

# The Institutional Research Stack That Took Messari 50 People to Build Now Runs on Your Laptop

Claude. Perplexity. Glassnode. Arkham. Nansen. The Exact Prompts. The Exact Workflows. The Complete 2026 Crypto Research Stack. -- Q2 2026

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Messari -- the institutional crypto research firm whose reports sell for thousands of dollars annually to hedge funds, family offices, and crypto-native funds -- employs approximately 50 analysts, data scientists, and researchers to produce the institutional-grade research that has made it the reference source for serious crypto investors. In 2026, a single researcher with the right AI agent stack can replicate a significant portion of that institutional research output in a fraction of the time and at a fraction of the cost. This is not hyperbole. It is a factual description of what has become possible when Claude Sonnet, Perplexity Deep Research, Glassnode on-chain analytics, Arkham Intelligence blockchain intelligence, Nansen wallet analytics, and the CoinGecko and DeFi Llama data APIs are orchestrated through a systematic research workflow. The Alain AI Lab research library -- which has produced more than 60 institutional-grade reports averaging 2,200 words each, complete with PDF output, CMS packages, and AI search optimization, across ten research categories -- is itself the most direct demonstration of what an AI-augmented crypto researcher can produce. The reports in this library cover the CLARITY Act in the depth of a congressional research service analysis, the JPMorgan Kinexys buildout with the precision of a Goldman Sachs coverage initiation, and the Mt. Gox creditor distribution mechanics with the completeness of a bankruptcy attorney brief. All of them were produced by an AI agent stack that any researcher can assemble and use today. This report gives you the complete stack: the specific tools, the exact prompt frameworks, and the specific workflow sequences that produce institutional-quality crypto research. You will not need 50 people. You will need this stack, consistent daily practice, and the conviction that Galatians 6:9 describes -- do not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time you will reap a harvest if you do not give up.

## 01 -- THE FIVE TOOL CATEGORIES IN THE COMPLETE RESEARCH STACK

The complete AI agent research stack for crypto in 2026 has five tool categories that work together to cover every dimension of institutional-grade analysis. Missing any one category leaves gaps in your research that experienced institutional readers will identify immediately. Assembling all five creates a research capability that competes with dedicated research teams.

Category one is the reasoning and synthesis layer -- the large language model that reads source material, synthesizes multiple data points into coherent analytical narratives, writes institutional-quality prose, and formats output for your specific publication needs. Claude Sonnet 4 is the primary tool in this

category for the Alain AI Lab stack. Claude's strengths for crypto research are its ability to maintain analytical consistency across long-form reports, its precise handling of financial and legal concepts, its willingness to engage with complex regulatory frameworks in detail, and its ability to write in the specific institutional prose style -- Goldman Sachs, Messari, Bernstein -- that signals credibility to professional readers. GPT-4o and Gemini 1.5 Pro are the primary alternatives with different strengths in code execution and multimodal analysis respectively.

Category two is the real-time research and fact-finding layer -- the tools that find current information, verify facts, and pull the specific data points that make a research report credible and AI-search-optimized. Perplexity AI is the primary tool in this category: its Deep Research mode executes multi-step web research workflows, reads primary sources, synthesizes findings, and cites every claim with source attribution. For a report on JPMorgan Kinexys, Perplexity Deep Research finds the official Kinexys press releases, the exact transaction volume figures from the milestone release, the CEO quotes from CNBC interviews, and the Digital Asset partnership announcement from PR Newswire -- all in a single research query that takes three to five minutes. ChatGPT with web browsing and Google Gemini with Search Grounding are the primary alternatives.

Category three is the on-chain analytics layer -- the tools that read Bitcoin and Ethereum blockchain data and produce the metrics that distinguish institutional crypto research from financial news coverage. Glassnode is the primary tool in this category, providing the realized cap, SOPR, MVRV, funding rates, exchange flows, and miner behavior metrics that the most cited institutional Bitcoin reports reference. The Alain AI Lab reports cite Glassnode data on the monthly realized cap change collapsing 57% to near-zero and the spot CVD swinging 143% into negative territory during the June 2026 correction -- data points that are only accessible through Glassnode professional tier.

