
A Practical Guide to

AI Tools for Literature Discovery

*Finding, Exploring, and Reviewing Research
Tools and Ideas for Educators and Researchers*

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educatorstechnology.com
selectedreads.com

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Introduction

In this short guide, I share a selection of tools I have reviewed on my blog, educatorstechnology.com, that can help with literature discovery and related research tasks. You can use them to search for relevant studies, explore connections between papers, follow citations, organise reading, and manage the screening and comparison of sources. Each entry includes a brief introduction, key features, and practical ideas for using the tool in teaching or research.

However, as I have argued throughout my reviews, these tools require careful judgement. Always return to the original papers, check bibliographic details, and examine the methods, findings, and limitations yourself. AI-generated summaries and recommendations can miss context or misrepresent a claim. For a substantial literature review, combine these tools with appropriate academic databases and a documented search strategy.

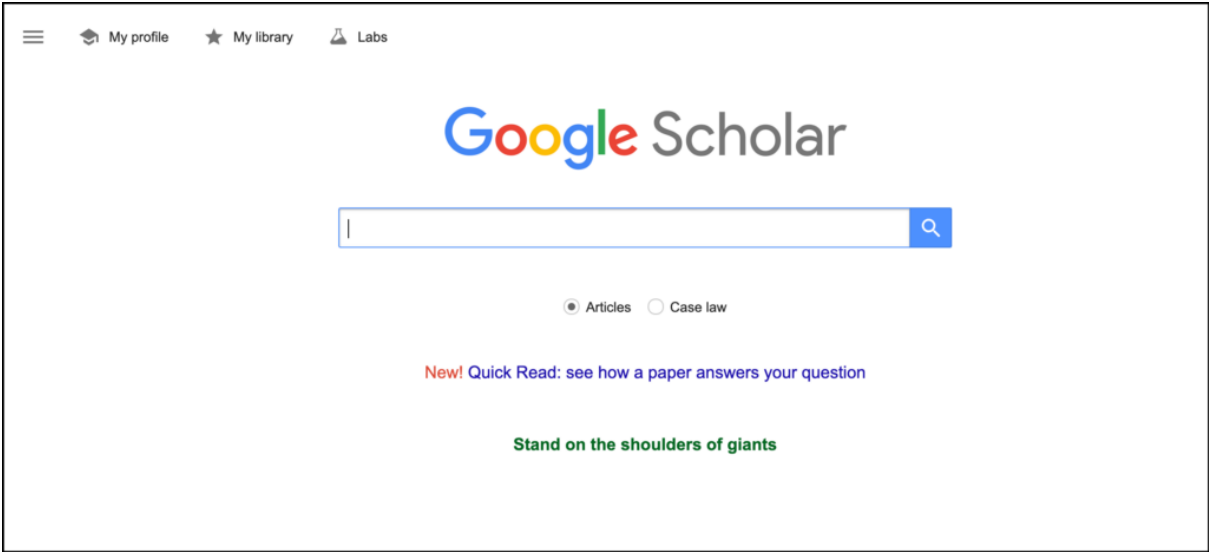
I am not affiliated with any of these tools. The selection is subjective, based on my own reviews, research interests, and judgement about their potential usefulness for educators and researchers. It is a starting point for exploring what might fit your needs. Features, pricing, and access conditions can change, so check the current details before committing to a tool.

Literature Discovery Tools at a Glance

Tool	Main purpose	Best used for
Google Scholar	Scholarly search and citation tracking	Finding papers and following references
Consensus	Research search and AI synthesis	Exploring questions and comparing findings
Elicit	Paper discovery and structured extraction	Building evidence tables
ResearchRabbit	Research discovery through connections	Expanding a reading list from seed papers
Connected Papers	Visual maps of related papers	Exploring neighbouring research
Litmaps	Citation mapping and monitoring	Tracing research and tracking new papers
Scite	Citation-context analysis	Examining how later studies discuss a paper
R Discovery	Personalised research recommendations	Keeping up with relevant publications
SciSpace	Literature search and AI-assisted reading	Exploring papers and clarifying their content
Scholarcy	Structured summaries and reading notes	Organising and comparing collected papers
Rayyan	Collaborative review screening	Selecting studies using inclusion criteria
Covidence	Structured evidence-review management	Coordinating screening, extraction, and appraisal

1. Google Scholar

Google Scholar is a free search service for finding scholarly literature across disciplines, including journal articles, books, theses, and conference papers. It combines keyword searching with citation tracking, related-paper discovery, and links to accessible full texts. Its AI-assisted features support searching with detailed research questions and previewing papers. Teachers can use it to locate research relevant to classroom practice, organise reading, and follow developments in education. Read [Google Scholar full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Scholar Labs	Accepts detailed research questions, identifies relevant papers, and explains their potential relevance, with follow-up questions to refine the search.
Quick Read	Provides AI-generated overviews organised around a paper’s answers, approach, and considerations, where available.
Scholar PDF Reader	Offers AI outlines, reference previews, navigation to figures and tables, highlighting, and comments.
Search filters	Narrow results by date, author, publication, or words appearing in the title.
Citation discovery	Use “Cited by” to find later research and “Related articles” to explore neighbouring work.
Full-text access	PDF links and “All versions” can help locate repository copies and other accessible versions.
Alerts and organisation	Receive updates on focused searches and save papers to My Library using labels.
Citation export	Copy formatted references or export records to reference-management tools.

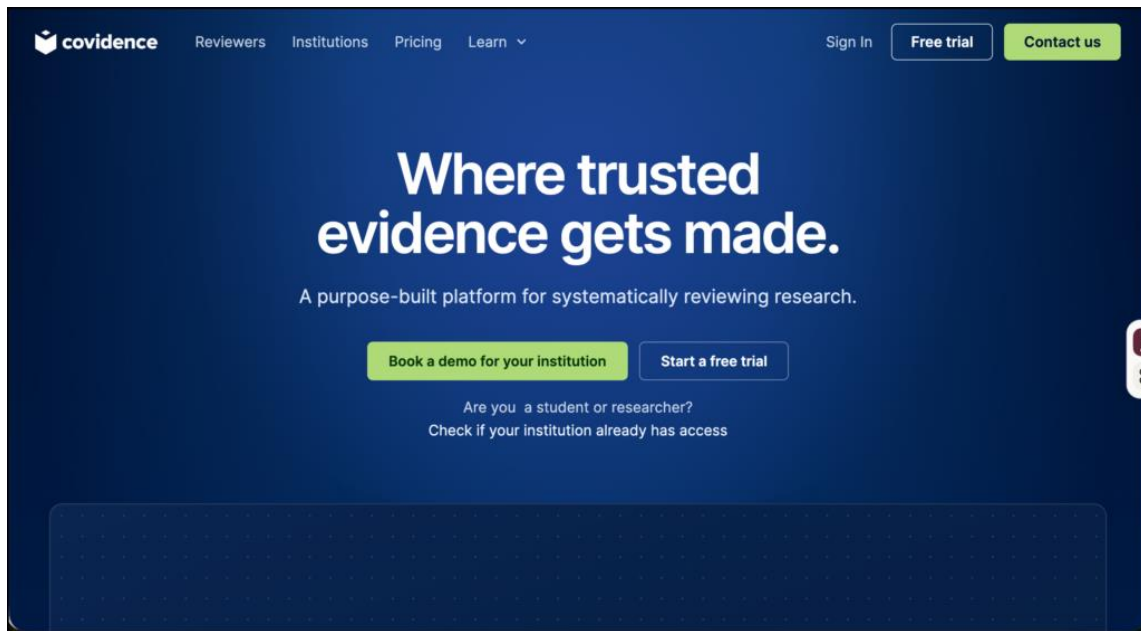
A few suggestions on how to use Google Scholar:

