

# Researching For AI-Native Users

*Tips for studying users who don't "use AI," but rather live it.*

## ❏ TIP 1: OBSERVE, DON'T JUST ASK

- Watch how they solve real-world problems
- Capture tool-switching and non-linear workflows
- Pay attention to what's left unsaid—many decisions are intuitive, not verbalized

## ❏ TIP 2: LET THEM LEAD

- Ask them to teach you how they'd approach a task
- Don't constrain with step-by-step instructions
- Use prompts like: "What's the first thing you'd do here?" or "How would you normally go about this?"

## ❏ TIP 3: USE THEIR DEVICES AND SPACES

- Avoid test environments and unfamiliar tools
- Let them interact on their own devices, browser, or apps
- Consider remote unmoderated tasks in their natural setting

## ❏ TIP 4: DESIGN FOR MULTIMODAL INPUT

- Include options for visual uploads, voice notes, screen recordings
- Ask about screenshots, memes, emojis, and camera use—these are data points, too

## ❏ TIP 5: FOCUS ON THE WHY, NOT THE TOOL

- What was their goal?
- What was the emotional driver (speed, surprise, connection, curiosity)?
- Where did AI simply fade into the background?

## ❏ TIP 6: PLAN FOR ITERATION AND AMBIGUITY

- Be ready to revise your research questions mid-stream
- Accept that AI fluency may look disorganized—but it's often efficient
- Track behavior over time, not just in single sessions

## ❏ TIP 7: CONSIDER NEURODIVERSE NEEDS

- Many AI-Natives are also navigating ADHD, dyslexia, and other differences
- Observe how AI reduces friction or unlocks access in unexpected ways
- Design inclusive protocols that don't penalize alternative processing styles

From *"Learning from AI-Natives:*

*What the Next Generation Is Teaching Us About Research"*

By Michele Ronsen

