

PDF Text Editing Accuracy Test

Full method, scoring rules, and per-file results

Companion to “PDF Text Editing Accuracy Test: After You Edit the Words, Do the Font and Layout Survive?”

Test date: September 2026 · UPDF v2.5.7, Adobe Acrobat v2026.002.21901, PDFgear v2.27 · MacBook Air (M4, 2025), macOS Tahoe 26.2 · All three tools on the same Mac desktop client

This appendix publishes the full method behind the article so the results can be checked: what was edited, how each edit was scored, the font tolerances used, the step-by-step procedure, and a per-file record for all seven files and 21 tool-file outcomes. It is a single-reviewer evaluation scored against annotated before/after screenshots, not an independently replicated benchmark.

1. What we tested

Each of the seven PDFs received exactly one frozen text edit, entered in each tool's “edit existing text” mode. The three tools received the identical edit, applied verbatim, with no manual font, size, spacing, or text-box adjustment allowed on the first pass. Digital-text files (E1–E6) form the six-file main leaderboard; the scanned file (E7) is reported separately so OCR ability does not distort ordinary editing results.

ID	Document	File & structure	Length / structure pressure	Location	Frozen edit
E1	Acuity RM Group plc — Annual Report 2024	Single-column financial text	Equal-length currency	PDF p.5 (printed p.3)	£3.4m → £4.1m
E2	Acuity RM Group plc — Annual Report 2023	KPI table cell	Longer numeric value	PDF p.4 (printed p.2) / Row for "Sales pipeline"	7,900 → 10,250
E3	National Drug Control Strategy 2026	Single-column body text	Significant lengthening	PDF p.7 / Executive Summary	the 23.5 million Americans → “an estimated 24.8 million Americans nationwide”
E4	Transformative Service in Healthcare: Secondary Vulnerability and Coping Mechanisms in End-of-Life Care	Two-column academic page	Longer term (column pressure)	PDF p.2 (printed p.24) / Introduction / “introducing...”	secondary vulnerability → occupational and secondary vulnerability
E5	Employee Choice Guide for IT	Brand heading, possibly missing font	Heading lengthening + font availability	PDF p.10	Get prepared → Prepare the whole team
E6	Dietary Guidelines for Americans	Bulleted nutrition list	List item lengthening	PDF p.3 (printed p.2) / “Protein serving goals”	1.2–1.6 grams → approximately 1.0 to 1.4 grams
E7	Scanned PDF Documents	Scanned page (OCR)	OCR + edit (reported separately)	PDF p.1 / First author line on the left	Gary C. Moore → Caroline Moore

Environment controls

- All three tools tested on the same macOS device, at the same system language.
- Each edit started from a fresh copy of the original — never from another tool's output.
- System-installed fonts were listed before testing; no font was installed specifically for one tool.

2. How each edit was scored

Each digital-text task is scored out of 100. The scanned task first passes an OCR gate, then uses the same 100-point rubric. Getting the text right is table stakes (10 points); the two dimensions that measure whether the look survived — font and layout — carry 40 points each.

Dimension	Points	Atomic checks	Judging rule
Text correctness	10	Replacement exactly correct 6; no extra text change 4	Character-by-character; spaces, punctuation, and case all count
Font preservation	40	Family 15; size 8; weight/italic 5; colour 5; tracking/baseline 7	Size within 0.25 pt; colour $\Delta E \leq 3$ or identical RGB; attribute and visual must both pass
Layout preservation	40	Text-block position 8; line breaks 10; no overflow/clipping 8; alignment/leading 7; neighbouring objects 7	Position within 1 pt; leading within 1 pt; any new line break, overlap, or clipping loses that whole item
Save stability	10	Saves and reopens 3; consistent in a second reader 4; page count / CropBox unchanged 3	Judged after close-and-reopen, not from the in-editor preview

Result grades

Grade	Score	Meaning
A	90–100	Font and layout essentially preserved; usable as-is
B	80–89	Usable, with minor deviations that do not affect reading
C	70–79	Needs manual adjustment before delivery
D	0–69	Clear failure or unsuitable for that file type

3. Critical failures and headline metrics

A critical failure caps the task result regardless of the numeric score, because these are the defects that make an otherwise-correct edit unusable:

- Wrong or missing text; a visible font-family substitution; an abnormal new line break; text clipping or overlap; a change in page count or page size; or edits disappearing after save.

The three headline metrics

Metric	Definition
First-pass rate	Tasks scoring ≥ 90 with no manual repair and no critical failure, $\div$ valid tasks
Font fully preserved	Tasks scoring the full 40 font points $\div$ valid tasks
Layout fully preserved	Tasks scoring the full 40 layout points $\div$ valid tasks

A first pass means the edit was typed, saved, and reopened correctly with no manual font/size/box/leading change.

4. Per-task procedure (SOP)

1. Make a task copy from the original; confirm page count and file size.
2. Record the environment: tool, version, build, OS, date, installed-font status, and online/offline state.
3. Note the target font name, size, colour, and text-box bounds.
4. First pass: enter true “edit existing text” mode, select the frozen original, type the frozen replacement. No font/size/leading/box change first. Record time and whether the font auto-detected.
5. Save with “Save As” (never overwrite the original); close the app. Do not judge from the in-editor view.
6. Score: character-check the text; read/estimate font attributes; check position, leading, line breaks, clipping, overlap, neighbouring objects, and page size. Write the deduction reasons.
7. Archive original and edited PDFs, screenshots, the score row, and any issue notes; then blind-review with a second person on any critical item.

Extra steps for the scanned task (E7)

- Before editing, run the tool's default “editable PDF” OCR with language set to English; keep the OCR intermediate file.
- Check the target text was recognised correctly first. If the target string OCR'd wrong, log an OCR failure.
- Check the original image text was cleared, so new text does not sit on top of the old as a ghost image.

5. Aggregate results

Digital-text leaderboard is E1–E6 (n = 6). E7 (scanned/OCR) is listed on its own.

Metric	UPDF	Adobe Acrobat	PDFgear
Main score (E1–E6)	96.7	92.5	77.7
First-pass rate	6/6 (100%)	4/6 (66.7%)	2/6 (33.3%)
Font fully preserved	6/6 (100%)	5/6 (83.3%)	3/6 (50%)
Layout fully preserved	4/6 (66.7%)	3/6 (50%)	2/6 (33.3%)
E7 scanned / OCR edit	92 (pass)	100 (pass)	0 (fail)
7-file reference average	96.0	93.6	66.6

Overall conclusion UPDF leads the digital-text main test with the highest average score, the best first-pass rate, and full font preservation in all six files. Acrobat is strongest on scanned-PDF OCR and passes four digital-text tasks, but the E2 wrap failure and E5 font substitution reduce its main result. PDFgear produces exact text in several cases, but repeated Helvetica substitution, severe reflow collisions, and the absence of in-place scanned-text editing make it the least reliable overall.