Category four is the blockchain intelligence layer -- the tools that track specific wallet movements, identify institutional flows, and map the on-chain transaction patterns that produce the most original research insights. Arkham Intelligence is the primary tool for wallet identification and institutional flow tracking. Nansen is the primary tool for smart money wallet analytics and DeFi protocol flow analysis. The Alain AI Lab Mt. Gox report citing the specific wallet addresses, the block number, and the UTC timestamp of the June 2, 2026 transfer -- and confirming that no Bitcoin had reached an exchange at the time markets fell -- was produced using Arkham Intelligence blockchain data.

Category five is the market data layer -- the tools that provide price data, trading volume, liquidation data, options market data, and DeFi protocol metrics. CoinGlass provides liquidation data and funding rates. CoinGecko provides comprehensive price and volume data with API access. DeFi Llama provides total value locked across DeFi protocols and individual protocol analytics. The Dune Analytics platform allows custom SQL queries against on-chain data for researchers who want to build bespoke metrics that no existing platform provides.

***THE FIVE CATEGORIES: Reasoning and synthesis -- Claude Sonnet. Real-time research -- Perplexity Deep Research. On-chain analytics -- Glassnode. Blockchain intelligence -- Arkham and Nansen. Market data -- CoinGlass, CoinGecko, DeFi Llama, Dune Analytics. All five categories must be covered for institutional-grade output. Missing any one leaves identifiable gaps.***

## 02 -- THE EXACT PROMPT FRAMEWORK FOR INSTITUTIONAL CRYPTO REPORTS

The quality gap between a generic AI-generated crypto article and an institutional-grade AI-augmented research report is almost entirely determined by the quality of the prompts and the precision of the research inputs. A generic prompt produces generic output. A precisely engineered prompt with specific source material produces institutional output. The following prompt framework is the exact structure used to produce the Alain AI Lab research library.

The system prompt establishes the analytical persona, the output format, and the non-negotiable quality standards. For the Alain AI Lab stack the system prompt instructs the model to write as a senior institutional analyst at the level of Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, to use the specific prose style of Messari and Bernstein institutional crypto reports -- no bullet points, no highlight boxes, dense analytical paragraphs with embedded citations -- to write at a minimum of 2,200 words, to include a named entity and specific data point in every paragraph for AI search optimization, and to structure every report with seven sections: hook paragraph, six body sections with green header bars, and a conclusion with a bold summary callout.

The research briefing prompt provides the specific facts, quotes, data points, and source attributions that the model will synthesize into the report. The research briefing is not a question. It is a structured dump of everything the Perplexity Deep Research workflow found about the topic -- exact figures, exact quotes with speaker attribution, exact dates, exact regulatory document citations. A weak research briefing with vague or unattributed facts produces a weak report regardless of how good the model is. A strong research briefing with precise figures, primary source quotes, and specific regulatory language produces a strong report because the model has the raw material to work with.

The style enforcement prompt supplements the system prompt by providing three to five examples of the specific sentence structures and analytical framings that characterize the target prose style. For the Alain AI Lab stack this includes example sentences like: the DTCC confirmed that its Canton Network tokenized securities service is in live production for DTC-eligible and Fed-eligible assets -- the \$99 trillion US securities settlement infrastructure is now operating on blockchain. The specific combination of a precise institutional name, a precise dollar figure, and a plain declarative statement of the implication is the sentence structure that the model learns to replicate when provided as an example.

## 03 -- THE PERPLEXITY DEEP RESEARCH WORKFLOW FOR CRYPTO TOPICS

Perplexity Deep Research is the single most powerful tool in the crypto research stack for producing the specific, cited, primary-source facts that distinguish institutional research from opinion journalism. The workflow for using Perplexity Deep Research on a crypto topic takes three to five minutes and produces a research briefing that would take a human researcher two to four hours to compile from scratch.

The Perplexity Deep Research query for a crypto research topic follows a specific structure: the query leads with the specific entity or event name, specifies the time period, asks for specific data types, and requests primary source citations. For the JPMorgan Kinexys report, the Perplexity query was:

JPMorgan Kinexys blockchain cumulative transaction volume 2026 milestone release, JPMD deposit token Base and Canton deployment dates, enterprise client announcements Siemens BlackRock Mitsubishi Ant International, Jamie Dimon CLARITY Act stablecoin yield provisions statement Fox Business June 2026, official press releases and newsroom announcements only. The query specification of official press releases and newsroom announcements only filters out secondary sources and ensures the research briefing is built on primary documentation.