- **Investigate a classroom question:** Search for studies on a specific issue, such as feedback that supports writing revision or strategies for teaching fractions.
- **Explore an unfamiliar topic:** Examine titles and abstracts to identify useful terminology before refining the search.
- **Find research for lesson planning:** Locate studies and theoretical work that inform the choice of teaching approaches and learning activities.
- **Trace an influential study:** Follow its references and “Cited by” results to find earlier work, later applications, replications, and critiques.
- **Prepare professional learning:** Build a labelled reading list for a department discussion, workshop, or inquiry project.
- **Keep up with research:** Create focused alerts for a teaching topic or researcher relevant to your work.
- **Teach literature-searching skills:** Model how changing keywords and filters affects results, then ask students to justify which papers they select.
- **Compare AI previews with original papers:** Use an overview to identify a promising article, then check its claims, methods, and limitations in the full text.

Google Scholar is useful for discovery, but citation counts and AI-generated overviews do not establish research quality. Check the original papers and citation details, and use subject databases alongside Scholar for substantial literature reviews.

2. Covidence

Covidence is a web-based platform for organising systematic reviews and other structured evidence reviews. It brings reference importing, duplicate removal, screening, data extraction, and quality assessment into a shared workspace. Teachers and educational researchers can use it to coordinate collaborative reviews and document decisions about which studies to include. It supports the workflow after literature searches have been completed; it does not search academic databases or write the final synthesis. Read [Covidence full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Reference importing and duplicate removal	Import search results from databases or reference managers and identify duplicate records.
Independent screening	Reviewers assess titles and abstracts separately, with decisions hidden until both have voted.
Conflict management	Collect disagreements for discussion and resolution.
Full-text review	Attach PDFs, assess eligibility, and record specific reasons for excluding papers.
Customisable extraction forms	Collect comparable information about study settings, participants, methods, interventions, and findings.
AI-assisted extraction	Suggest values for selected fields alongside supporting quotations for reviewers to check.
Screening prioritisation	Learn from reviewers' decisions to move potentially relevant records higher in the screening queue.
Quality assessment	Use configurable templates to record judgements about study quality or risk of bias.
Collaboration and exports	Share review work, monitor progress, and export references and extracted data for analysis and reporting.

A few suggestions on how to use Covidence:

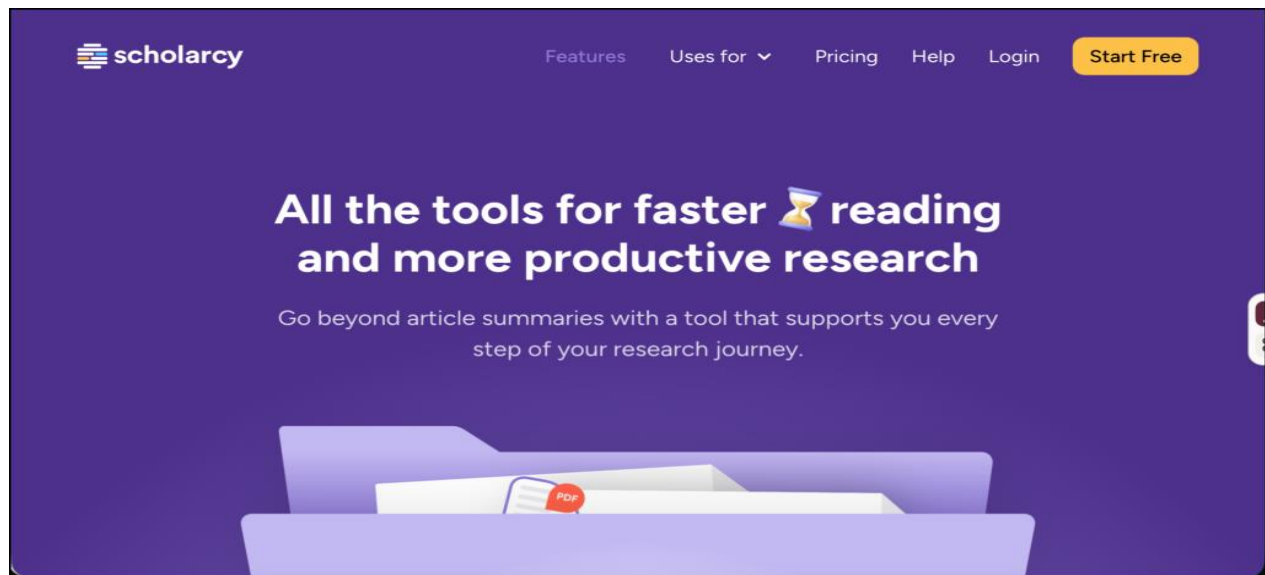
- **Review evidence on a teaching approach:** Organise studies on practices such as formative feedback, reading instruction, or cooperative learning.

- **Coordinate a research team:** Divide screening and extraction work among colleagues while keeping decisions and disagreements in one place.
- **Support graduate research:** Help students conduct systematic or scoping reviews using explicit eligibility criteria and documented decisions.
- **Compare educational interventions:** Extract information about learners, settings, intervention duration, outcomes, and limitations into consistent fields.
- **Prepare an evidence-informed school initiative:** Review research relevant to a proposed programme and examine how closely the study contexts match the school.
- **Teach research judgement:** Have students independently screen a small set of papers, discuss disagreements, and refine their interpretation of inclusion criteria.
- **Practise checking AI extraction:** Compare suggested values with the original papers and identify missing context or incorrect interpretations.
- **Document a review transparently:** Keep exclusion reasons, screening decisions, and extracted information available for the methods section and PRISMA reporting.

Covidence is most useful for structured reviews involving many records or several reviewers. Every AI suggestion needs verification, and screening prioritisation still requires human decisions on all records.

3. Scholarcy

Scholarcy is an AI-assisted reading and organisation tool that turns academic papers, reports, and book chapters into structured summary cards. These cards separate key findings, concepts, methods, and other important information to help readers navigate documents. Teachers can use Scholarcy to work through papers they have collected, organise research notes, and prepare literature comparison tables. Read [Scholarcy full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Structured summary cards	Present a document's key findings, concepts, and summary in separate sections.
Enhanced summaries	Generate more detailed overviews for closer exploration.
Flexible imports	Add PDFs, pasted text, public URLs, folders, or documents from supported cloud services and Zotero.
Batch processing	Summarise multiple documents together.
Notes and highlights	Annotate cards, add interpretations, and edit parts of generated summaries.
Libraries and folders	Organise papers by topic, project, or research question and search saved cards.
Literature matrices	Arrange information from multiple papers for comparison.
Reference extraction	Identify cited sources and export bibliographies in RIS or BibTeX formats.
Flexible exports	Move summaries and extracted information into Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Markdown, and reference-management tools.

