ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

GPT Researcher

The Insider's Guide

Open source research agent that writes cited reports



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI agents, read from GPT Researcher's own pages.

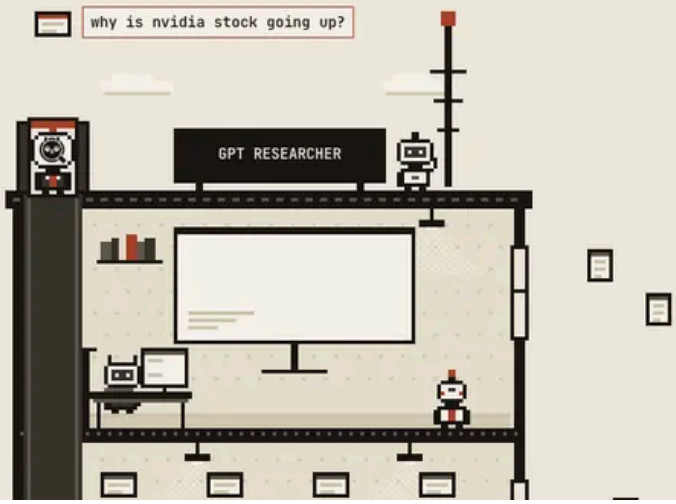
Made by GPT Researcher · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
GPA

Say goodbye to hours of research

An open source agent that researches the web and your own documents, then writes a detailed report with citations.

```
$ pip install gpt-researcher
```



Contents

01 Welcome
What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

02 What it costs
Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

03 What it does
Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

04 Where it stands
Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

05 The alternatives
The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side

06 Quick answers
The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

07 About ToolGPA
Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from GPT Researcher's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on GPT Researcher's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.0

GPA, above 64 of the 178 other AI agents we grade

GPT Researcher is an MIT-licensed Python agent that plans a research question, reads web sources and your own documents in parallel, and writes a report with citations. You host it yourself and pay only the language model and search providers you connect.

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about GPT Researcher**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **There is no hosted service, so you run it with Python or Docker and pay your own model and search bills.**
>
> From our report card of GPT Researcher

1 **Best for open-source research agent**

GPT Researcher is an open-source agent that plans, searches in parallel and writes cited reports.

2 **It is free**

GPT Researcher has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Linux, macOS and Windows.

4 **Planner and parallel researchers**

A planner splits a question into sub-questions and runs a researcher on each at the same time before a writer drafts the report.

5 **Many retrievers and your own files**

The site lists 20+ retrievers, including Tavily, Google, Bing, Exa, arXiv and PubMed, which can be combined with MCP servers or local documents.

6 **Cited reports**

Each claim in the report is tied to a numbered source. Reports can be output as markdown, PDF, docx or plain text.

7 **A 2.0 GPA, above 64 of 178**

That is against the other AI agents we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

GPT Researcher is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

GPT Researcher at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY GPT Researcher, since 2023	CATEGORY AI Agents
OUR GRADE 2.0 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for open-source research agent

GPT Researcher is an open-source agent that plans, searches in parallel and writes cited reports. There is no hosted service, so you run it with Python or

Docker and pay your own model and search bills. A deep run is a few cents to a few dollars.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

GPT Researcher

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	The software costs nothing, but there is no hosted service, so you host it yourself and pay LLM and search providers, a few cents to a few dollars per deep run.
Free plan and trial	B	Free and MIT licensed, with free retrievers like DuckDuckGo and SearXNG. The model calls are not free.
Features	C	Planner, parallel researchers, many retrievers, your own files, deep research mode, MCP server and API. Managed deployments and SLAs are by contact only.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. Python 3.11 or newer or Docker, keys and a command line are needed.
Platforms and integrations	C	Runs on Linux, Mac and Windows as a program, with an API and MCP server. No web service or phone app.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who GPT Researcher is for

- ✓ Fits if you can run Python or Docker and want cited research reports
- ✓ Works for developers who want to choose their own search sources and models

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want a hosted service, since there is none
- ✗ Skip it if you do not want a command line, as setup needs Python 3.11 or newer or Docker
- ✗ Watch out: you pay your LLM and search providers directly
- ✗ Too light on support: managed deployments and SLAs are by contacting the maintainers, with no price

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers adding cited research reports to their own apps
- ✓ Teams that want to keep research on their own infrastructure
- ✓ Researchers who want to choose their own model and search engine

Worth knowing

- ⓘ There is no hosted service; you run it yourself with Python 3.11 or newer, or Docker.
- ⓘ You pay your LLM and search providers directly; the site gives a few cents to a few dollars per deep run as a ballpark.
- ⓘ Managed deployments, private-corpus retrievers and SLAs are handled by contacting the maintainers, with no listed price.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

Free

No paid plan at all

GPT Researcher is free to use.

> **Free and MIT licensed, with free retrievers like DuckDuckGo and SearXNG.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

OPEN SOURCE

$0

MIT-licensed Python package and MCP server that you host yourself; you pay your own LLM and search API providers.