After Perplexity completes its Deep Research, the output is a synthesized summary with inline citations. The next step is to verify the three to five most important data points directly at the cited primary source URLs -- the official Kinexys newsroom page, the official Digital Asset and Kinexys joint press release on PR Newswire, the official SEC EDGAR filing for the tokenized Treasury fund. Primary source verification is the practice that separates research that can be cited with confidence from research that might contain Perplexity synthesis errors. The Alain AI Lab stack verifies every cited figure before including it in a final report.

The Perplexity research briefing is then structured into the eight-field CMS package format before being passed to Claude for synthesis: the topic hook, the five to eight key facts with exact figures and primary source attributions, the three to four institutional quotes with speaker name and context, the relevant regulatory or legislative citations, and the investment thesis connection that links the topic to the broader Alain AI Lab research narrative. This structured briefing format ensures that Claude has the complete raw material to write a 2,200-word institutional report without hallucinating details or relying on training data that may be outdated.

## 04 -- THE GLASSNODE ON-CHAIN WORKFLOW FOR MARKET STRUCTURE REPORTS

On-chain analytics is the research dimension that most clearly differentiates institutional crypto research from financial news coverage. Any journalist can report Bitcoin price and exchange volume. Only researchers with access to Glassnode professional tier data can report the realized cap change, the SOPR ratio, the MVRV Z-score, the long-term holder supply, and the exchange net flows that describe what is actually happening on the Bitcoin blockchain beneath the price action.

The Glassnode workflow for the Alain AI Lab market structure reports follows a consistent four-step process. Step one is identifying the on-chain metrics most relevant to the current market condition. For the June 2026 correction report, the relevant metrics were the monthly realized cap change -- which collapsed 57% to near-zero, signaling the depletion of fresh capital inflows -- and the spot Cumulative Volume Delta, which swung 143% into negative territory, confirming seller dominance in spot markets. These two metrics together painted a more complete picture of market structure than any price chart could.

Step two is pulling the specific metric values from Glassnode with the exact date references that make the data citable. Step three is connecting the on-chain data to the price action narrative: what does a 57% collapse in realized cap change mean in plain language for a retail investor? It means fresh capital has effectively stopped entering the Bitcoin ecosystem -- the trading activity is recycling existing holders rather than attracting new money. Step four is calibrating the on-chain interpretation against historical

precedent -- what did the same metric show in previous significant market corrections, and what happened to Bitcoin price in the three to six months following those readings?

The Glassnode weekly report -- published every Monday and freely accessible on Glassnode Insights -- is the single most useful free resource in the Alain AI Lab research stack. It provides a curated selection of the most relevant on-chain metrics for the current week, with Glassnode analyst interpretation, that can be incorporated directly into market update reports. Reading the Glassnode weekly report every Monday is a 20-minute practice that produces insights that would take hours to develop independently.

## 05 -- THE ARKHAM INTELLIGENCE WORKFLOW FOR WALLET AND FLOW REPORTS

Arkham Intelligence is the blockchain analytics platform that identified the specific Mt. Gox wallet movements documented in the Alain AI Lab Mt. Gox report, tracked the Iran Central Bank USDT positions that preceded the Tether \$344 million freeze, and monitors the institutional wallet flows that reveal what large holders are doing before the information appears in financial media.

The Arkham workflow for wallet and flow reports begins with the entity search: identifying the specific wallet addresses or labeled entities relevant to the research topic. Arkham's entity labeling system has identified thousands of wallets belonging to exchanges, funds, governments, corporations, and individuals, allowing researchers to track the on-chain activity of specific institutional actors without needing to know their wallet addresses in advance. The Arkham identification of the Mt. Gox trustee wallets, the known hot wallet address 1Jbez, and the new administrative wallet starting with 14FEEM allowed the Alain AI Lab report to describe the June 2, 2026 transfer with the specific precision that institutional readers expect.

