

Singapore Management University

Institutional Knowledge at Singapore Management University

Research Collection Library

SMU Libraries

8-2022

Digital tools - Supporting systematic reviews & evidence synthesis. Where are we now and what might the future look like?

Aaron TAY

Singapore Management University, aarontay@smu.edu.sg

Follow this and additional works at: https://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/library_research



Part of the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

Citation

TAY, Aaron. Digital tools - Supporting systematic reviews & evidence synthesis. Where are we now and what might the future look like?. (2022). *ALIA HLA Lunchtime Seminar 2023, August 12*. 1-39.
Available at: https://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/library_research/209

This Invited Academic Talk/Lecture is brought to you for free and open access by the SMU Libraries at Institutional Knowledge at Singapore Management University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Collection Library by an authorized administrator of Institutional Knowledge at Singapore Management University. For more information, please email cherylids@smu.edu.sg.

***Digital tools - Supporting systematic reviews & evidence synthesis.
Where are we now and what might the future look like?
ALIA HLA Lunchtime Seminar***

Aaron Tay (Lead, Data Services)* ***Not a Health Science Librarian**
Singapore Management University Libraries
12 Aug 2022



Aarontay@gmail.com

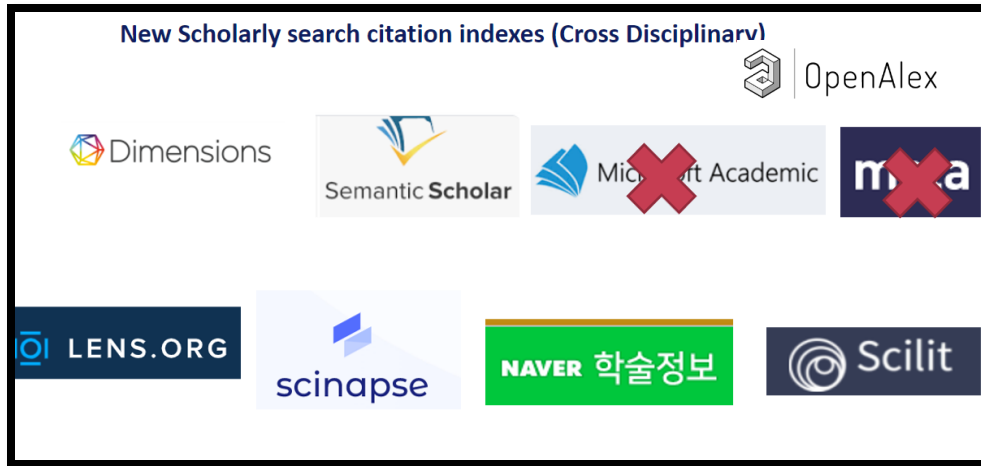


@aarontay



<https://musingsaboutlibrarianship.blogspot.com>

Myriad of new classes of discovery tools



Citation based literature mapping services

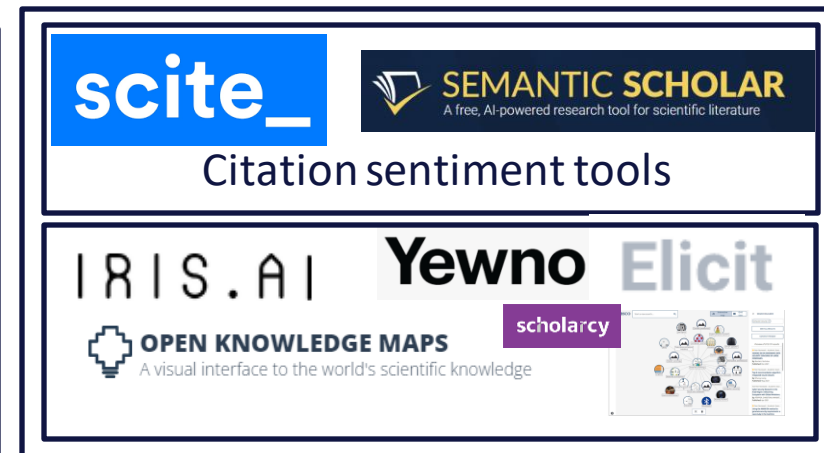
New mega citation indexes



Science mapping tools



Research Graphs



Full-text extraction

The world we used to live in*.....