Ranking 1 UPDF — main 96.7, OCR 92, 7-file reference 96.0 | 2 Adobe Acrobat — main 92.5, OCR 100, reference 93.6 | 3 PDFgear — main 77.7, OCR 0, reference 66.6

6. Per-file results and judgements

For each file: the frozen edit, then each tool's score (Total · Pass/Fail · Text/Font/Layout/Save) and the reviewer's judgement. PASS requires at least 90 points and no critical failure. Evidence filenames follow the pattern e{n} {tool} before/after edition.jpg.

E1 — Single-column financial text; equal-length currency replacement £3.4m → £4.1m.

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The replacement is exact. The UI reports Calibri at 10 pt before and after editing. The line keeps its original position and wrapping, with no clipping or impact on nearby text.
Adobe Acrobat	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The replacement is exact. Calibri remains 9.96 pt before and after editing, and the surrounding sentence retains its alignment, spacing, and line structure.
PDFgear	85/100 FAIL 10/25/40/10 Critical failure	The text and layout remain correct, but the font changes from Calibri 10 pt to Helvetica 10 pt. This is a confirmed font-family substitution and therefore a critical failure under the test plan.

Evidence

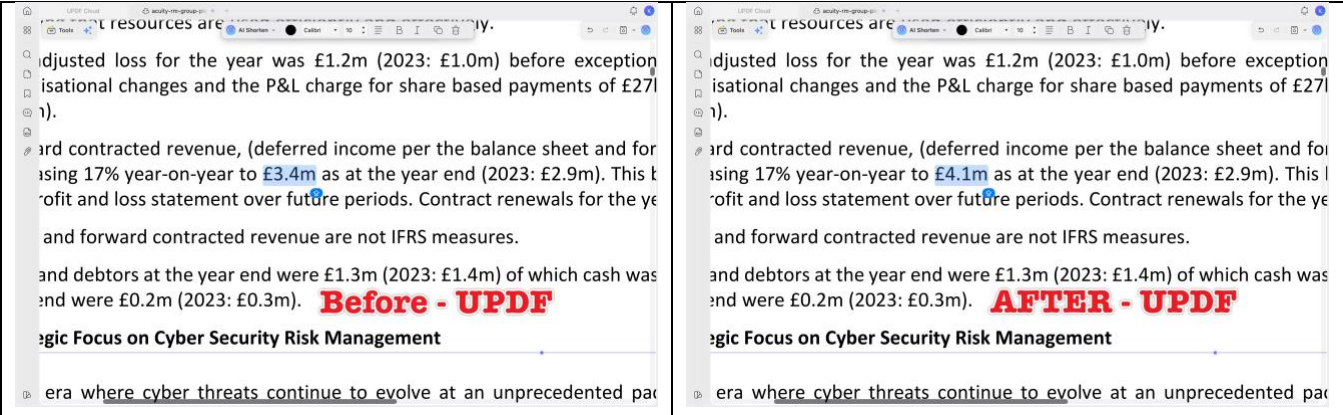


Figure 1 & 2 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

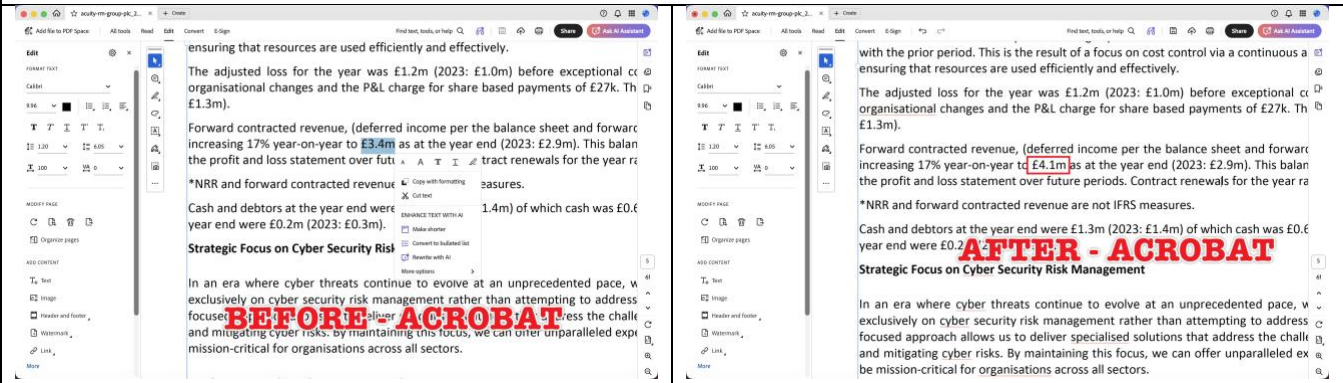


Figure 3 & 4 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

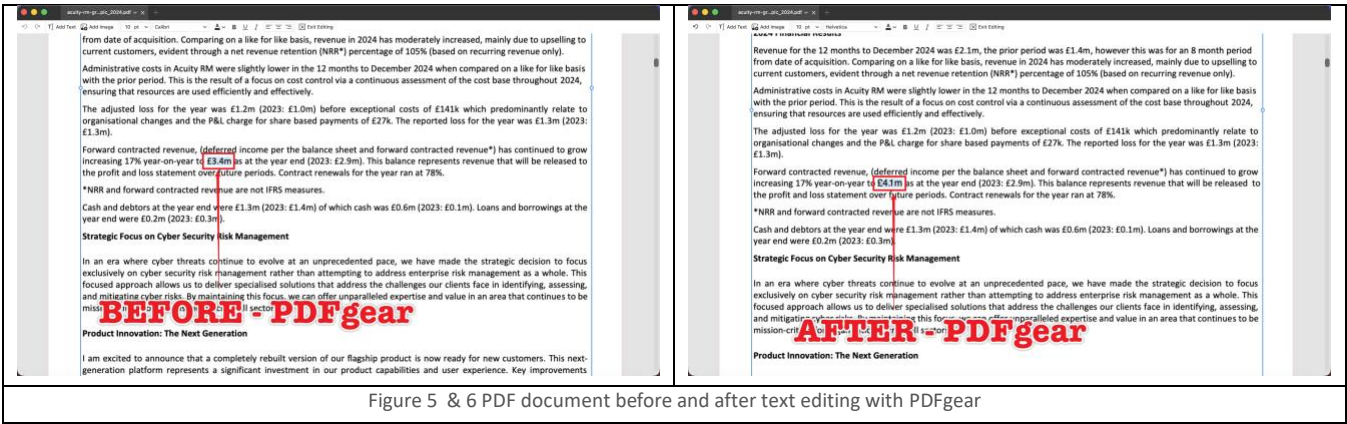


Figure 5 & 6 PDF document before and after text editing with PDFgear

E2 — KPI table; longer numeric value 7,900 → 10,250.