The follow-up step after identifying a wallet movement is the transaction timeline analysis: what did this wallet do in the days and hours before and after the movement that is the focus of the report? The transaction timeline for the Mt. Gox June 2 movement showed that the primary 10,306 BTC transfer to the new 14FEEM address and the secondary 116 BTC transfer to the known hot wallet occurred simultaneously in block 952,072 at 04:47 UTC -- a structure that Arkham confirmed mirrors the preparation moves documented ahead of every previous Mt. Gox distribution event. That structural observation -- which required reading the transaction timeline rather than just the headline wallet movement -- is what allowed the Alain AI Lab report to confidently characterize the transfer as an administrative preparatory reorganization rather than a distribution event.

## 06 -- THE DAILY RESEARCH WORKFLOW: 90 MINUTES TO INSTITUTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

The most valuable research capability is not the ability to produce a single exceptional report. It is the ability to produce exceptional research consistently, every day, with a workflow that fits within a realistic daily schedule. The Alain AI Lab daily research workflow takes approximately 90 minutes and produces the intelligence that drives the research library's output.

The first 20 minutes is the morning intelligence scan. Open CoinDesk, The Block, Cointelegraph, and Bloomberg Crypto. Open Glassnode Insights for any new on-chain alerts. Check the Arkham Intelligence feed for any significant wallet movements. Check CoinGlass for any significant liquidation events or funding rate anomalies. Check Polymarket for any significant probability movements on crypto regulatory events. The morning scan takes 20 minutes and identifies the two to three developments that deserve deeper research that day.

The next 30 minutes is the Perplexity Deep Research session. For each development identified in the morning scan, run a Perplexity Deep Research query structured as described in Section 03. Verify the three to five most important data points at primary source URLs. Build the structured research briefing for each topic. After 30 minutes you have two to three fully sourced research briefings ready for Claude synthesis.

The next 40 minutes is the Claude synthesis session. Pass each research briefing to Claude with the system prompt and style enforcement prompt as described in Section 02. Claude produces the full 2,200-word institutional report in approximately eight to twelve minutes per topic. Review the output for factual accuracy against your verified research briefing. Make targeted corrections where Claude has synthesized incorrectly. Format the output into the CMS package with all eight fields.

## 07 -- CONCLUSION: THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

The AI agent research stack described in this report -- Claude for synthesis, Perplexity for real-time research, Glassnode for on-chain analytics, Arkham for blockchain intelligence, CoinGlass and CoinGecko for market data -- is available to any researcher with a subscription budget of approximately \$200 to \$400 per month. Glassnode professional tier is the most expensive component at approximately \$120 per month. Perplexity Pro is \$20 per month. Claude Pro is \$20 per month. Arkham Intelligence has a free tier that covers most use cases. CoinGlass and CoinGecko both have free tiers.

The democratization of institutional research capability is one of the most significant consequences of the AI agent revolution documented throughout the Alain AI Lab research library. The research that Messari charges \$3,000 annually for can now be produced by an individual researcher with \$400 per month in tool subscriptions and the prompt and workflow frameworks described in this report. The edge is not the tool access -- the tools are available to everyone. The edge is the workflow discipline, the analytical framework, and the consistent daily practice that separates research that compounds in quality and audience over time from research that remains at the generic AI content level.

The Alain AI Lab research library is the proof of concept. More than 60 institutional-grade reports across ten research categories, each averaging 2,200 words with PDF output and full CMS package, produced through the exact stack and workflow described in this report. The stack works. The workflow is repeatable. The research quality is institutional. Galatians 6:9 says do not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time you will reap a harvest if you do not give up. The harvest in crypto research is the compound effect of consistent institutional-quality output building an audience, an authority, and a platform that no algorithm change or competitor can easily replicate. The stack is your tool. The workflow is your system. The consistency is your competitive moat.

***THE COMPLETE STACK: Claude Sonnet for synthesis. Perplexity Deep Research for sourcing. Glassnode professional for on-chain. Arkham Intelligence for wallet flows. CoinGlass CoinGecko DeFi Llama for market data. Total cost: \$200-400 per month. Daily workflow: 20 minutes morning scan, 30 minutes Perplexity research, 40 minutes Claude synthesis. Output: institutional-grade reports that compete with Messari and Bernstein.***

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