Embase®



WEB OF SCIENCE®

Scopus®



CINAHL®
Available via EBSCOhost®



The world we now live .. mega bibliographic databases

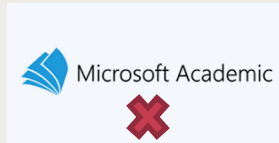
Estimated >200 million records*



[Link](#)



[Link](#)



[Link\(Successor\)](#)



[Link](#)



[Link](#)



[Link](#)

Estimated >100 million records*



[Link](#)



[Link](#)



[Link](#)



[Link](#)

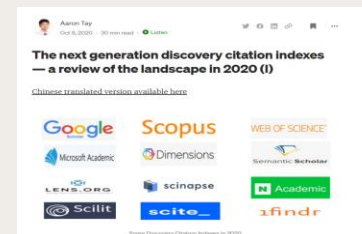


[Link](#)

Open Access | [Published: 06 May 2022](#)

Search where you will find most: Comparing the disciplinary coverage of 56 bibliographic databases

[Michael Gusenbauer](#)  *[Gusenbauer \(2022\)](#)



[Blog post](#)

Is a single source database search a realistic dream?

Research article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 09 January 2013](#)

Is the coverage of google scholar enough to be used alone for systematic reviews


[Jean-François Gehanno](#) , [Laetitia Rollin](#) & [Stefan Darmoni](#)

[BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making](#) **13**, Article number: 7 (2013) | [Cite this article](#)

26k Accesses | **163** Citations | **163** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Research article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 26 October 2013](#)

Google Scholar as replacement for systematic literature searches: good relative recall and precision are not enough

[Martin Boeker](#) , [Werner Vach](#) & [Edith Motschall](#)

[BMC Medical Research Methodology](#) **13**, Article number: 131 (2013) | [Cite this article](#)

16k Accesses | **89** Citations | **124** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Which academic search systems are suitable for systematic reviews or meta-analyses? Evaluating retrieval qualities of Google Scholar, PubMed, and 26 other resources



[Michael Gusenbauer](#) ¹, [Neal R Haddaway](#) ² ³

Affiliations [+ expand](#)

PMID: 31614060 PMCID: [PMC7079055](#) DOI: [10.1002/jrsm.1378](#)

Ideal academic search engine to support structured search

- Size of index – ideally has good retrospective coverage, and coverage of grey literature and non-English literature
- Functionality – support of
 - Controlled vocabulary
 - Exact Phrase searching
 - Field searching
 - Boolean searching
 - AND/OR/NOT
 - Parentheses
 - Proximity operators
 - Truncation, Wildcard support
 - No or high maximum search query character limit
 - Post query filter support (See [Jeroen Baas comparison of 51 search engine filters](#))

Adapted from [Gusenbauer & Haddaway \(2019\)](#)

Ideal academic search engine to support structured search

- Transparency and openness (reproducibility)
 - Transparency and openness of sources
 - **Open Data**
 - Size of batch downloads via web interface
 - Open Licensing of Data
 - Is code (relevancy algo etc) transparent or a black box?
 - Reproducibility of search results across different times and locations

Comparison of Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG)

	Google Scholar	Microsoft Academic
Size of index	Largest index* , Excellent coverage of non-English and Grey literature	2nd largest in most subject areas*
Support of Gusenbauer & Haddaway (2019) search features	Bad	Very bad - "Semantic Search"
Are also black boxes?	Yes	Yes
Restrictions in downloads in Web interface?	Yes	Yes
Licensing of data	Closed	Open Data – ODC-BY

Comparison of Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG)

"There has recently been an upsurge in using semantic search engines over traditional ones, as is evident in the birth of Semantic Scholar (2015), the relaunch of Microsoft Academic (2017), and the expected launch of *Meta*, a project of the Zuckerberg foundation. These semantic search engines tend to be designed to reward exploratory rather than systematic search behavior. ... Our findings indicating that these systems are inadequate to be used as principal systems in systematic searches support this notion." (Gusenbauer & Haddaway, 2019, p. 211)

What is Lens.org?