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The value is exact and remains on one line inside the KPI cell. Calibri 10.1 pt is preserved, and the adjacent 4,200 value, row labels, and footnote remain separated.
Adobe Acrobat	90/100 FAIL 10/40/30/10 Critical failure	The value is correct and Calibri 10.08 pt is preserved, but the final digit wraps onto a second line inside the narrow value box. The abnormal new line triggers the critical-failure rule.
PDFgear	70/100 FAIL 10/25/25/10 Critical failure	The value is correct, but Calibri 10 pt is replaced by Helvetica 10 pt. The expanded value also collides with the neighbouring 4,200 column and the following body text joins the table line, so both font and layout fail.

Evidence

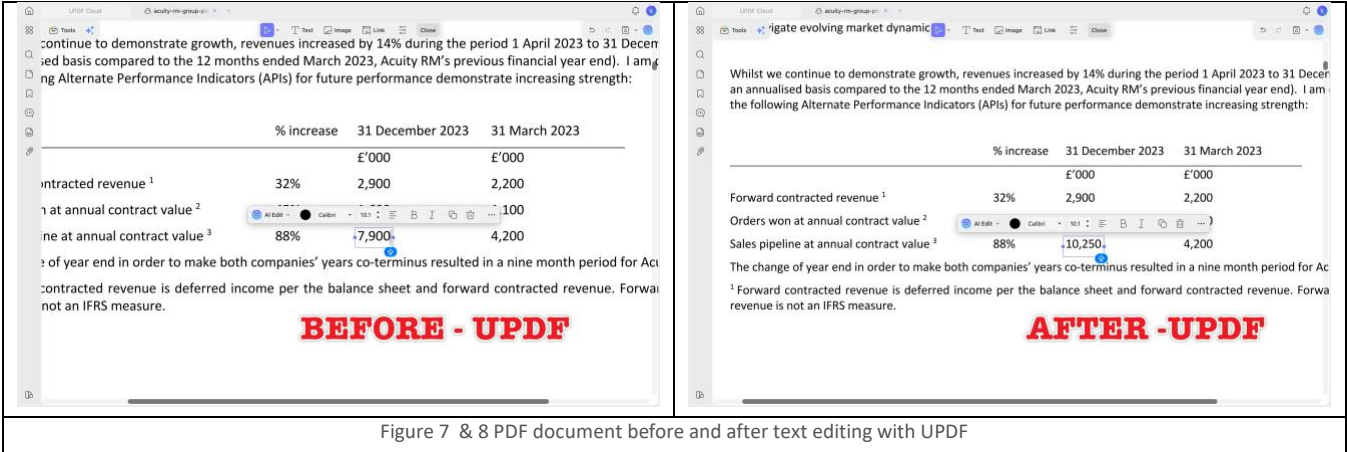


Figure 7 & 8 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

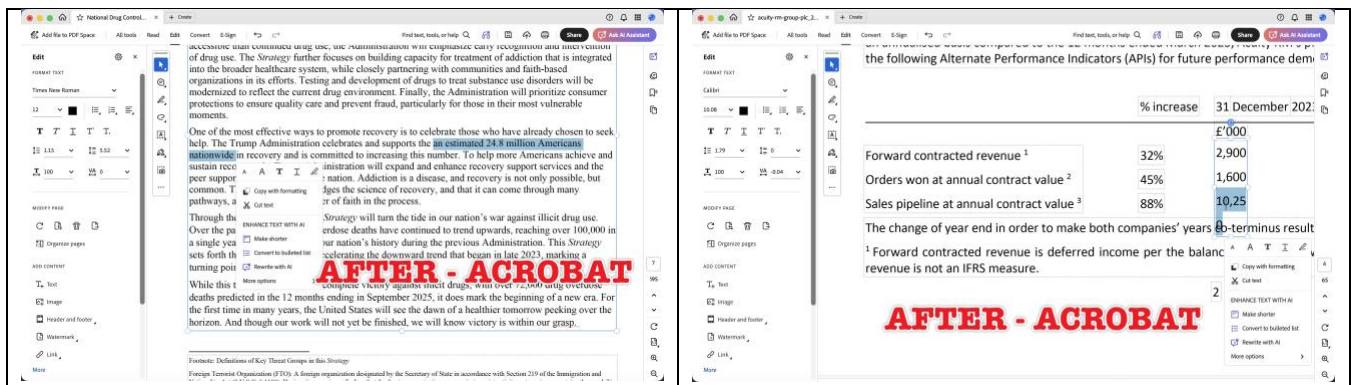


Figure 9 & 10 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

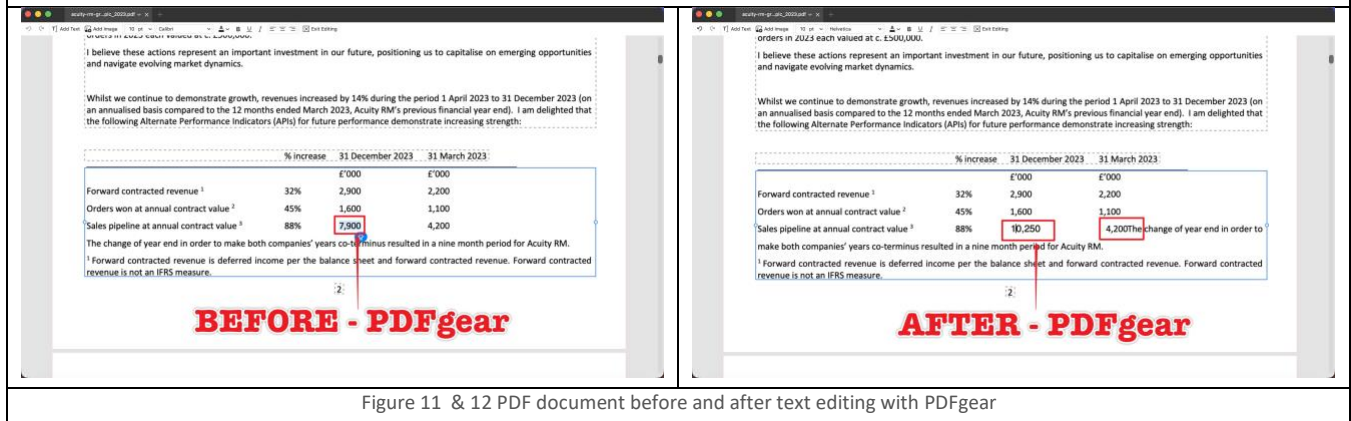


Figure 11 & 12 PDF document before and after text editing with PDFgear

E3 — Single-column body text; phrase expanded to "an estimated 24.8 million Americans nationwide".

