









## Description

The journey of academia is a grand quest for knowledge, more specifically an adventure to find the right information through credible sources, and that's where scholarly sources walk in. As the name suggests, it simply means that such sources are written by scholars and experts of a specialized field. These sources are in the form of journal articles, books, conference publications, or websites. Such resources undergo a stringent [peer-review process](#) by a panel of subject matter experts. Thus, the findings presented are credible and refined. In contrast, popular sources, such as newspapers, magazines, and blogs, often lack the meticulous scrutiny of [peer review](#) and may prioritize approachability over technical accuracy.

Let's explore the key points of difference between scholarly sources and popular sources:

<b>POINT OF DIFFERENTIATION</b>	<b>POPULAR SOURCES</b>	<b>SCHOLARLY SOURCES</b>
 <b>Target Audience</b>	General audience	Researchers, academics, and students at the university level
 <b>Purpose</b>	To engage or educate people at a generic level, and highlight the societal impact	To share critical outcomes of research studies with peers from same or allied research areas
 <b>Source Citations</b>	No references included	Bibliography listed at the end in standard citation styles (APA, ACS, AMA)
 <b>Authorship</b>	Journalists or copywriters	Academics or researchers (credentials listed)
 <b>Editing and Review Process</b>	Edited by language experts; not necessarily subject matter experts. No peer review	Edited and peer reviewed by subject matter experts
 <b>Presentation</b>	Contains visual elements intended to entertain or share surface-level information; shorter in length	Contains charts, graphs; longer in length with the intent to disseminate knowledge

## Why Cite Scholarly Sources When Writing Your Research Paper?

Selecting scholarly sources is a strategic decision that affects your research outcome, as it builds the foundation of your academic work. It plays a crucial role for individuals at every stage of their academic journey, benefiting both early-career and established researchers. It allows scholars to actively participate in academic conversations by sharing valuable insights in their field, inspiring others in the research area to make advancements. Furthermore, for a university student, making their first stride in scholarly research, it enhances their knowledge and serves as a gateway to join the scholarly

community.

Curious about the nuances of [literature review](#) in academia? Take our short quiz now to deepen your understanding of this essential academic practice.



Depending on the platform where the source is hosted or published, researchers could verify whether the source is scholarly or not in just 3 steps. Find them [here for free](#).

## Exploring Barriers in Scholarly Literature Search

Exploring today's vast information landscape is like finding a needle in a haystack. This mirrors the challenges researchers face with the overwhelming number of scholarly articles in today's digital age. According to the [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics](#), scientists publish nearly 3 million publications each year. A simple query search on platforms like Google Scholar can result in an overwhelming number of articles, posing a challenge to navigate through them and gain a comprehensive overview. Furthermore, such scholarly search platforms often fail to reveal new findings in a particular field as the system tends to favor [highly cited](#), older articles.

Modern researchers and students face further complex challenges as science becomes more specialized, introducing peculiar jargon and keywords. This coupled with the multidisciplinary nature of research, can result in overlooking valuable findings from other fields due to specific jargon and knowledgebase constraints. Other challenges include identifying and selecting relevant resources due to the diverse formats in which information is presented (journal articles, preprints, conference posters, etc.), selecting which literature to choose with precision to [prevent unintended plagiarism](#), and software limitations in managing literature sources in different formats.

## Understanding the Use of AI Research Assistance Tools for Reliable Scholarly Sources

In this world of the internet, where a single click generates thousands of search results, [AI research assistance tools](#) can guide you through this chaos to the right scholarly source. These tools automate the process of identifying reliable papers, finding and summarizing relevant sections of a [research paper](#), analyzing it to bridge knowledge gaps, and generating potential project ideas. Listed below are the pros and cons of such tools to help you make informed decisions when incorporating these tools into your research workflow:

### Pros

- Time and resource efficiency
- Elevated writing standards due to assistance in organizing data
- Higher-quality research insights
- Personalized assistance

### Cons

- Concerns about the originality of AI-generated content
- [Ethical concerns](#), especially regarding data privacy and bias
- Lack of nuanced understanding by AI
- Risk of hallucination

## 4 Essential Research Assistance AI Tools

Currently, there are numerous AI-based tools with a wide range of capabilities for [literature review assistance](#), each tailored to specific requirements. It is imperative to make an informed decision based on certain evaluation parameters that sets each of these tools apart. Simplifying this choice for you, we have compared 4 most useful AI research assistance tools to understand their distinctiveness:

## COMPARISON OF 4 ESSENTIAL AI TOOLS FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

FEATURE	SEMANTIC SCHOLAR	ENAGO READ	SCITE	CONNECTED PAPERS
Accuracy				
Relevancy				
Access to the Article Type	Open access & closed access articles	Open access articles	Open access & closed access articles	Access not explicitly mentioned
Availability of Free Plan	Free plan available	Free plan available	Free trial of 7 days available	Free plan available
Citation Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited information on direct citation support
Copilot Mode	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA
Input File Format	Enter the title, author, keyword, or DOI of the research article	Upload your file in PDF format or paste the URL	Enter the title, author, keyword, or DOI of the research article	Enter the title, author, keyword, or DOI of the research article

Here is a comprehensive analysis of 4 most useful AI research assistance tools for a thorough understanding of their capabilities:

### 1. Semantic Scholar

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Semantic scholar is an AI-powered search engine that:

- Conducts contextual analysis of papers.
- Offers advanced citation analysis and automates the process of identifying relevant research papers from its database of over 200 million papers for literature reviews.
- Bridges knowledge gaps and prompts project ideas.

## 2. Enago Read

[Enago Read](#) offers several features to enhance the experience of researchers for literature exploration and research process. They include:

- Summarizes key sections of papers, allowing for quick insight into the content of a research article.
- Supports inline attachments, ensuring a seamless organization of project-related files.
- Provides AI-powered suggestions to discover related research material and stay updated with relevant news from the large data repository of 170+ million research papers.
- Promotes enhanced collaboration and structured note-taking for better team communication, accelerating the process of literature review and critical reading.
- Streamlines the [management of references](#), contributing to a more efficient and organized research workflow.

## 3. Scite

Scite is an AI research tool that:

- Provides services to enhance the research experience, including smart citations that support, contrast, and mention relevant content
- Presents citation contexts with accompanying text excerpts, allowing for a more in-depth understanding from over 181 million papers.
- Facilitates thorough literature reviews, making it a valuable tool for researchers engaging in systematic reviews and meta-analyses

## 4. Connected Papers

Connected Papers aids in [identifying gaps in literature reviews](#) in the following ways:

- Provides valuable insights for your scholarly venture
- Visualizes the research landscape, helping you identify key papers and trends
- Deepens your understanding of research relationships by exploring paper interconnections

While many AI research assistant tools help in identifying and storing scholarly sources, the real challenge is in efficiently connecting them. You must try and choose a platform that acts as an all-in-one solution. A platform that promotes your research needs, enabling you to execute literature analysis, collaborate with your team, identify research gaps, draft, and explore the journey of research.

Have you used any of the mentioned AI research assistance tools to find reliable scholarly sources and

analyze them? Let us know how this article has contributed to your journey in finding the right research source for you. Also, don't forget to share your preferred AI tool for academic research on [Enago Academy's Open Platform](#).

### Category

1. Reporting Research

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