

Generative AI Canvas / Interdisciplinary Research

// Problem

Which research question, societal challenge or domain-specific problem are we tackling? Why does it matter now?

Consider how different disciplines, communities or stakeholders might understand or frame the issue.

// Process

How do we currently approach this challenge, and what does each discipline or stakeholder contribute?

Describe the knowledge, methods, data, experience or perspectives involved. Where do these contributions already connect, and where are they still separate or in tension?

// Collaboration Frictions

What makes it difficult to work together effectively?

Think about differences in terminology, methods, data, priorities, expectations or ways of working. Where is unnecessary effort being created, understanding breaking down, or useful connections being missed?

// AI Opportunity

Where could AI help people work across these differences, and what would it need to do?

Could it compare perspectives, connect information or datasets, bridge differences in terminology, explore scenarios, surface patterns or disagreements, or make complex ideas easier to work with?

// Prototype

What small, testable use of AI could we try?

Sketch what AI would need to draw on, whose knowledge or perspectives need to be represented, how you would test the idea, and what a useful output or result would look like. Aim to learn something without trying to build a complete workflow.

// Ethics

What ethical, social or disciplinary issues should shape how we test this?

Think about sensitive information, bias, uncertainty and community trust. Whose knowledge, interests or experiences could be oversimplified, excluded or misrepresented? Where are transparency or human judgement particularly important?

// Alignment

How does this connect with wider priorities, stakeholder needs or public value?

Look at relevant strategic or funder priorities, the people, communities or sectors affected, and any wider social or environmental commitments. Who could benefit, and whose needs or interests might otherwise be overlooked?

// Success

How would we know whether using AI here was genuinely worthwhile?

Decide what you would look for before running the test. This might include better integration of different contributions, clearer shared understanding, reduced friction, stronger outputs or decisions, time or effort, or feedback from the people involved.

// Action

What is the next useful step?

Choose one practical action to test or refine the idea. You might gather material from another discipline, involve someone currently missing from the process, compare approaches, or try the idea on a small scale.

// Reflection

After testing, what did we learn about the challenge or the way we work together?

What surprised you? Did the test reveal assumptions or tensions, expose gaps in knowledge or skills, or suggest new possibilities for collaboration?