FILTERS

Date Range

Flags

Author

Institution

Institution Country/Region

Identifier Type

Funding

Journal

Conference Name

Publication Type

Publisher

Subject Matter

Open Access

Query Tools

Structured Search

Query Text Editor

Profiles

Field

Predicate: AND OR

Field of Study

e.g. Medicine

+ -

Title, Abstract or Full Text

+ -

Institution Name

e.g. Harvard University

+ -

Date Range

ORCID Lookup Author

Flags

Identifier Type

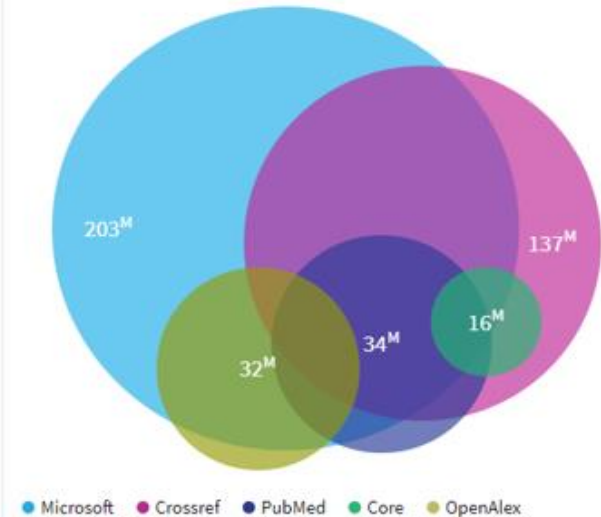
Publication Type

Search

SCHOLARLY DATA SET

 Last updated: Jul 29, 2022

The below scholarly data sources are currently ingested and integrated in the Lens. Updates are performed on a fortnightly basis at the present time.





[Lens.org](https://lens.org)

	Lens.org
Size of index	4th largest index (Combines MAG+Crossref+Pubmed etc)*
Support of Gusenbauer & Haddaway (2019) search features	Excellent
Are also black boxes?	Yes
Restrictions in downloads in Web interface?	Minimal, 50k batch limit
Other methods of data access	API (paid service)

The power of Open Scholarly data – Single source database is possible?

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Cost-effectiveness of Microsoft Academic Graph with machine learning for automated study identification in a living map of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) research [version 1; peer review: 2 approved with reservations]

Ian Shemilt^{1*}, Anneliese Arno^{1*},  James Thomas ^{1*}, Theo Lorenc², Claire Khouja², Gary Raine², Katy Sutcliffe¹, D'Souza Preethy¹, Irene Kwan¹, Kath Wright², Amanda Sowden²



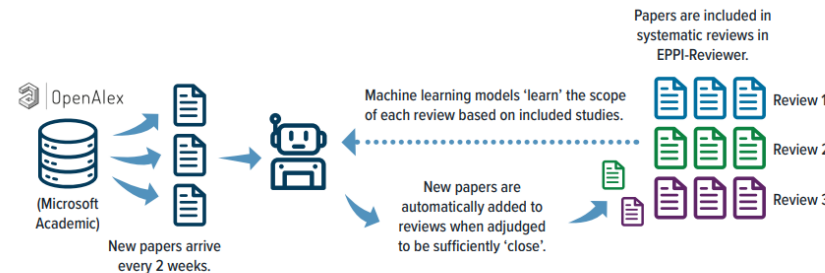
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

Can MAG Be Used as a Single Source for Locating Studies for Systematic Reviews?

The MAG dataset (now updated by OpenAlex)¹ might have the potential to serve as a single source of references for systematic reviews, though research is needed to determine whether it can function as a single-source database. In addition, because the dataset contains more than 200 million records, it would be necessary to establish whether records could be identified with sufficient accuracy. We used a case study of a collaborative project between the EPPI-Centre and the University of York, to answer two parallel research questions:

1. Does the MAG dataset contain all the studies that we need? (*sensitivity*)
2. Can relevant studies be identified efficiently? (*specificity*)

Figure 4. EPPI-Reviewer auto-update workflow



Source: Diagram created by author.