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	90/100 PASS 10/40/30/10	The full replacement is correct and Times New Roman 12 pt is retained. The paragraph reflows cleanly and adds one line, without clipping, overlap, or damage to the following paragraphs.
Adobe Acrobat	90/100 PASS 10/40/30/10	The replacement is exact and Times New Roman 12 pt is preserved. The longer phrase causes a clean paragraph reflow with no visible overlap or text loss.
PDFgear	90/100 PASS 10/40/30/10	The subset-prefixed Times New Roman font remains at 12 pt. The replacement is exact; the next words move to the following line, but the reflow is clean and contained within the text block.

Evidence

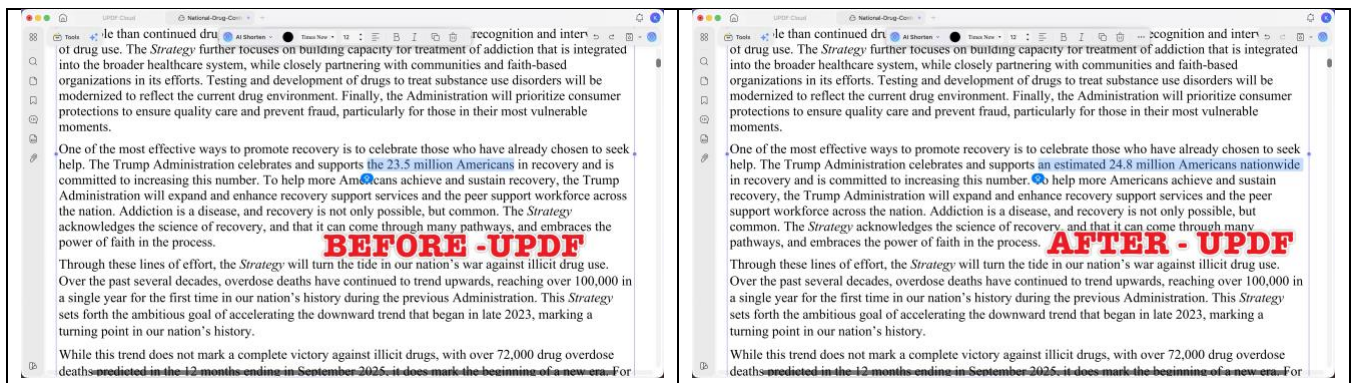


Figure 13 & 14 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

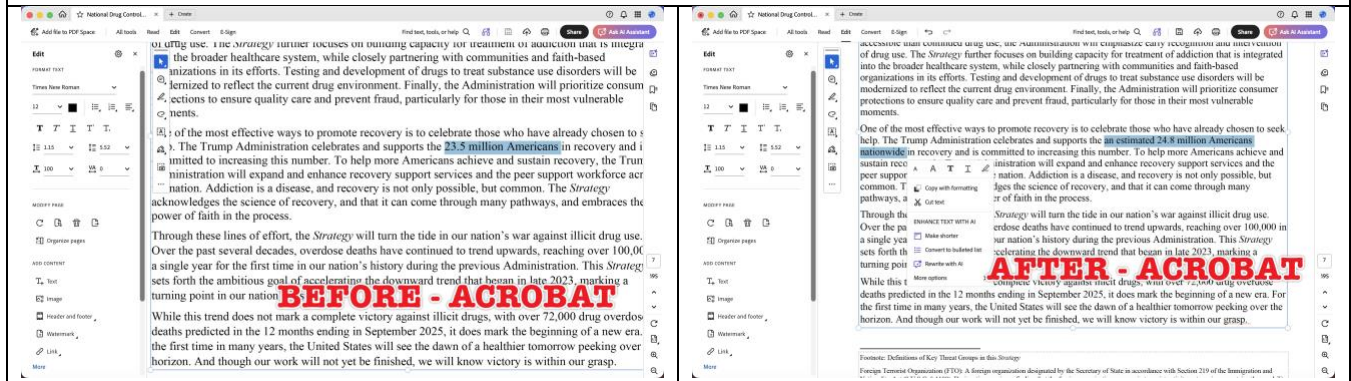


Figure 15 & 16 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

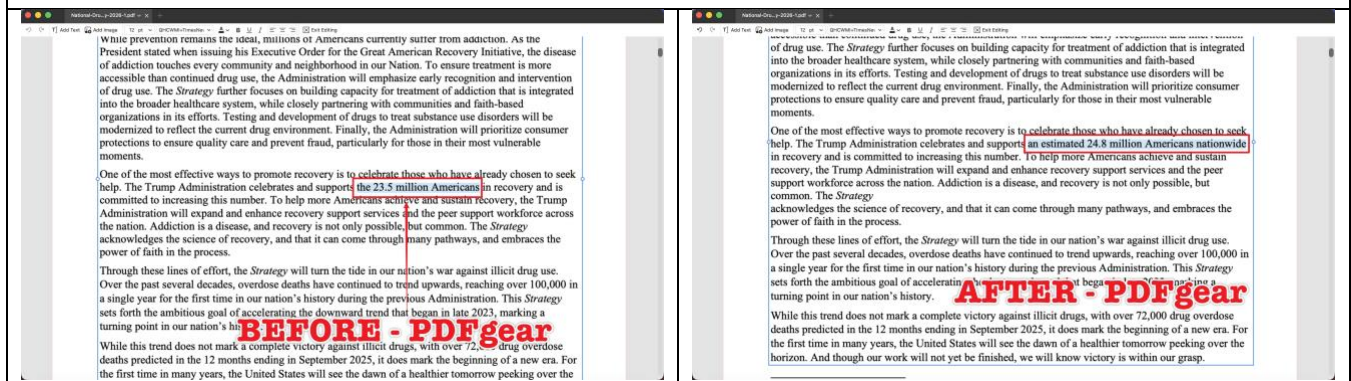


Figure 17 & 18 PDF document before and after text editing with PDFgear

E4 — Academic two-column text; secondary vulnerability → occupational and secondary vulnerability.

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The required phrase is exact. Liberation Serif remains 9.5 pt, and the longer term stays within the column with clean reflow, no clipping, and no intrusion into adjacent content.
Adobe Acrobat	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The required phrase is exact. Liberation Serif remains 9.46 pt, and the longer term stays within the column without crossing into adjacent content or creating abnormal line collisions.
PDFgear	53/100 FAIL 10/25/8/10	The required phrase is present, but Liberation Serif 9 pt is replaced by Helvetica 9 pt. Multiple lines below the edit overlap and duplicate visually, producing severe line-spacing and readability failures.