A few suggestions on how to use Scholarcy:

- **Prioritise professional reading:** Preview collected papers to identify which deserve closer attention, checking the original abstract before setting a study aside.
- **Compare teaching approaches:** Build a literature matrix showing study populations, methods, findings, and limitations for approaches such as formative assessment or inquiry learning.
- **Prepare a research discussion:** Select relevant findings, add questions, and organise notes for a department meeting or professional learning session.

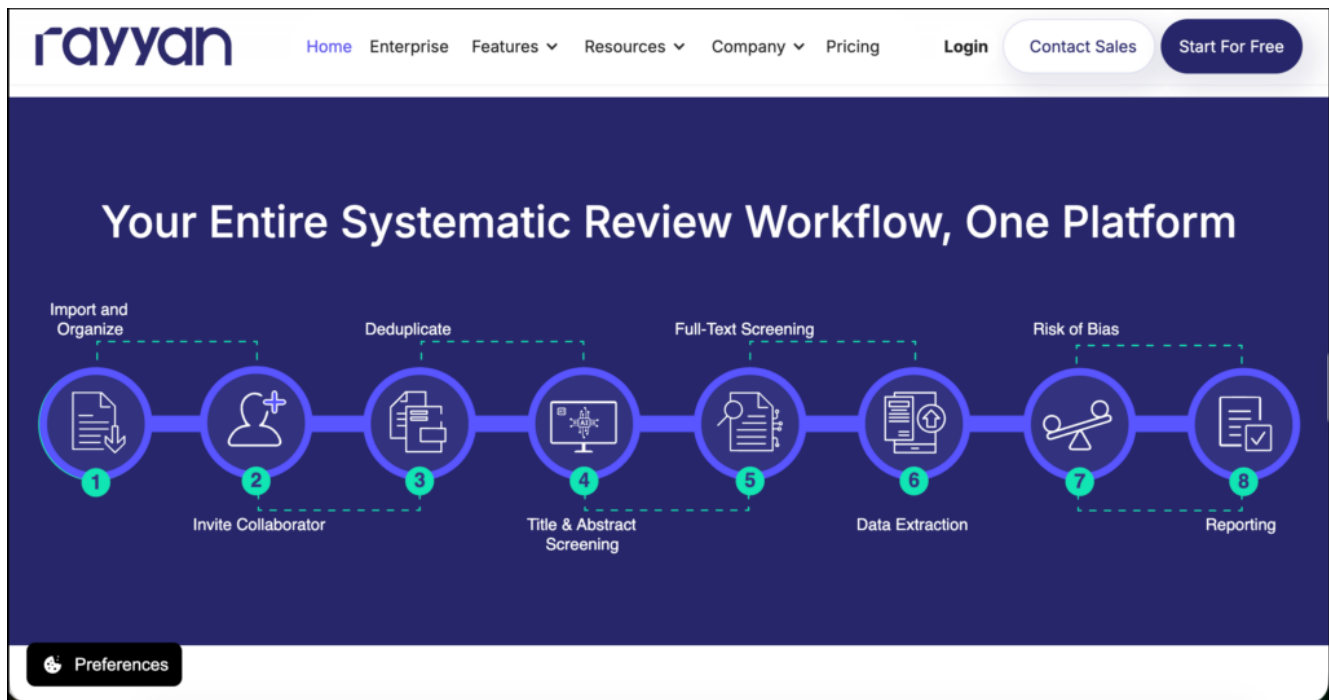
- **Support graduate literature reviews:** Help students organise sources around a focused question and consistent evidence fields.
- **Teach critical reading:** Ask students to compare a generated summary with the original paper and identify omitted qualifications or misleading simplifications.
- **Keep interpretations alongside sources:** Add notes explaining how a study relates to a classroom question and record page numbers for important passages.
- **Follow citation trails:** Examine extracted references to find foundational theories and earlier studies.
- **Prepare research presentations:** Export verified material to PowerPoint or Word, retaining citations to the original studies.

Scholarcy's summaries are reading guides. Check important claims, methods, limitations, and citation details against the original documents before using them in teaching or research.

4. Rayyan

Rayyan is a research platform for screening and organising studies during systematic reviews, scoping reviews, and other structured literature reviews. It helps researchers manage references they have already collected, remove duplicates, assess eligibility, and record decisions in a shared workspace. Teachers and educational researchers can use it to work through large search results and coordinate reviews with colleagues or students.

Read [Rayyan full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Reference importing	Bring in search results from academic databases and reference managers using several file formats.
Duplicate management	Detect possible duplicates and resolve them manually or through predefined matching rules.
Title and abstract screening	Mark records as Include, Exclude, or Maybe and add labels, notes, and exclusion reasons.
Blind screening	Hide reviewers' decisions from one another to support independent assessment.
Conflict identification	Flag disagreements between inclusion and exclusion decisions for reviewers to resolve.
Relevance ranking	Learn from screening decisions to prioritise potentially relevant records.
Full-text screening	Attach PDFs, assess complete papers, and document reasons for exclusion.

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Structured extraction and appraisal	Collect study information and record risk-of-bias assessments.
ResearchPilot AI	On eligible institutional plans, provide AI-assisted reviewing, extraction, and article chat.
Reporting and exports	Export review data and generate PRISMA flow diagrams on supported plans.

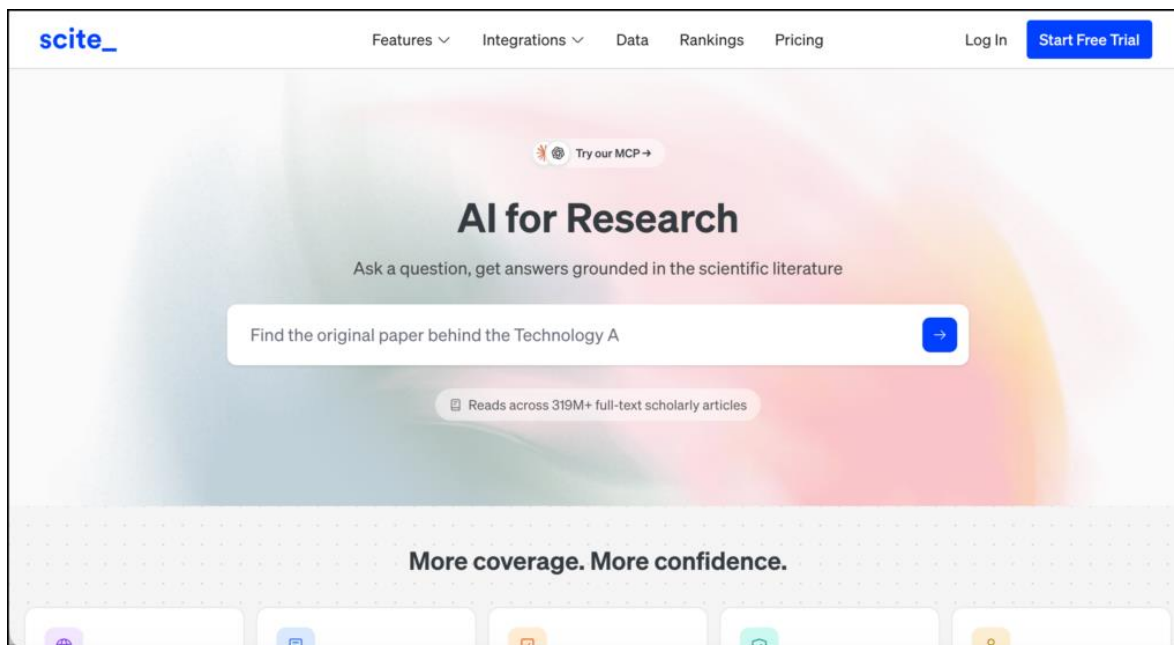
A few suggestions on how to use Rayyan:

- **Review a teaching strategy:** Screen research on topics such as reading interventions, formative assessment, or AI-supported feedback.
- **Support collaborative research:** Have colleagues assess papers independently, then discuss disagreements using agreed eligibility criteria.
- **Guide graduate literature reviews:** Help students organise screening, full-text selection, and extraction within a documented process.
- **Refine a research question:** Pilot screening on a small set of papers to identify unclear definitions or overly broad inclusion criteria.
- **Compare study contexts:** Extract information about learner groups, educational settings, interventions, outcomes, and limitations.
- **Teach evidence selection:** Ask students to explain why a paper meets or fails the review criteria.
- **Evaluate AI suggestions:** Check relevance rankings or extracted values against abstracts and full texts, discussing where the suggestions fall short.
- **Prepare transparent reports:** Use recorded decisions and exclusion reasons to explain how the final evidence base was selected.

Rayyan supports review management after database searching. Relevance rankings help prioritise screening; they do not determine eligibility. AI recommendations and extracted information require human verification.

5. Scite

Scite helps researchers explore how academic papers have been cited. Its Smart Citations display the passages surrounding a citation and classify them as supporting, contrasting, or mentioning the earlier work. For teachers exploring educational research, this provides a useful way to investigate disagreement, follow later studies, and examine the evidence behind familiar claims. Scite also offers research question answering, citation searches, reference checking, and alerts. Read [Scite full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Smart Citations	Shows citation passages with automated supporting, contrasting, or mentioning classifications.
Citation reports	Brings together a paper's citation statements, with filters for publication year, classification, section, and source type.
Scite Assistant	Answers research questions in natural language and links its responses to academic sources.
Citation-statement search	Finds discussions within indexed full-text citation passages that may be absent from titles and abstracts.
Reference Check	Examines references in an uploaded manuscript PDF and flags retractions, editorial notices, and contrasting citations.
Collections and alerts	Organizes papers and monitors new citations and relevant developments.
Browser extension	Displays citation information on supported scholarly websites and search platforms.
Zotero integration	Brings citation information into an existing reference-management workflow.

A few suggestions on how to use Scite:

- **Investigate teaching claims:** Explore the research behind claims about retrieval practice, formative assessment, or AI feedback.
- **Look for conflicting findings:** Find studies that challenge an intervention before deciding how to apply it.

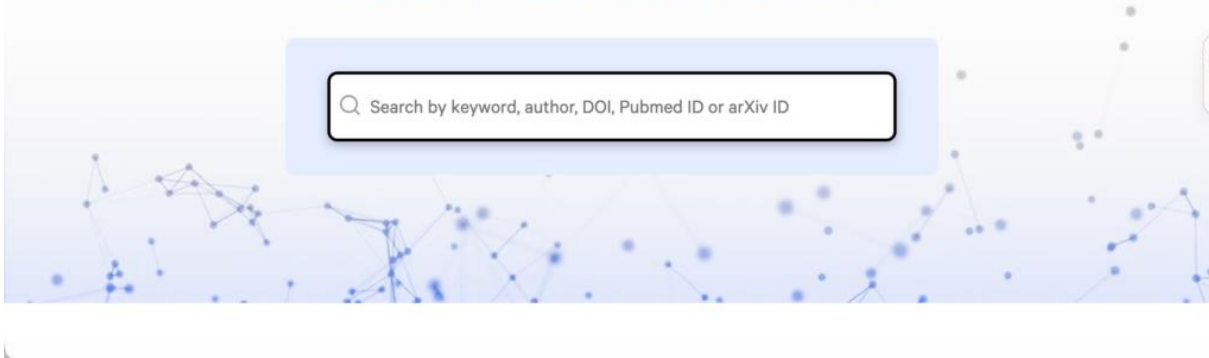
- **Follow influential studies:** Examine whether later research extends, questions, or independently tests a widely cited paper.
- **Prepare professional learning discussions:** Bring supporting and contrasting passages to a staff reading group and discuss their implications.
- **Teach critical reading:** Ask students to compare Scite's classification with the complete citing passage and explain whether they agree.
- **Support postgraduate research:** Help students develop initial reading lists and trace scholarly debates around their research questions.
- **Check manuscript references:** Review flagged sources before submitting an article, dissertation, or research report.
- **Monitor an evolving topic:** Create a collection on an area such as AI in education and follow new citation developments.

Scite's classifications are prompts for closer reading. They do not establish study quality or prove that a claim is correct, and its coverage depends on the sources available to its index.

6. Litmaps

Litmaps helps researchers discover academic papers through visual citation maps. Starting with a topic, several relevant papers, or an existing reference collection, users can explore connections between publications and find related studies. For teachers, it offers a practical way to trace the development of educational ideas, broaden a reading list, and monitor new research. Its main role is literature discovery; evaluating findings still requires reading the papers. Read [Litmaps full review](#).

Discover the world of Scientific Literature



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Visual citation maps	Displays papers and their citation relationships to help users explore a body of literature.
Multiple starting papers	Uses a set of relevant publications to generate related-paper recommendations.
Iterative discovery	Incorporates papers added through “More Like This” into subsequent searches.
Different discovery methods	Offers citation-based searching and Similar Text searching using titles and abstracts.
Advanced filters	Paid features allow searches to be refined by date, keywords, author, journal, and selected journal metrics.
Tags	Organizes papers by theme, purpose, or review status.
Zotero Sync	Synchronizes article records and metadata between connected tags and Zotero collections on Pro. Notes and attached PDFs are excluded.
Import and export	Supports transferring references through formats including BibTeX, RIS, and CSV.
Monitor alerts	Reruns saved searches and emails users when new related papers are found.
Sharing	Allows maps to be shared with students, colleagues, supervisors, and research teams.

