summarize a document. CoChat works the way you'd expect, and everything stays in your control.

Your team is building an AI action plan this year. CoChat is where the research behind it gets done.

What CoChat is, in 30 seconds

CoChat is an AI research workspace for people who still read the sources. Your agents search, summarize, and draft; you review everything before it goes anywhere.

Verified. Seven academic databases, every citation checked against the record, results in a review table you can export.

Visible. Failed citations and model disagreements stay on screen, so you and your students see exactly where AI breaks.

Buildable. Syllabi, study guides, flashcards, dashboards: editable documents made from sources you've vetted.

1 Activate, then tell CoChat what you're working on (2 minutes)

Open the activation invitation in your inbox and click **Activate**. That's it. No credit card required. Can't find the email? Go to cochat.ai/aacu-institute to activate, or email aacu@cochat.ai and we'll resend your invitation.

The moment you activate, CoChat says hello and asks what you're working on this year. It's a two-minute conversation, not a setup wizard and not a tutorial. Answer in plain language, the way you'd brief a new research assistant. **You don't need a research question yet.** A course you're redesigning, a policy your team has to write, a problem you keep circling: any of those is enough, and rough is fine.

Then CoChat sets up your first project and helps you shape a research question to start from; sharpen or rename it any time. From there, every source you gather is ranked against that question and checked against the academic record as it lands, and Radar sweeps weekly for new work that matches. That's the difference between storing sources and building with them.

Say something like: "I'm on my institution's AAC&U Institute team. My focus is [assessment redesign for my intro course / our department's AI-use policy / AI literacy outcomes]."

Not there yet? "I don't have a research question yet. What I keep coming back to is [how we assess writing now that students use AI]."

2 Ask your first question (1 minute)

Everything good in CoChat starts with one chat. Not sure where to start? Pick a category below the chat box:

Research: dig into a topic, compare sources, find answers

Study: create flashcards, sample tests, and step-by-step guides for your students

Write: draft a syllabus, structure an article, organize your argument

Create: lecture slides, assignment prompts, teaching materials

Automate: weekly literature alerts, reading digests, grade-prep reminders

3 Build your first verified literature review (2 minutes)

Search seven academic databases at once, organize results into an editable review table, and export, with every citation checked against the academic record. Try:

"Build a literature review table on [your topic, e.g., AI and academic integrity], last 5 years, peer-reviewed only, with verified citations."

You'll see each source's verification status in the table. Anything that doesn't hold up is flagged, and you decide what stays. What you keep files under the research question you named in Step 1.

4 Turn it into something (1 minute)

Describe what you need and CoChat builds it as an editable, shareable document right in the chat: syllabi, study guides, flashcard decks, dashboards. Try:

"Turn my uploaded readings into a 20-card flashcard deck with model answers."

WHEN YOU HAVE TEN MORE MINUTES

Give your work a home

A **Project** holds everything for one initiative: chats, documents, files, and a goal, say *"Draft our department's AI action plan with measurable benchmarks by November."* Drag in the PDFs, syllabi, and readings your work runs on, and every chat in that Project can cite them, so answers are grounded in your own sources, not just the open web.

Just ask: *"Help me set up a project folder for my [course / research topic]."*

Give your course, your research, and your AI action plan one home.

Bring your scattered sources home

Library is a private home for every source you've touched: searchable, ranked, and verified as it comes in. Paste a read-only Zotero API key and your library imports on its own. The research question you named in that first conversation is already here; add more as your work branches, and **Radar** sweeps weekly for each one. A short queue, not an inbox.

Just ask: "Create a research question on [your topic, e.g., active learning in large lectures], run a search to seed it, and screen the top results into my Library."

Teach CoChat how you teach and research

Tell CoChat your field, your style, and how you like to work, so every future conversation is personalized to you. One sentence is enough to start: "I teach [subject] to [level]; I prefer [APA/MLA/Chicago]; keep summaries under 200 words."

Works with the tools you already use

Pull from Google Workspace, Zotero, and Slack without leaving the conversation, and send what you make back out the same way. Connect the tools your department already runs on in Settings; no IT ticket required.

Power move: pressure-test your paper, thesis, or proposal

Upload your paper, grant, or curriculum proposal with the review criteria, then try:

"Act as a skeptical reviewer: what are the three weakest points, and what questions would expose gaps in my argument?"

Follow up with: "Turn the toughest questions into 20 flashcards with model answers."

Your citations are verified. Your sources are real. Your research just got faster.

Verified citations you can defend, built for academic integrity.

Need a hand? Post in the CoChat discussion board on the Institute Hub. We check it Monday and Thursday. Or email alicia@cochat.ai.

Open CoChat: app.cochat.ai · Everything else (guides, video, Institute resources): cochat.ai/aacu-institute

CoChat: AI research agents you can trust.