Tool	Score	Judgement
	CRITICAL FAILURE	

Evidence

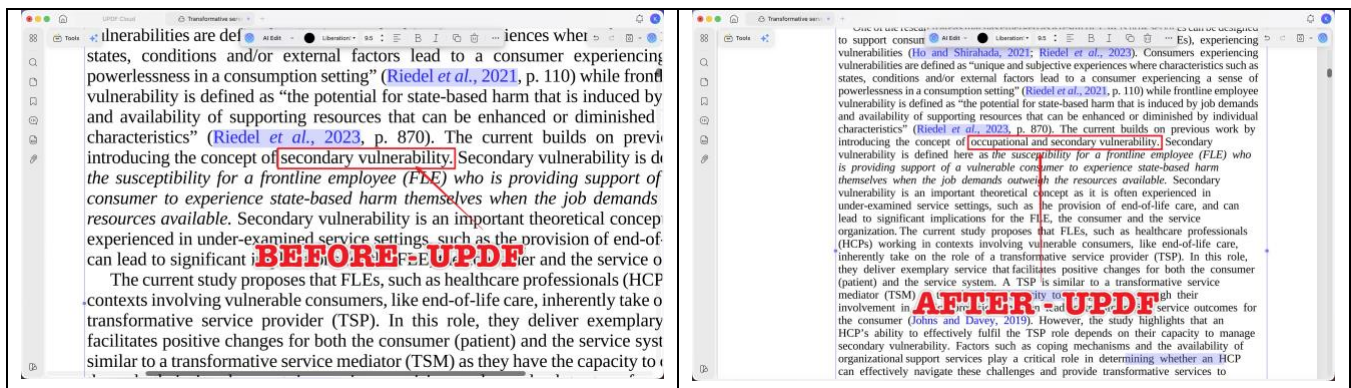


Figure 19 & 20 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

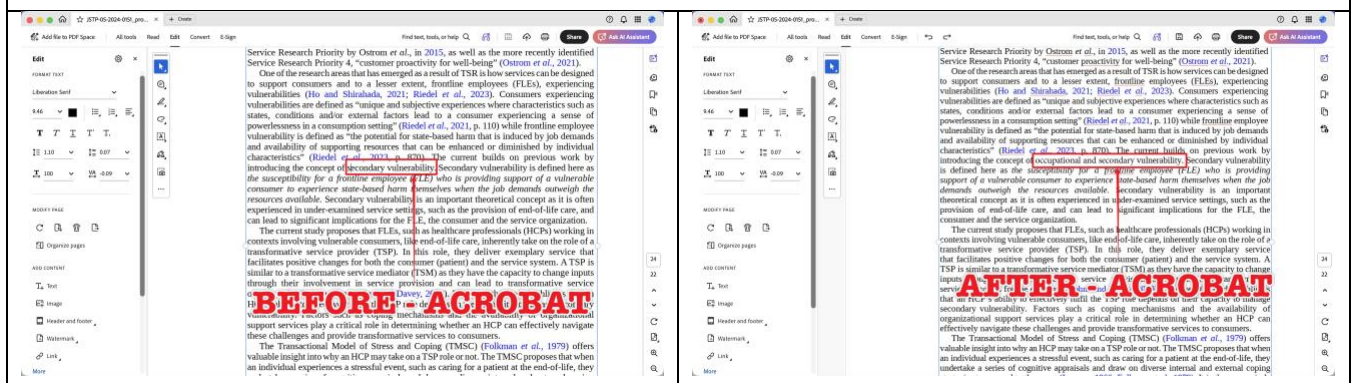


Figure 21 & 22 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

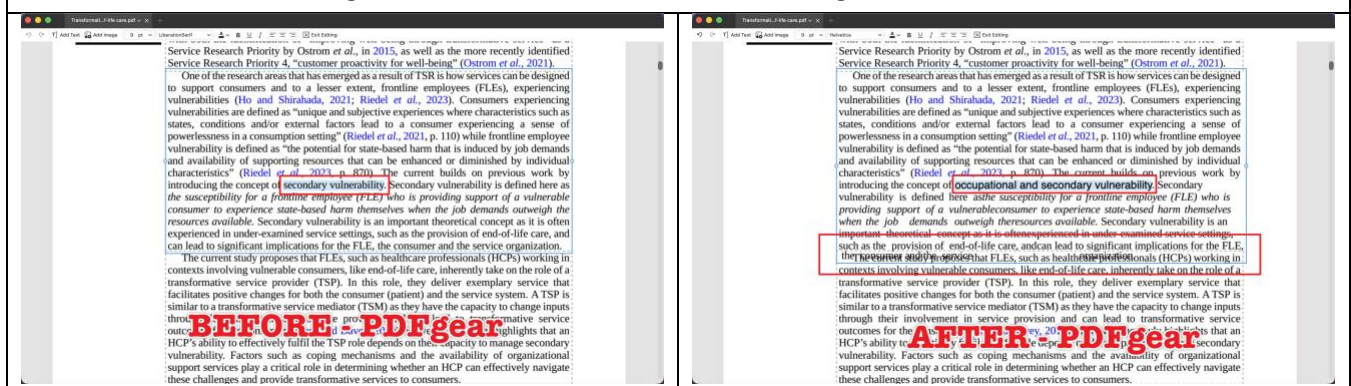


Figure 23 & 24 PDF document before and after text editing with PDFgear

E5 — Brand heading with a missing/localised font; Get prepared → Prepare the whole team.

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The heading is replaced exactly. The SF Hello family shown in the UI remains at 12 pt, and the longer title fits on one line without shifting the body copy below it.
Adobe Acrobat	85/100 FAIL	The heading is replaced exactly and remains on one line with the surrounding layout intact. However, Acrobat reports that SF Hello is

Tool	Score	Judgement
	10/25/40/10 Critical failure	unavailable for editing and substitutes Minion Pro at the same 12 pt size. The visible font-family substitution is a critical failure under the test plan.
PDFgear	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	The heading is replaced exactly. SF Hello remains at 12 pt, with the same weight, colour, baseline, and one-line placement.