A few suggestions on how to use Litmaps:

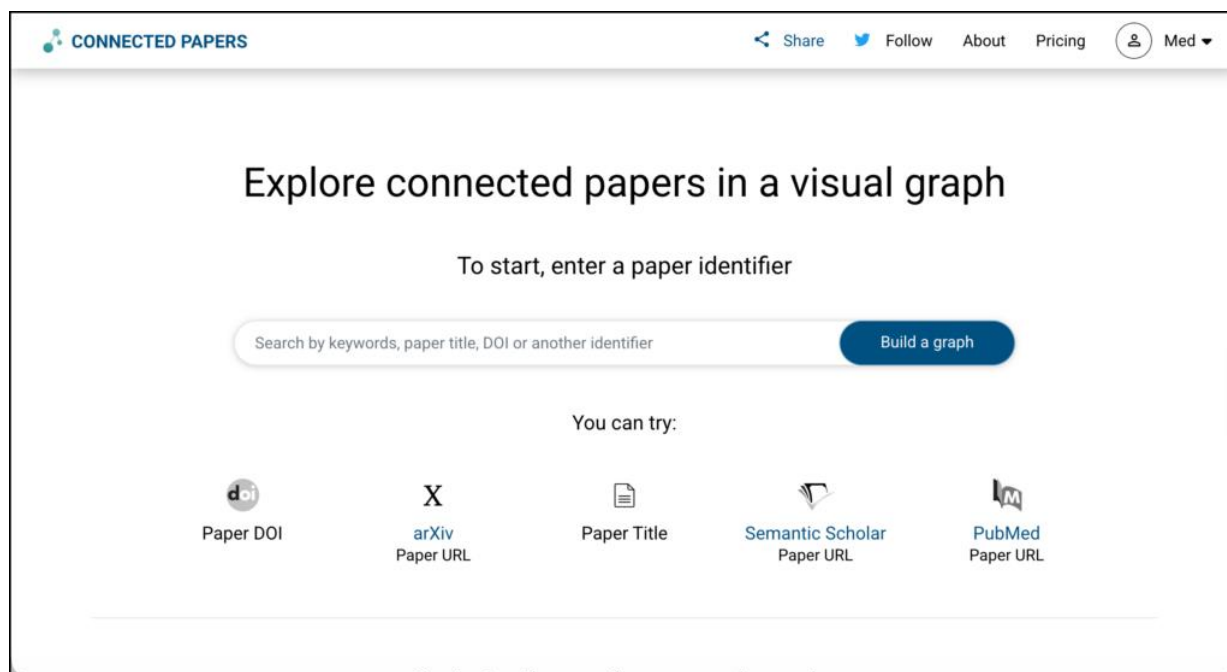
- **Build a focused reading list:** Start with several relevant studies on a teaching question and explore related publications.
- **Trace an educational idea:** Follow references backward to foundational work and citations forward to later developments.
- **Broaden a literature search:** Use Similar Text to look for studies from neighbouring disciplines or using unfamiliar terminology.

- **Teach citation searching:** Have students practise finding earlier sources and later studies around a seed paper.
- **Support dissertation planning:** Help postgraduate students explore research clusters and identify questions to investigate further.
- **Guide reading-group discussions:** Share a map showing how selected studies connect, then compare their methods and findings.
- **Organize a research project:** Tag papers as background theory, methods, or requiring full-text review before transferring them into a reference manager.
- **Keep professional learning current:** Monitor a map on a continuing interest, such as inclusive assessment or feedback literacy.

A citation map shows relationships between publications. Dense clusters do not establish strong evidence, and empty spaces do not establish research gaps either. Use Litmaps alongside database searches and full-text appraisal.

7. Connected Papers

Connected Papers helps researchers discover literature around a paper they already know. It creates a visual graph of related publications using shared references and patterns of being cited together. For teachers exploring educational research, it offers a quick way to locate neighbouring studies, identify foundational sources, and find later developments. Papers can appear close together even when neither directly cites the other, so the graph represents bibliographic similarity rather than a direct citation tree. Read [Connected Papers full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Similar-paper graphs	Creates a visual overview of publications related to a selected origin paper.
Flexible starting points	Accepts a paper title, DOI, URL, or another supported identifier.
Visual research cues	Uses position to represent similarity, circle size to indicate citation counts, and colour to show publication year.
Prior Works	Identifies earlier publications frequently cited by papers in the graph, helping users locate potential foundational sources.
Derivative Works	Finds later publications that cite several papers in the graph, including follow-up studies and reviews.
Multi-origin graphs	Allows users to add origin papers and refine discovery toward literature related to the selected publications.
Graph and list views	Combines visual exploration with a list for scanning publication details.
Saved papers and graph history	Lets account holders save interesting publications and revisit previous graphs.

A few suggestions on how to use Connected Papers:

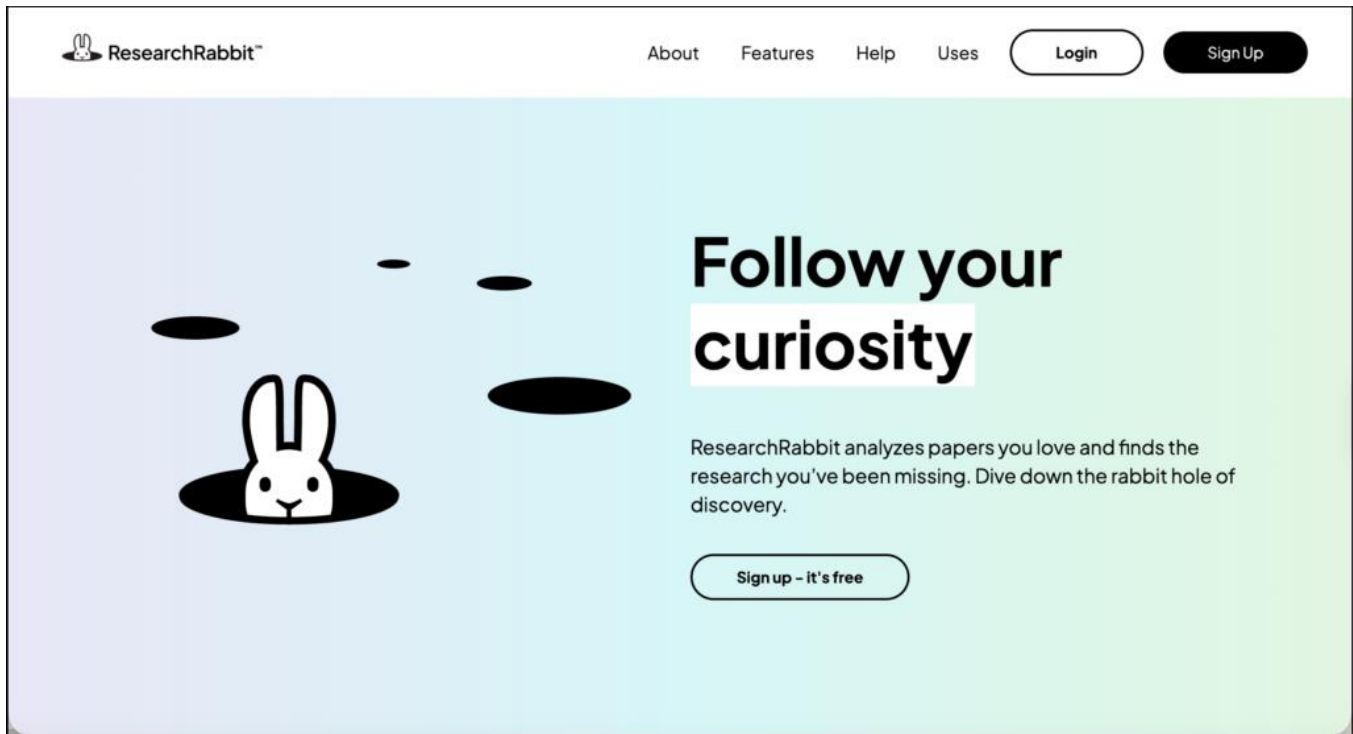
- **Expand a reading list:** Start with a relevant study on feedback, assessment, or inclusive teaching and screen the surrounding papers.
- **Explore the origins of an idea:** Use Prior Works to locate early theoretical publications or the original source of a research instrument.