The power of Open Scholarly data

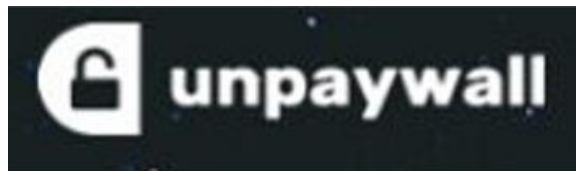
- "For maintaining our living systematic map of COVID-19, we found that using Microsoft Academic as a single-source database is more cost-effective than searching MEDLINE and Embase and then following conventional methods for deduplicating and screening results. The literature search tool yields higher numbers of relevant records at a lower cost"
- "We found that nearly all the records in MEDLINE/Embase (99%) also were available in MAG (99%). In addition, we found that MAG contained 743 records that we did not find in our MEDLINE/Embase searches. This discovery was concerning. Although we searched what are widely considered to be the main sources of research in health, we achieved a recall of only 83% of the records that we sought"

What is different this time- flood of Open Scholarly Metadata

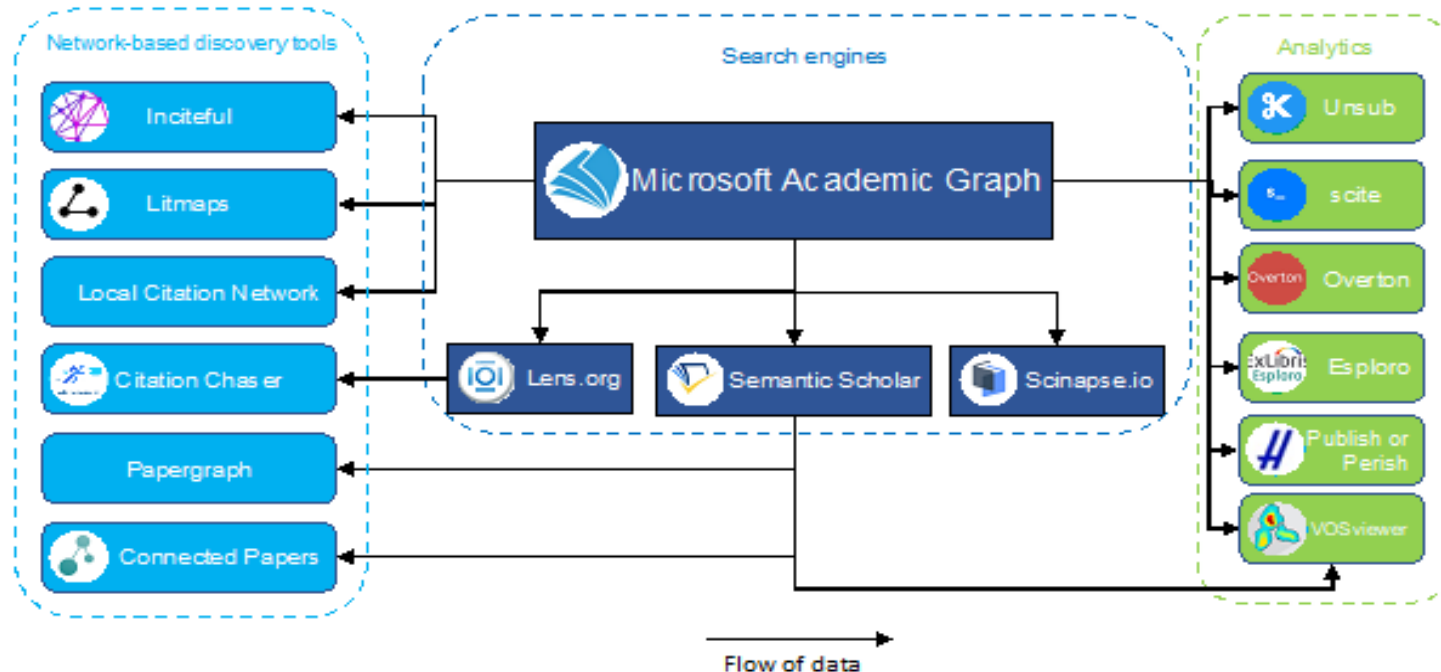


[Crossref](#), [Datacite](#), [ORCID](#), [ROR](#), [NIH](#)