Evidence

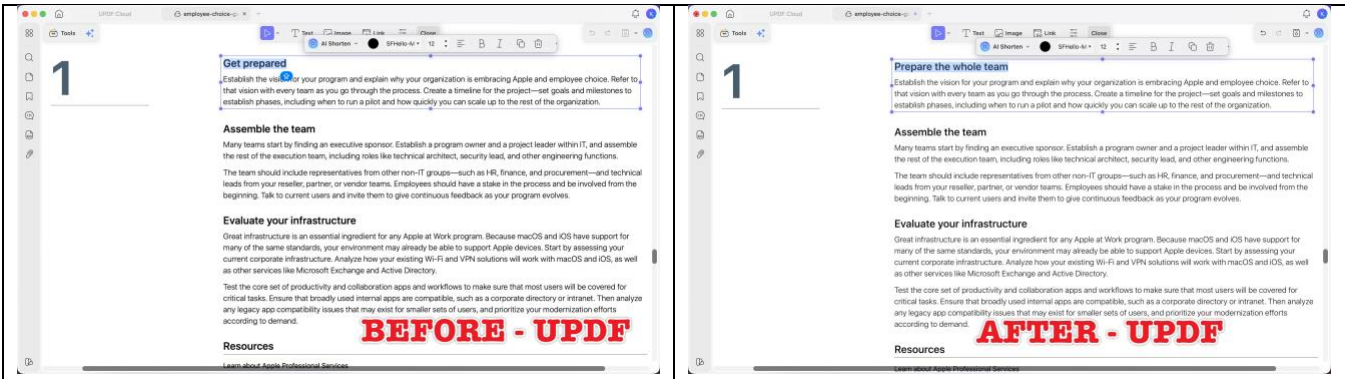


Figure 25 & 26 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

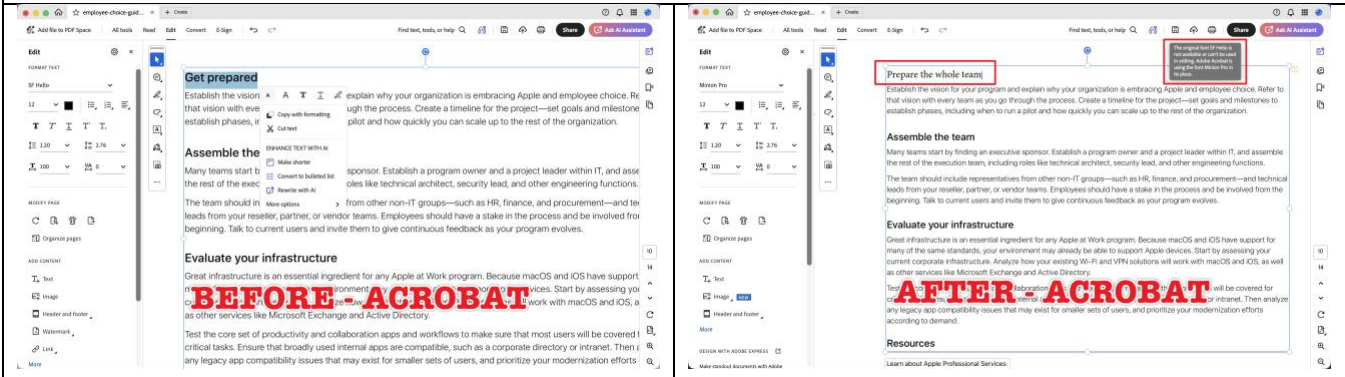


Figure 27 & 28 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

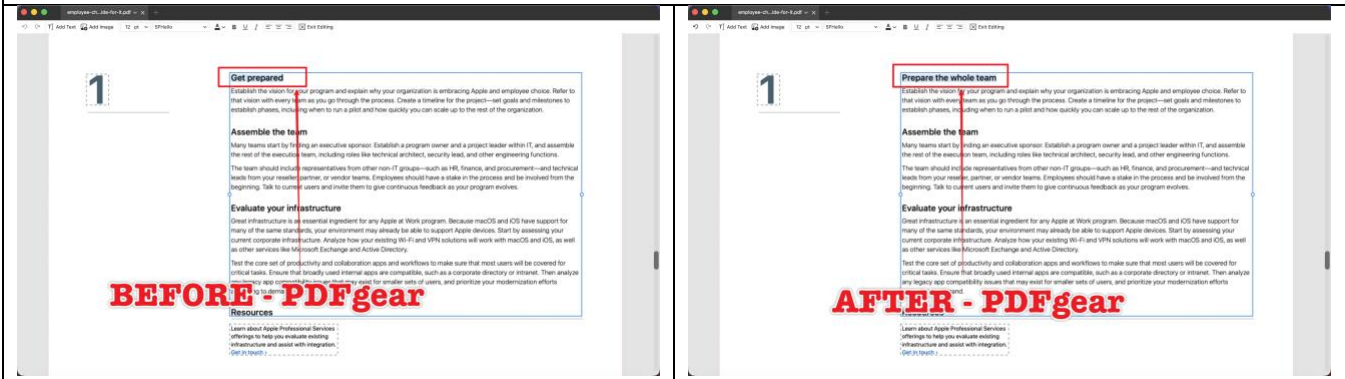


Figure 29 & 30 PDF document before and after text editing with PDFgear

E6 — Bulleted nutrition layout; 1.2–1.6 grams → approximately 1.0 to 1.4 grams.

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	90/100 PASS 10/40/30/10	The replacement is exact and Roboto Condensed 12 pt is preserved. The bullet item gains additional lines but reflows cleanly; indentation, the right-column boundary, and the “Consume Dairy” section remain intact.
Adobe Acrobat	90/100 PASS 10/40/30/10	The replacement is exact and Roboto Condensed 12 pt is retained. The longer text wraps within the original list area without colliding with the adjacent column or the next section.
PDFgear	68/100 FAIL 10/40/8/10 Critical failure	The replacement text and subset Roboto Condensed 12 pt font are retained, but the new lines overlap each other inside the bullet item. The result is visibly unreadable and triggers the overlap critical-failure rule.