- **Find later developments:** Use Derivative Works to investigate how subsequent studies have extended, applied, or questioned earlier research.
- **Teach literature-searching skills:** Ask students to select an origin paper, identify three relevant discoveries, and explain their selection.
- **Connect related topics:** Build a multi-origin graph around concepts such as automated feedback and feedback literacy, then examine the suggested connections.
- **Compare research perspectives:** Generate separate graphs from papers representing different disciplines or geographical contexts and compare their coverage.
- **Support postgraduate projects:** Help students orient themselves within an unfamiliar field before developing a structured database search.
- **Develop critical visual literacy:** Ask students why a large or central node attracts attention and what additional evidence they need to judge the paper's quality.

Connected Papers helps identify sources to read. Graph position and citation counts do not establish agreement or research quality, and results depend on the origin papers and available citation data. Use it alongside database searches and full-text evaluation.

8. ResearchRabbit

ResearchRabbit helps researchers discover academic literature by exploring connections among papers, references, citations, and authors. Starting with a few relevant “seed papers,” teachers can find earlier foundations, later studies, and related publications through interactive networks. Collections, notes, sharing, and alerts support ongoing exploration, making it useful for building reading lists and extending a literature search. Read [ResearchRabbit full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Interactive citation maps	Displays relationships among papers and allows users to explore earlier references and later citing publications.
Similar-paper recommendations	Suggests related studies based on papers users save and explore.
Multiple seed papers	Uses a set of starting publications to open different routes into the literature.
Author networks	Helps users explore connected researchers and research groups.
Collections and subcollections	Organizes papers by topic, source type, or stage of a research project.
Notes and visual labels	Supports notes, colours, and stickers for recording why papers may be useful.
Sharing and collaboration	Allows colleagues and students to contribute to shared collections or access them through public links.

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Reference-manager imports and exports	Imports existing collections and exports references in BibTeX, RIS, or CSV. The Zotero connection currently works mainly as an importer.
Research alerts	Helps users follow new work connected to their collections. ResearchRabbit+ adds Signals alerts for research-integrity concerns.
Advanced filters	Paid features include filters for keywords, dates, open-access availability, retractions, and selected journal metrics.

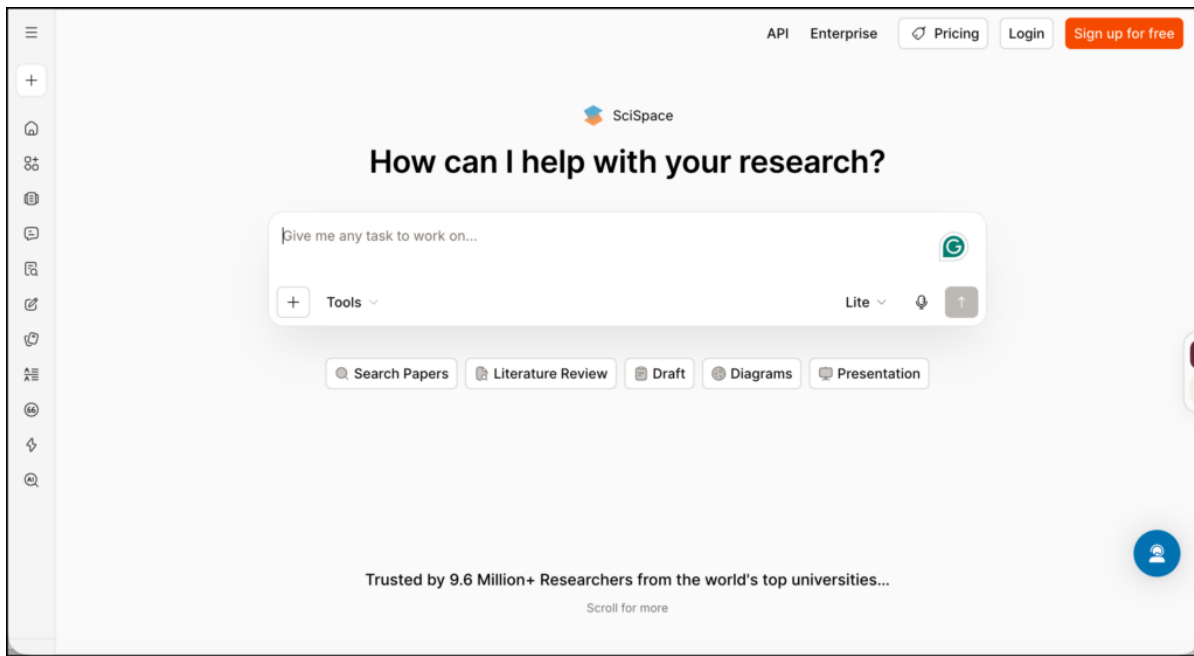
A Few suggestions on how to use ResearchRabbit:

- **Research a classroom question:** Start with several studies on feedback, assessment, or student engagement and explore relevant neighbouring work.
- **Trace a teaching approach:** Follow references backward to foundational sources and citations forward to later applications or critiques.
- **Build professional learning collections:** Gather papers around a school priority and share candidates with a staff reading group.
- **Teach citation searching:** Ask students to locate an earlier reference, a later citing study, and a similar paper, then explain each source's relevance.
- **Support postgraduate reviews:** Help students organize potential studies before formal screening and full-text appraisal.
- **Explore research communities:** Examine author networks and discuss whether several publications represent independent teams or one connected group.
- **Broaden a search:** Use seed papers from different disciplines, regions, and methodological traditions, then compare the recommendations.
- **Keep course readings current:** Review alerts for new publications and evaluate promising additions to an existing reading list.

ResearchRabbit supports source discovery. Its maps do not establish study quality, agreement between findings, or search completeness. Recommendations depend on the starting papers and available citation data, so combine them with database searches and careful reading.

9. SciSpace

SciSpace combines literature search, PDF reading, data extraction, citation tools, and AI-assisted writing. Teachers can find studies, question individual papers, and compare evidence across publications. Check its summaries, extracted details, and citations against the original sources. Read [SciSpace full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Literature search	Accepts keywords or research questions and presents related papers in tables that can be filtered, compared, and exported.
Deep Review	Produces a structured synthesis to support initial exploration of a research topic.
Chat with PDF	Answers questions about uploaded papers and points to relevant parts of the document.
Data extraction	Builds comparison tables using selected parameters, such as participants, research design, findings, and limitations.
Multilingual support	Supports extraction across multiple languages, helping users explore literature beyond English.
Research Agent	Handles requests combining searching, summarizing, extracting, and drafting, with task-specific agents and templates.
Research library	Organizes uploaded papers into folders and connects with Zotero to import papers for analysis.
Citation tools	Formats references in different citation styles and exports them for use in reference managers.
Writing support	Helps develop outlines, reorganize passages, and paraphrase text.
Browser extension	Provides explanations, summaries, and citation support while browsing scholarly pages and PDFs.

