APPENDIX B | COMPANION TO CHAPTER 2: MAPPING THE DEPTHS

AI Tool Comparison Sheet

Match the tool to the job, not the job to whatever tool is already open.

AI is a toolbox, not a tool. Vendors will happily demo the shiny parts. Your job is to test what happens when your real, messy data hits it. Evaluate up to three options against the friction point from Appendix A.

Friction point I'm trying to fix (from Appendix A)

PART 1 Compare the candidates

TOOL 1

Tool / system name

Category (NLP, ML, LLM, vision...)

Use case it would cover

Technical lift

○ No code ○ Low code ○ Code

Accuracy on MY real data

Usability

Ethics / data handling risks

Known limitation or failure mode

Fit for my friction point (1 to 5)

○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

TOOL 2

Tool / system name

Category (NLP, ML, LLM, vision...)

Use case it would cover

Technical lift

○ No code ○ Low code ○ Code

Accuracy on MY real data

Usability

Ethics / data handling risks

Known limitation or failure mode

Fit for my friction point (1 to 5)

○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

TOOL 3

Tool / system name

Category (NLP, ML, LLM, vision...)

Use case it would cover

Technical lift

○ No code ○ Low code ○ Code

Accuracy on MY real data

Usability

Ethics / data handling risks

Known limitation or failure mode

Fit for my friction point (1 to 5)

○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

PART 2 Run the evaluation questions

Answer for each tool: Y (yes), N (no), or ? (not sure yet). A ? is a homework assignment, not a pass.

Question	Tool 1	Tool 2	Tool 3
Accurate on my real data, and repeatable?			
Not frustrating to use?			
Guardrails to handle my data securely (no leaking)?			
I understand how it reaches conclusions well enough to trust it?			
Likely to still exist in two years?			
Integrates with systems I already use?			
Approved for use by my organization?			

PART 3 Gut check

Did the top tool work as advertised? ○ Yes ○ Mostly ○ No

Would you trust it inside your workflow? ○ Yes ○ With review ○ No

Any apprehension about using it for sensitive or high-stakes work? Why?

What happens if analysts over-trust this tool's output? What risk does that create?

PART 4 Methodology framework

The tool is the easy part. Run the method around it so the choice holds up when someone asks why.

Step	Key question	Action item	My notes
Problem definition	What is my core intelligence need?	Map workflow, identify bottlenecks	
Data assessment	Is my data usable and ethical?	Audit and prepare data	
Function selection	What AI capabilities fit my needs?	Match tasks to AI functions	
Human oversight	How will I validate outputs?	Plan review and feedback loops	
Experimentation	How will I test and refine my approach?	Pilot projects, document lessons	
Risk management	What are the risks and how will I mitigate them?	Identify, monitor, and address risks	
Adaptation	How will I update my process over time?	Schedule regular reviews	

DELIVERABLE Capability assessment

Selected tool

One limitation or failure mode

One sentence: how improper implementation could create an exploitable analytic weakness

The human checkpoint that stays in place

Reminder: forcing one model to do everything is like asking the sandwich maker to bake a cake. Bias flags go to Appendix C.