Evidence

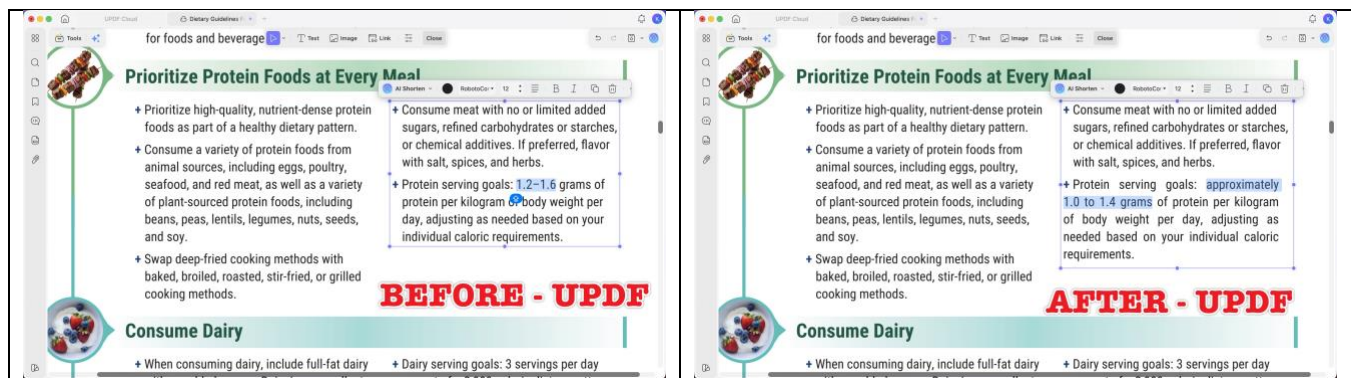


Figure 31 & 32 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

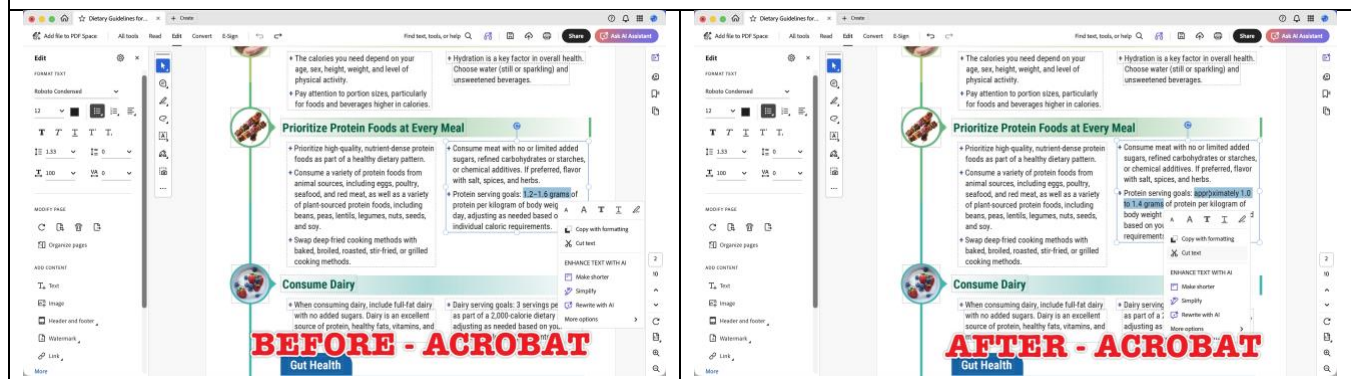


Figure 33 & 34 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

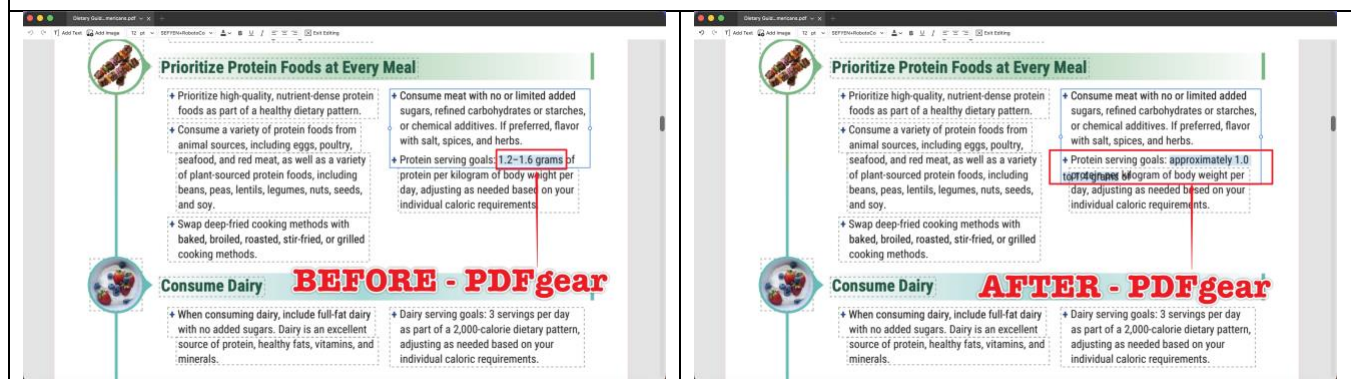


Figure 35 & 36 PDF document before and after text editing with PDFgear

E7 — Scanned PDF OCR task; Gary C. Moore → Caroline Moore. Supplemental result, excluded from the main ranking.

Tool	Score	Judgement
UPDF	92/100 PASS 10/32/40/10	OCR produces editable text and the replacement is exact. The result uses Times New Roman Bold at 11 pt and cleanly removes the scanned name with no visible ghosting. The size is slightly below the 11.5 pt value identified in Acrobat, so the strict ± 0.25 pt size check is not met.
Adobe Acrobat	100/100 PASS 10/40/40/10	OCR produces editable text and the replacement is exact. Times New Roman Bold 11.5 pt is identified and retained, with clean background removal, stable baseline, and no visible residual image text.
PDFgear	0/100 FAIL 0/0/0/0 Critical failure	The OCR gate is not passed. Whole-document OCR can create a searchable PDF, while Current File OCR only exposes extracted plain text; neither route allows the scanned name to be edited in place. No editable result exists, so the task scores 0.