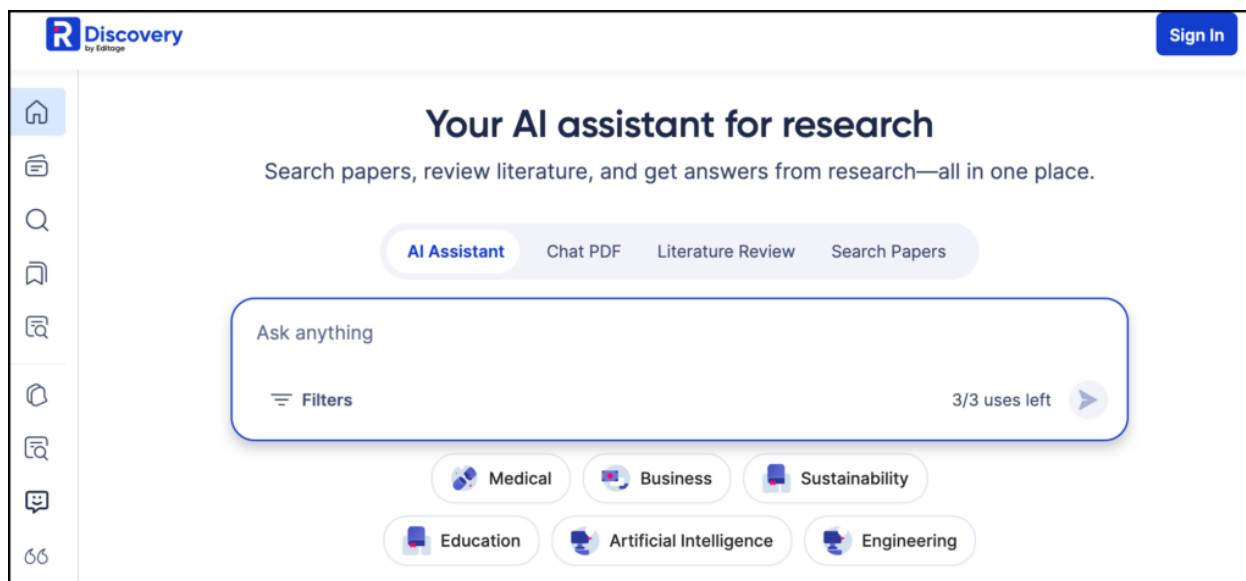
A Few suggestions on how to use Scispace:

- **Investigate a classroom question:** Search for research on a focused issue, such as whether automated feedback helps students revise their writing.
- **Prepare for close reading:** Ask for explanations of unfamiliar concepts or methods, then read the relevant passages in the paper.
- **Compare teaching interventions:** Build a table showing study populations, approaches, outcomes, and limitations, checking each entry against its source.
- **Create professional learning materials:** Use verified notes to prepare discussion questions and concise study overviews for colleagues.
- **Teach source verification:** Ask students to compare a PDF answer with the cited passage and identify missing qualifications or unsupported interpretations.
- **Support postgraduate reviews:** Help students organize candidate papers and extract consistent information after applying their inclusion criteria.
- **Explore multilingual literature:** Use language support to identify potentially relevant studies, checking important terminology and findings carefully.
- **Plan a literature-review structure:** Use writing support to organize verified notes into themes while retaining responsibility for the argument and citations.

SciSpace's generated reviews and extraction tables require verification. A Deep Review does not complete a systematic-review process, and formatted references still need metadata checks. Its AI detector should not be treated as proof of student authorship or misconduct.

10. R Discovery

R Discovery helps researchers find papers, follow new publications, and organize reading. Available on the web, mobile, and through a Chrome extension, it combines personalized feeds, alerts, AI question answering, and PDF support. Teachers can use it to maintain focused reading lists and follow educational research. Read [R Discovery full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Academic literature search	Finds papers by topic, keyword, title, author, or journal, with filters and saved searches.
Ask R Discovery	Responds to research questions in natural language with synthesized answers and references.
Personalized feeds	Recommends papers based on selected topics, journals, and interactions with suggested publications.
Research alerts	Provides updates on new work related to followed topics and saved searches.
Chat PDF	Answers questions about papers, summarizes sections, and explains unfamiliar terminology.
Paper previews	Offers summaries and reading-time estimates to help users prioritize reading.
Audio and translation	Prime features support listening to research content and translating papers into more than 30 languages.
Reading lists and sharing	Organizes saved papers into project collections that can be shared with colleagues or students.
Reference-manager connections	Exports papers to Zotero and Mendeley, with automatic synchronization available through Prime.
Institutional access	Connects with services such as GetFTR and LibKey to help eligible users retrieve subscribed full texts.

A Few suggestions on how to use R Discovery:

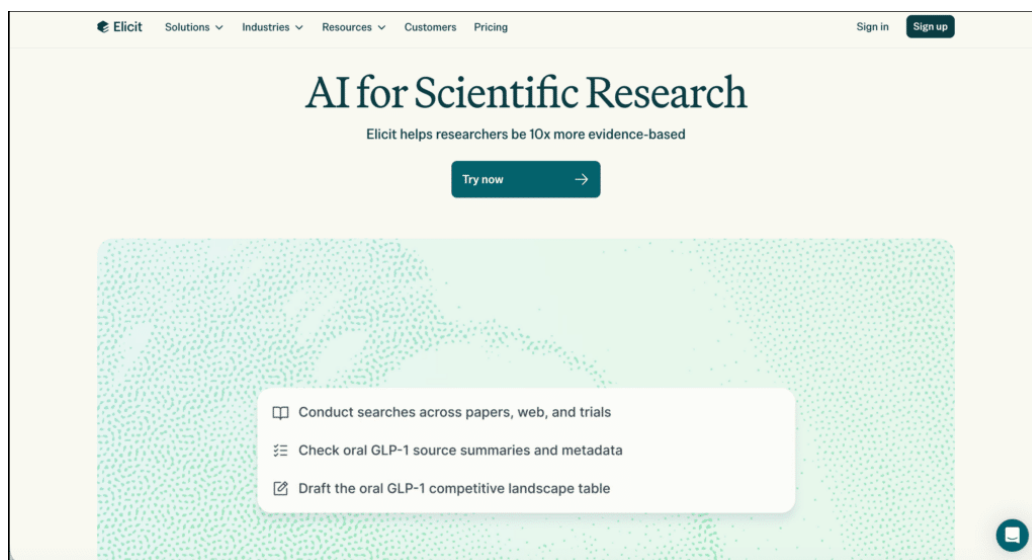
- **Follow a professional learning topic:** Create a focused feed on formative assessment, inclusive teaching, or AI-supported feedback.

- **Prepare for a research discussion:** Preview recommended papers, then read selected studies before a staff meeting or journal club.
- **Explore research vocabulary:** Ask a focused question and examine the cited papers for alternative terms to use in database searches.
- **Support postgraduate students:** Share a starter reading list and ask students to add relevant studies with brief annotations.
- **Read in short sessions:** Use the mobile app to review abstracts and save promising papers between other commitments.
- **Revisit familiar research through audio:** Listen to an abstract or previously read paper, returning to the text for methodological details and tables.
- **Teach critical AI reading:** Have students compare a Chat PDF response with the original passage and identify omitted qualifications.
- **Keep course readings current:** Review new-paper alerts and transfer useful references into an established citation manager.

