

Longitudinal Prompt Methods

Project Title: [What if LLMs Are Our New \(Re\)search Engines? Interrogating ChatGPT Search Outputs Over Time \(Dec 2024–June 2025\)](#)

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Method: Longitudinal Prompting Protocol

The following prompts were issued as part of a recursive, reflexive prompt protocol to interrogate ChatGPT's evolving use of web search, source attribution, and documentation practices. Prompts were incorporated into the sequence incrementally from December 2024 to June 2025.

Initial Prompt

Prompt

Can you define GenAI and how ML is situated or important in this definition? (**starting date: 3 December 2024**)

Follow-up Prompts

Follow-up Question 1 (**inserted 11 February 2025**)

I've been asking the same questions for a couple of months now. Can you provide me with a report on how you have improved in answering this or similar questions?

Can you explain how you pick/select your web sources?

Follow-up Question 2 (**inserted 18 February 2025**)

This is ironic; why are you not using the ChatGPT model's own documentation about this as a source?

Web Search Infrastructure Prompts

Follow-up Question 3 (**included on 11 March 2025**)

What third-party search providers do you use to integrate the web search function within ChatGPT? Where can I find information about how they rank web references?

Follow-up Question 4 (**included on 17 April 2025**)

Which other third-party search providers? Where was this information announced?

Follow-up Question 5 (**included on 17 April 2025**)

Since when have "prominent news organizations" been considered search providers like Bing?