Read from gptr.dev on Nov 13, 2026.

PART 03 · FEATURES

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

3

Places it runs: macOS, Windows and Linux

Open source research agent that writes cited reports. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, public API, AI agents, research, citations.

> **Planner, parallel researchers, many retrievers, your own files, deep research mode, MCP server and API.**
>
> From our grade for features

Planner and parallel researchers

A planner splits a question into sub-questions and runs a researcher on each at the same time before a writer drafts the report.

Many retrievers and your own files

The site lists 20+ retrievers, including Tavily, Google, Bing, Exa, arXiv and PubMed, which can be combined with MCP servers or local documents.

Cited reports

Each claim in the report is tied to a numbered source. Reports can be output as markdown, PDF, docx or plain text.

Deep research mode

Findings seed new questions, so a run explores a tree of subtopics instead of a single pass. Depth is configurable.

MCP server and API

The official gptr-mcp server exposes research tools to Claude, Cursor, n8n and other MCP clients, and a FastAPI server can be run from the repository.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Tavily · Google · Bing · Exa · arXiv · PubMed · DuckDuckGo · SearXNG

GPT Researcher is made by GPT Researcher, and has been around since 2023.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

64/178

Other AI agents it is graded above

GPT Researcher's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 64 of the 178 other AI agents we grade, and level with 16.

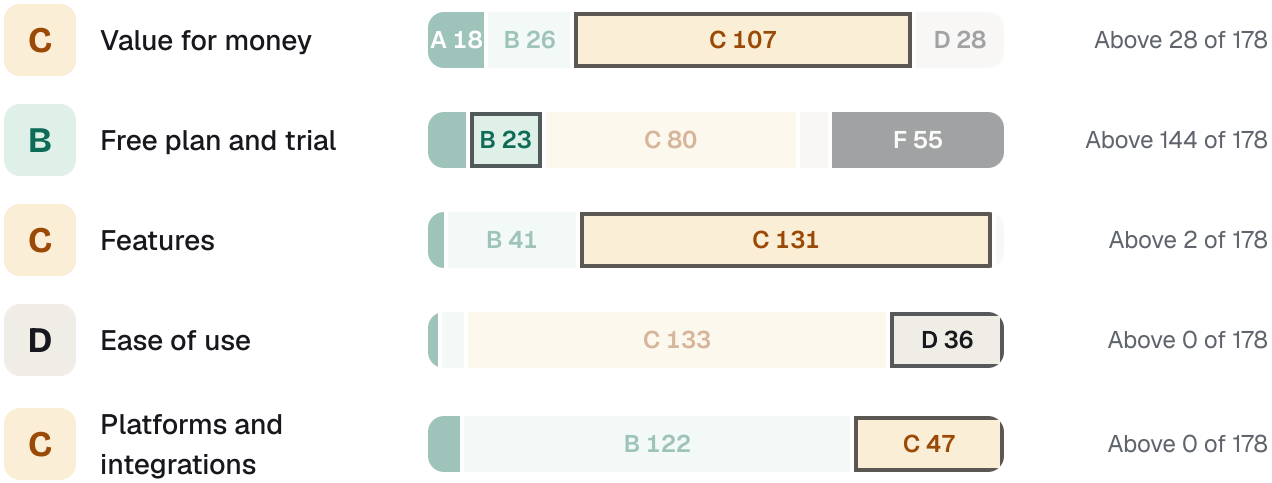
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 144 of 178) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

GPT Researcher has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

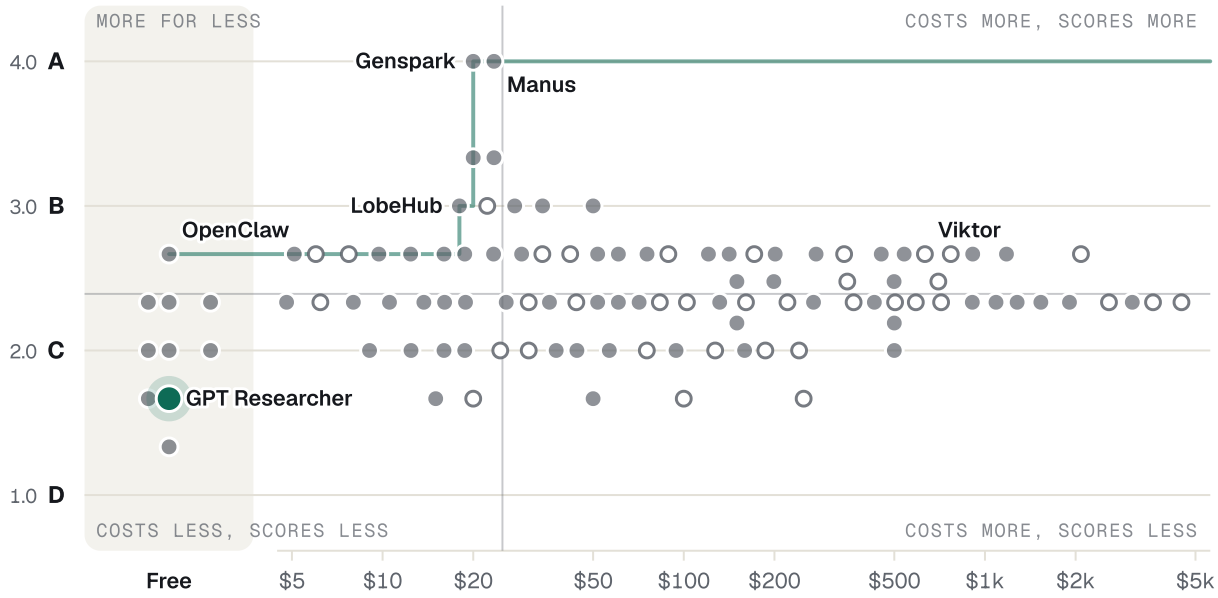
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 179 AI agents we grade, cut by the letter each got. GPT Researcher's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 109 AI agents. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. GPT Researcher is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