Personalized feeds support awareness, but they cannot establish that a literature search is complete. Check generated answers, summaries, and translations against the original papers, and use documented database searches for formal reviews.

11. Elicit

Elicit helps researchers find academic papers and compare evidence in structured tables. Teachers can search with a research question and organize study participants, methods, findings, and limitations. Its main strength is connecting literature discovery with evidence extraction. Read [Elicit full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Natural-language search	Finds papers related to the meaning of a research question, helping users discover studies that use different terminology.
Structured comparison tables	Organizes studies into customizable columns covering research design, population, intervention, outcomes, and limitations.
Source-linked extraction	Provides supporting passages that users can inspect when checking extracted information.
Research Reports	Produces referenced overviews using templates such as general reviews, one-page summaries, and research gap analyses.
Paper chat	Allows users to question a small group of papers and explore differences in definitions, methods, or findings.
Review workflow	Supports title-and-abstract screening, full-text screening, data extraction, and reporting.
Boolean searching	Offers keyword-based searches alongside semantic search for greater control over search strategies.
Research library and imports	Organizes papers and imports existing references from Zotero.
Export options	Transfers evidence tables, references, and reports into spreadsheets, reference managers, and document formats, depending on the plan.

A Few suggestions on how to use Elicit:

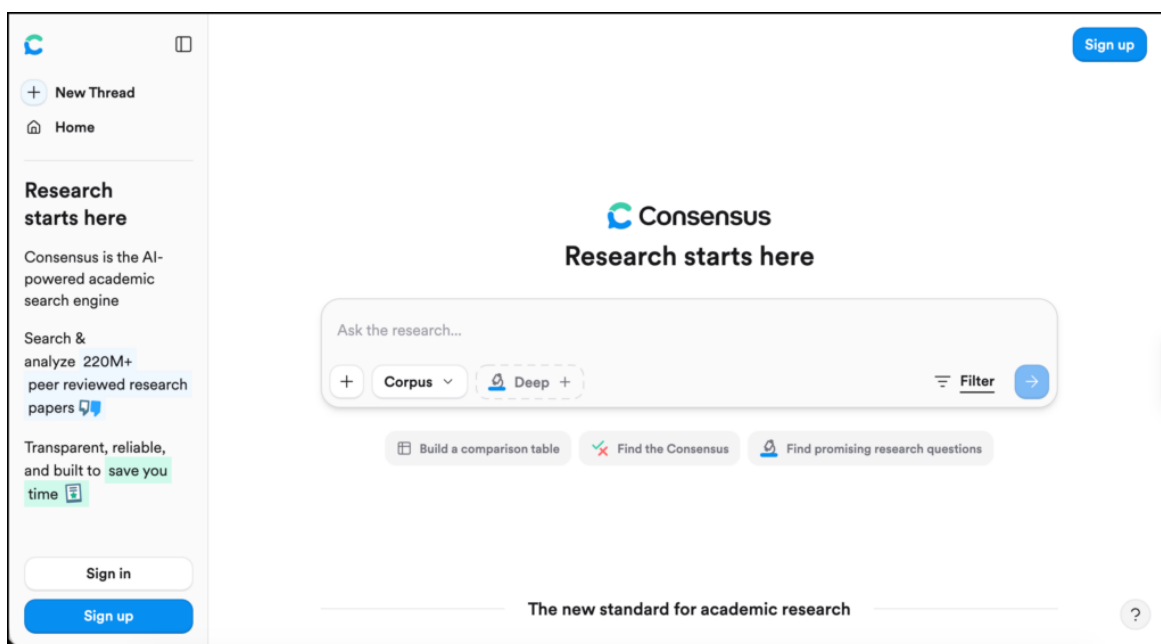
- **Investigate a teaching question:** Search for studies on a focused issue, such as retrieval practice and vocabulary retention among second-language learners.
- **Compare classroom interventions:** Create columns for educational setting, intervention duration, comparison conditions, and measured outcomes.
- **Examine relevance to learners:** Compare study populations and contexts before deciding whether findings apply to a particular class.
- **Prepare professional learning discussions:** Build a checked evidence table around a school priority and use it to discuss patterns and disagreements.
- **Teach evidence extraction:** Ask students to verify an extracted finding against its supporting passage and record any missing qualifications.
- **Support postgraduate reviews:** Help students organize candidate studies, apply screening criteria, and maintain an evidence matrix.
- **Distinguish perceptions from outcomes:** Compare whether studies measured learning, collected participant opinions, or examined another kind of evidence.

- **Develop research vocabulary:** Use initial results to identify alternative terms and improve subsequent database searches.

Elicit's tables and reports are working materials for further analysis. Important extractions need checking against the original papers, and some records may contain only abstracts. Formal reviews still require a documented search strategy, appropriate database coverage, and critical appraisal.

12. Consensus

Consensus is an AI-powered academic search engine that helps you find studies, explore research questions, and compare findings. You can search in ordinary language, view relevant papers, and generate summaries linked to the underlying research. Teachers and researchers can use it to investigate educational questions and identify sources for closer reading. Read [Consensus full review](#).



Key features

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Research-question searching	Search using questions, keywords, or descriptions of a research problem.
Paper Search	Retrieve relevant papers without generating an AI synthesis.
Pro analysis	Generate a cited synthesis of findings from selected search results.
Deep Review	Explore complex questions through broader searches and a more detailed research synthesis.
Consensus Meter	Display the apparent agreement or disagreement among selected papers for suitable yes-or-no questions.

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES
Study Snapshot	Present key study details, such as methods, population, sample size, and outcomes, where available.
Research filters	Narrow results by characteristics such as publication date, study method, sample size, and open-access availability.
Ask Paper	Ask questions about an individual paper to explore its content more closely.

A few suggestions on how to use Consensus:

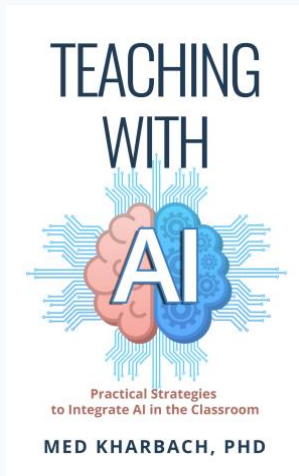
- **Investigate a classroom question:** Search for studies on an issue such as retrieval practice, writing feedback, or student motivation.
- **Refine a research topic:** Explore an initial question, inspect relevant papers, and collect terminology for more focused database searches.
- **Compare findings:** Examine studies supporting different conclusions and consider whether their methods, populations, or settings explain the differences.
- **Prepare professional learning:** Select papers for a department discussion and use the summaries to develop questions for reading the original studies.
- **Build a literature-review starting set:** Identify potentially relevant papers, check their eligibility, and save their references in your research library.
- **Teach evidence evaluation:** Ask students to compare an AI-generated synthesis with its cited papers and identify missing qualifications or unsupported interpretations.

Consensus is useful for exploration, but its summaries and agreement indicators do not establish evidence quality or search completeness. Check the original studies and combine it with appropriate databases and documented screening procedures for formal reviews.

AI Disclosure Statement

AI tools (namely Claude and ChatGPT) were used for limited editorial support in the preparation of this guide, including language clarity, synthesis, and stylistic consistency. I retain full responsibility for all content and claims.

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