What is different this time- flood of Open Scholarly Metadata



Openness is not enough – The closure of Microsoft Academic Dec 31, 2021



[Goodbye, Microsoft Academic—Hello, open research infrastructure?](#)

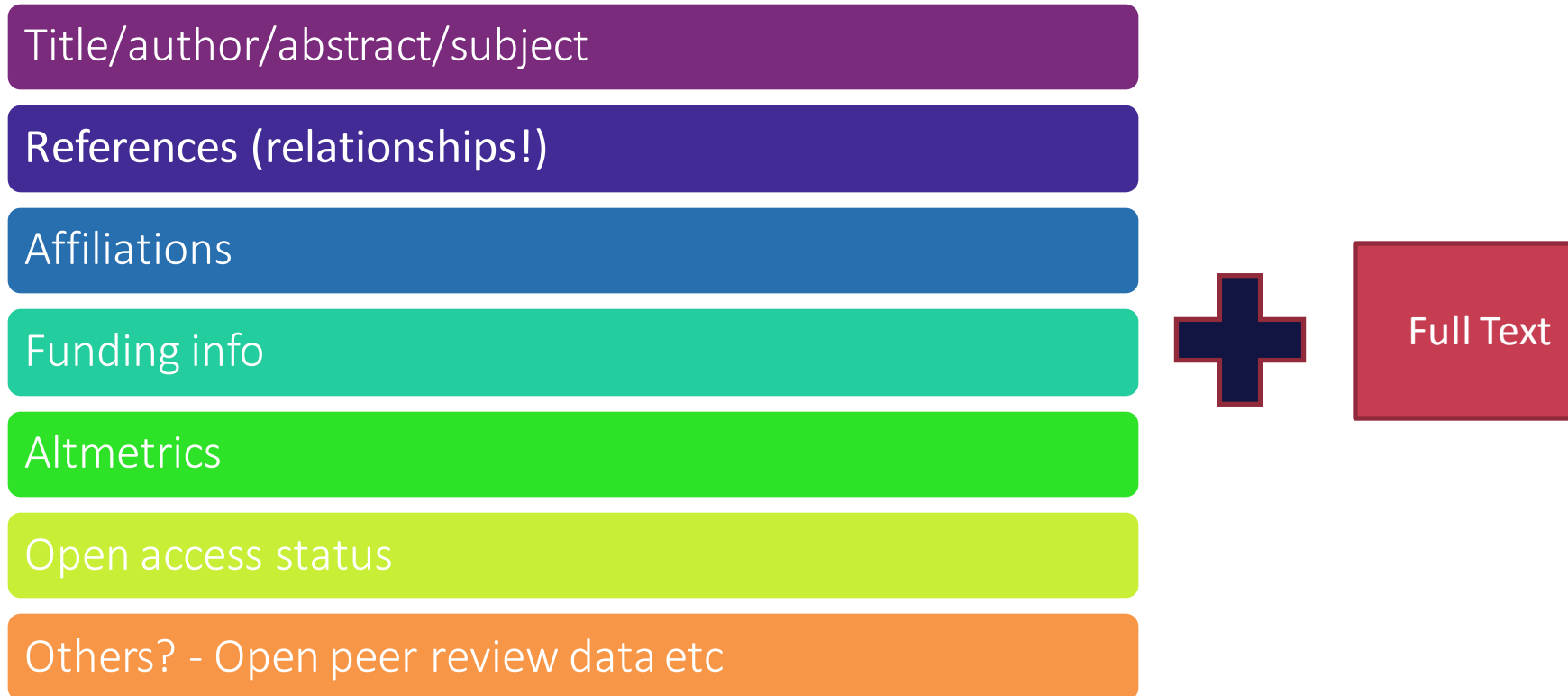
The importance of Open, sustainable infrastructure for Open search tools

- Governance, Sustainability and Insurance ([Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure](#))
 - Who determines the future of the search engine ? Is it Stakeholder governed (**Governance**)
 - Are there sustain contingency fund to support operations? Is there adequate revenue generated based on services provided to sustain the search engine? (**Sustainability**)
 - Are the data, code made as open as possible (**Insurance**)



[Organizations committed to Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure](#)

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN A WORLD WHERE ALL THIS SCHOLARLY INFO AND FULL TEXT IS OPEN AND AVAILABLE?



