



Metadata Management, Data Cataloging and Data Governance

Promote discovery and use, operationalize trust, orchestrate policy, and align semantics for the AI-Driven enterprise

2025 CONSTELLATION SHORTLIST

The Constellation ShortList™ presents vendors in different categories of the market relevant to early adopters. In addition, products included in this document meet the threshold criteria for this category as determined by Constellation Research. This Constellation ShortList of vendors for a market category is compiled through conversations with early adopter clients, independent analysis and briefings with vendors and partners.

ABOUT THIS SHORTLIST

As organizations scale analytics and AI, they face new pressure to go beyond data access—to ensure data is findable, trustworthy, and used in ways that are consistent and compliant. The rise of domain-owned data products, real-time workflows, and AI-driven decisions has raised expectations for what metadata platforms must deliver.

This ShortList covers tools that help teams manage and use metadata to improve how data is discovered, interpreted, and governed. These tools catalog assets across environments, link business terms to metrics and models, track usage and lineage, and enforce policy and access rules consistently. Increasingly, they integrate with AI and analytics tools to interpret user intent, surface relevant data, answer questions, and trigger guidance workflow based on real-time activity.

Common use cases include helping analysts and business teams access certified data for reporting; powering AI/ML and GenAI assistants with governed, context-rich data; and detecting quality or access issues before they reach downstream consumers.

In 2025, evaluation criteria expanded to reflect this shift—moving beyond cataloging and glossary support to include real-time metadata processing, semantic alignment, natural language interaction, and automated policy enforcement across platforms.

6 SOLUTIONS TO KNOW

Constellation evaluates more than three dozen solutions categorized in this market. This Constellation ShortList is determined by client inquiries, partner conversations, customer references, vendor selection projects, market share, and internal research.



ALATION



ATLAN



COLLIBRA



DATA.WORLD



INFORMATICA



MICROSOFT

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

Consider partnering with Constellation Research on your go-to-market-strategy. Email ShortList@ContellationR.com for more info.

To learn more about Constellation Research Shortlists visit: www.constellationr.com/ShortList



THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Constellation considers the following criteria for these solutions:

- Ingests metadata from structured, unstructured, and model-based sources in real time, enabling live catalog updates, lineage propagation, and metadata-triggered enforcement via APIs.
- Links business glossaries to semantic layers and governed metrics to ensure consistent meaning across analytics, AI, and decisioning workflows.
- Uses large language models to interpret natural language queries and resolve ambiguous terms based on glossary, context, and lineage.
- Provides end-to-end data and AI model lineage with the ability to define and enforce usage policies across systems in real time.
- Captures active metadata, usage, and lineage insights to trigger automated workflows and drive adaptive governance based on real-time activity.
- Enables teams to curate, annotate, certify, and govern data assets through domain-based workflows and collaborative tools.
- Integrates natively with modern data, AI, and observability tools using open APIs and extensible connectors to support end-to-end governance.

ABOUT CONSTELLATION RESEARCH

As an award-winning Silicon Valley-based strategic advisory and futurist analyst firm, Constellation Research serves leaders and organizations navigating the challenges of digital strategy, business-model disruption and digital transformation. Constellation works closely with solution providers, partners, C-suite executives, board of directors, and its Constellation Executive Network of buy-side leaders to lead the way in research coverage and advise clients how to achieve valuable business results.

FREQUENCY OF EVALUATION

Each Constellation ShortList is updated at least once per year. Updates may occur after six months if deemed necessary.

EVALUATION SERVICES

Constellation clients can work with the analyst and the research team to conduct a more thorough discussion of this ShortList. Constellation can also provide guidance in vendor selection and contract negotiation.

BUSINESS THEMES



Data to Decisions



Technology Optimization



Mike Ni

Vice President & Principal Analyst

Michael Ni covers the evolving Data-to-Decisions landscape—where CDOs, CIOs, and CPOs must modernize data infrastructure, integrate AI into decision-making, and scale automation to improve business outcomes.

Ni's research examines how enterprises operationalize AI, automate decision-making, and integrate data management and analytics into core business processes. He focuses on the challenges of scaling AI-driven decision systems, aligning data strategy with business goals, and the growing role of data and decisioning “products” in enterprise ecosystems.