Evidence

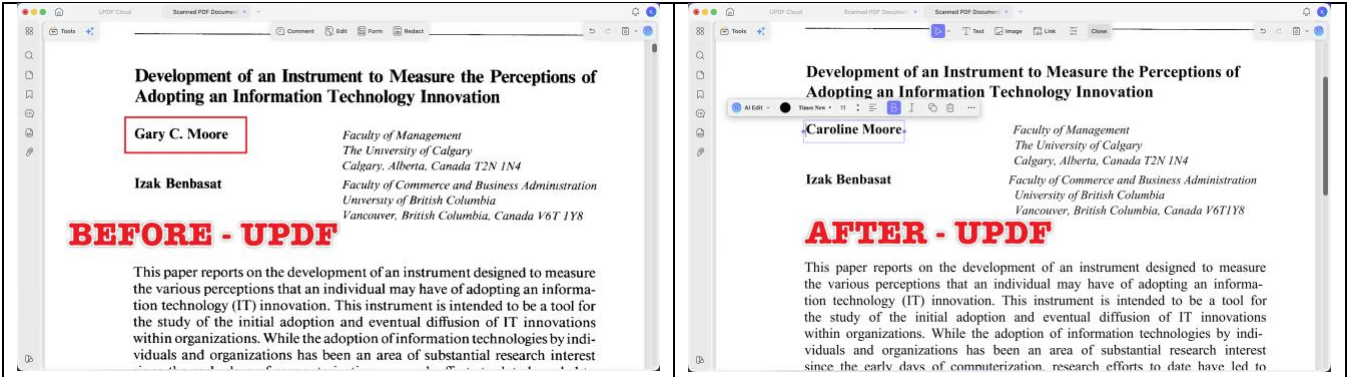


Figure 37 & 38 PDF document before and after text editing with UPDF

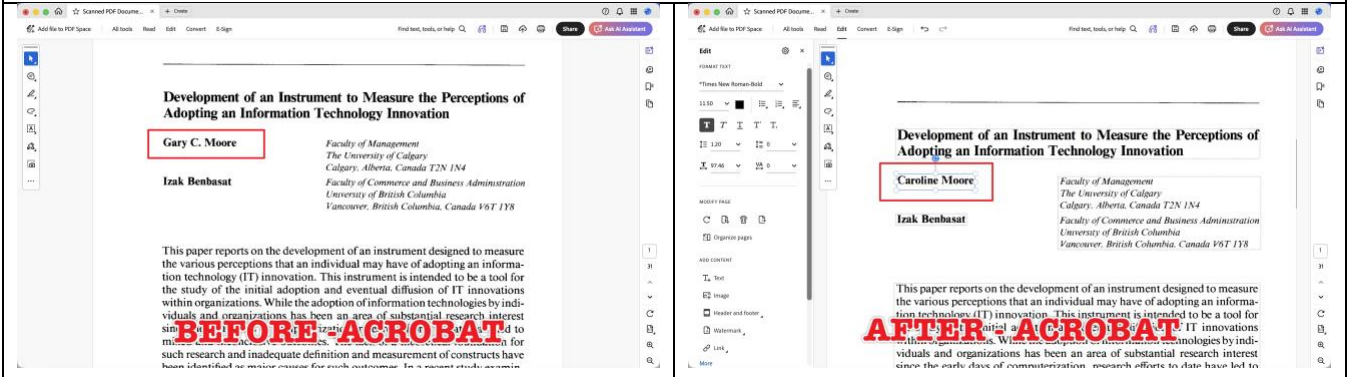


Figure 39 & 40 PDF document before and after text editing with Adobe Acrobat

PDFgear E7 OCR Evidence

“Current File OCR” mode exposes OCR results as text with Export and Copy Text actions. It does not provide an in-place edit path for the scanned page, which is why E7 receives 0 points for PDFgear.

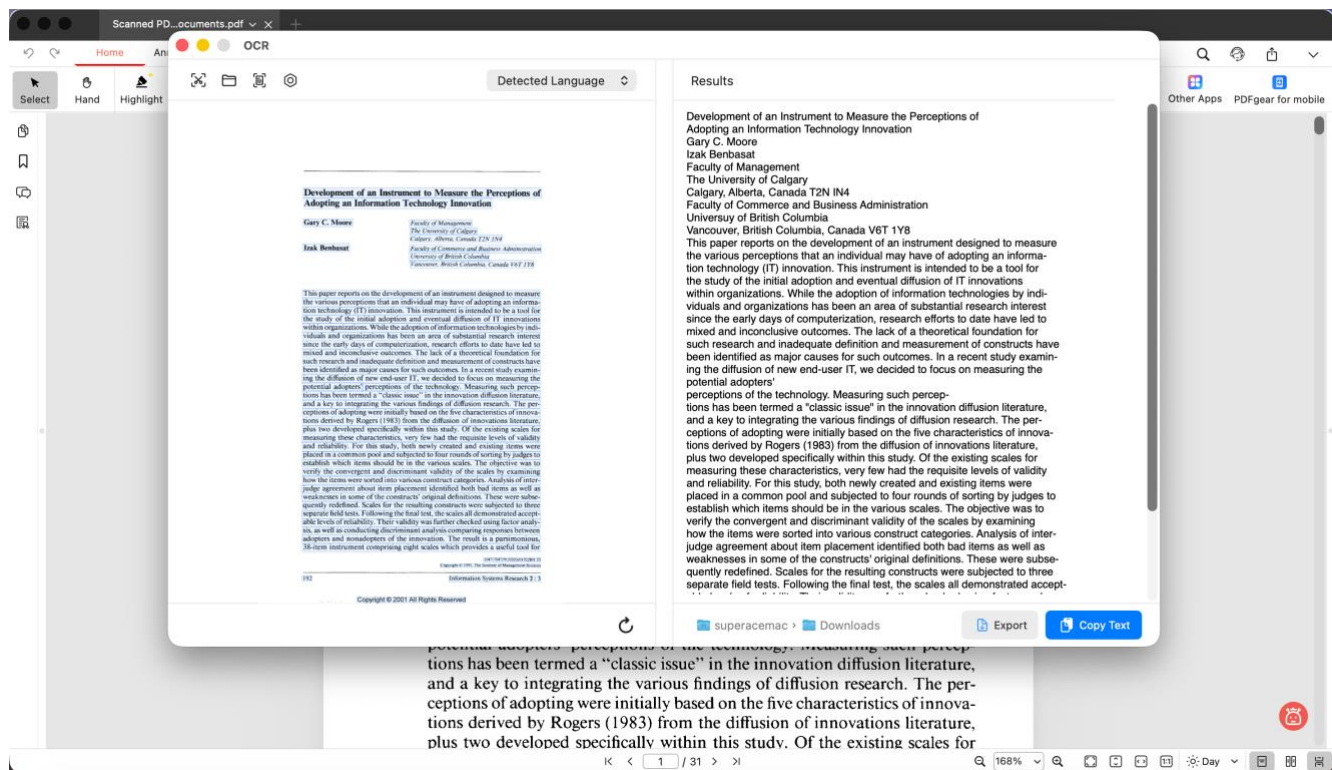


Figure 41 PDFgear Current File OCR returns text for export or copying, not editable page content

7. Reading notes and honest limits

- One controlled run, scored by a single reviewer against before/after screenshots; a second reviewer or a different file set could change individual calls. The overall pattern (UPDF kept the font in every file; length and missing fonts caused every real failure) held across all seven.
- Font availability is machine-specific: a font that substituted on this Mac might be installed on another computer and behave differently. Treat the E5 result as “how each tool handles a missing font,” not a universal verdict on that typeface.
- Digital-text and scanned/OCR results are kept separate so OCR recognition error does not mix into ordinary text-editing scores.
- Font names and sizes are read from each application's own UI as shown in the screenshots. Save/reopen stability is credited when the final-state evidence shows no persistence failure.
- The frozen replacements are stress-test inputs only; they do not represent corrections to the underlying reports. All editing was done on copies; test files are not redistributed.

Data verified: 15 September 2026. Tool interfaces and pricing may change; re-record versions and page state on the day of any re-test.