GPT Researcher is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

What you could not

- An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.
- A library of papers and sources to search.
- Citation records for millions of papers.
- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

- ✕ It plugs into other products, Tavily, Google and Bing among them, and has an API.

What this rests on. GPT Researcher's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Dust, Browser Use, OpenHands and Manus

The 4 tools GPT Researcher is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.2 GPA

Dust

Free trial · from $24/mo

Platform for building AI agents on your company's knowledge.

- GPT Researcher has a free plan. Dust does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only GPT Researcher lists Linux, macOS and Windows apps.
- Only Dust lists a web app.

GPT Researcher and Dust compared in full

2.6 GPA

Browser Use

Free plan · from $5

Browser agents and cloud browsers for AI apps.

- Only GPT Researcher lists Linux, macOS and Windows apps.
- Only Browser Use lists a web app.
- GPT Researcher is self-hostable, according to its own site.

GPT Researcher and Browser Use compared in full



2.4
GPA

OpenHands

Free plan · from $500/mo

Open-source platform for AI coding agents and automations.

- Only GPT Researcher lists Linux, macOS and Windows apps.
- Only OpenHands lists a web app.
- GPT Researcher also covers research and citations.

GPT Researcher and OpenHands compared in full



3.2
GPA

Manus

Free plan · from $20/mo

General AI agent for research, slides, websites and browser tasks.

- Only GPT Researcher lists a Linux app.
- Only Manus lists a web app.
- Only Manus lists iOS and Android apps.

GPT Researcher and Manus compared in full

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

13

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is GPT Researcher free?

Yes. GPT Researcher is free to use.

How much does GPT Researcher cost?

GPT Researcher lists one plan. Open Source: $0.

What platforms does GPT Researcher work on?

GPT Researcher is available on Linux, macOS and Windows.

Does GPT Researcher have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. GPT Researcher is listed for Linux, macOS and Windows.

Does GPT Researcher have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. GPT Researcher is listed for Linux, macOS and Windows.

Is GPT Researcher open source?

Yes. GPT Researcher is open source, according to its own site.

Does GPT Researcher have an API?

Yes. GPT Researcher offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does GPT Researcher integrate with?

GPT Researcher's listing names Tavily, Google, Bing, Exa, arXiv, PubMed, DuckDuckGo and SearXNG.

Who makes GPT Researcher?

GPT Researcher is made by a company of the same name. It dates from 2023.

What are the alternatives to GPT Researcher?

The closest alternatives to GPT Researcher in our directory are Dust, Browser Use, OpenHands and Manus.

How does GPT Researcher compare with other AI agents?

GPT Researcher's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 64 of the 178 other AI agents we grade, and level with 16.

Is GPT Researcher good value for money?

ToolGPA grades GPT Researcher C for value for money. GPT Researcher has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of GPT Researcher?

GPT Researcher is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from GPT Researcher's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from GPT Researcher's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by GPT Researcher. Prices change, so check gptr.dev before you buy.

gptr.dev/pricing

gptr.dev

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

GPT Researcher, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/gpt-researcher

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "GPT Researcher: The Insider's
Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/gpt-researcher
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Know someone choosing between AI agents?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/gpt-researcher/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI agents after GPT Researcher, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

AI Agents Insider's Guide

Every one of the 179 AI agents we grade, compared

Genspark Insider's Guide

AI workspace with an agent for research, slides, sheets and docs

3.2 GPA

Manus Insider's Guide

General AI agent for research, slides, websites and browser tasks

3.2 GPA

OpenClaw Insider's Guide

Open-source personal AI agent you run yourself and message in chat

3.2 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what GPT Researcher's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. GPT Researcher is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by GPT Researcher. Prices and plans change: check gptr.dev before you buy.