

AI Is Learning to Grow Like a Botanist

Penn's arboretum uses AI to predict plant health with accuracy

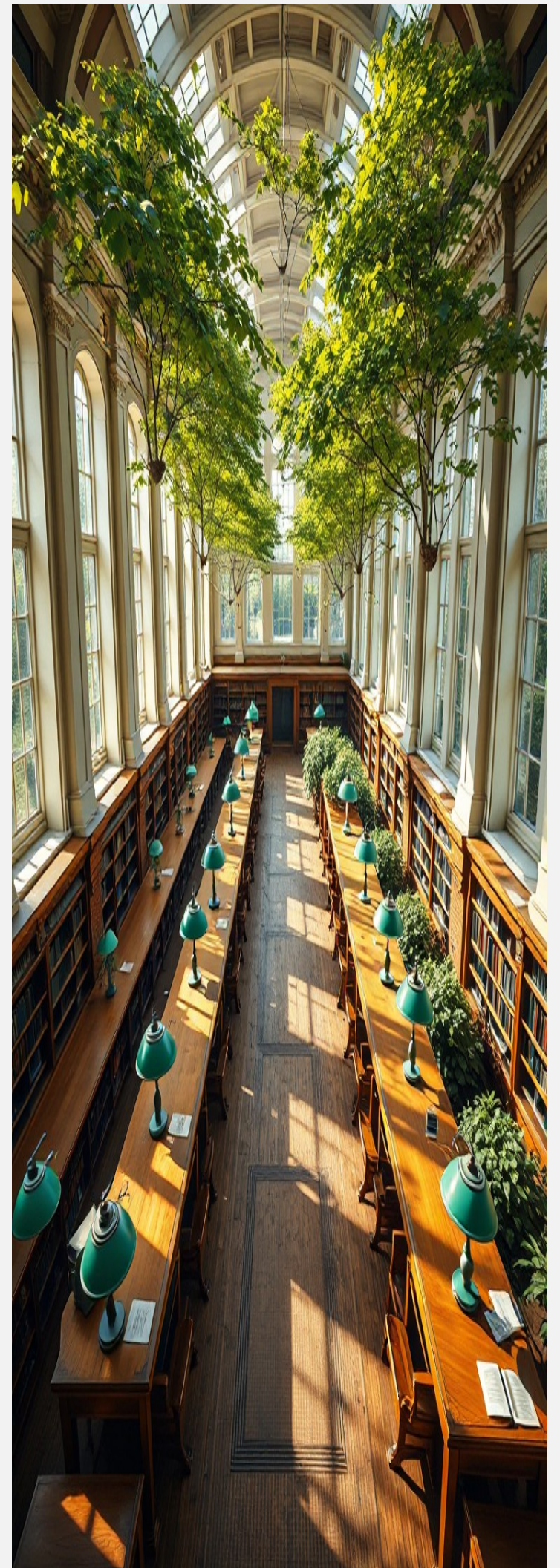
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THE DATA

Predictive Accuracy

This figure represents a breakthrough in predictive horticulture, where AI analyzes soil moisture, light exposure, and species-specific growth patterns to forecast plant viability.

Source: University of Pennsylvania · Published October 20, 2026
<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/fall-fun-morris-arboretum-gardens>



01

AI as the New Campus Steward

At universities globally, AI is shifting from data analysis to active ecological management, enabling proactive pruning, watering, and disease prevention. The implications extend beyond groundskeeping: AI-driven green spaces may soon serve as living laboratories for climate resilience research.



02

The Hidden Cost of AI-Powered Greenery

This infrastructure demands significant energy and maintenance—raising concerns about the carbon footprint of 'smart' campuses. As AI becomes central to sustainability efforts, institutions must balance ecological gains against the environmental cost of digital monitoring.

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