Coverage comparisons for citations – WOS vs Open sources as of Sept 2021

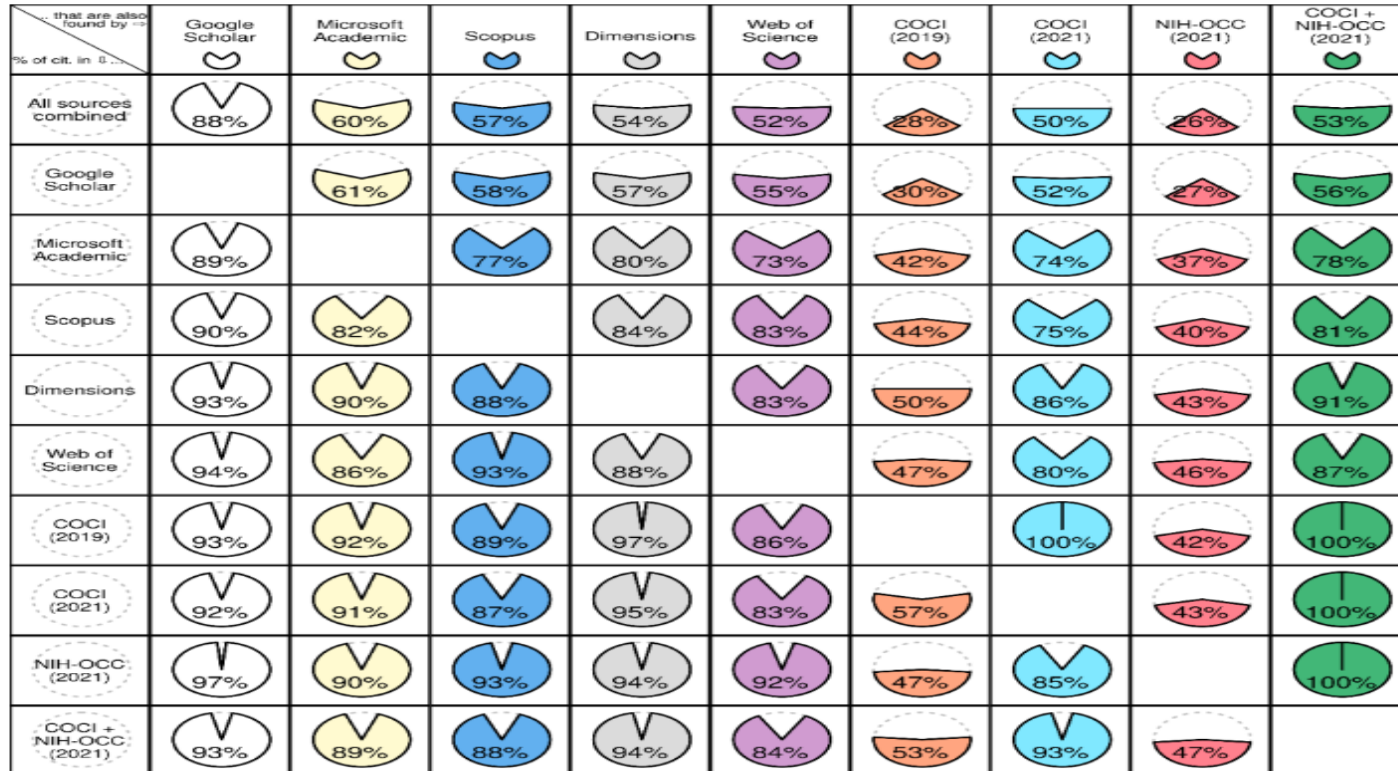
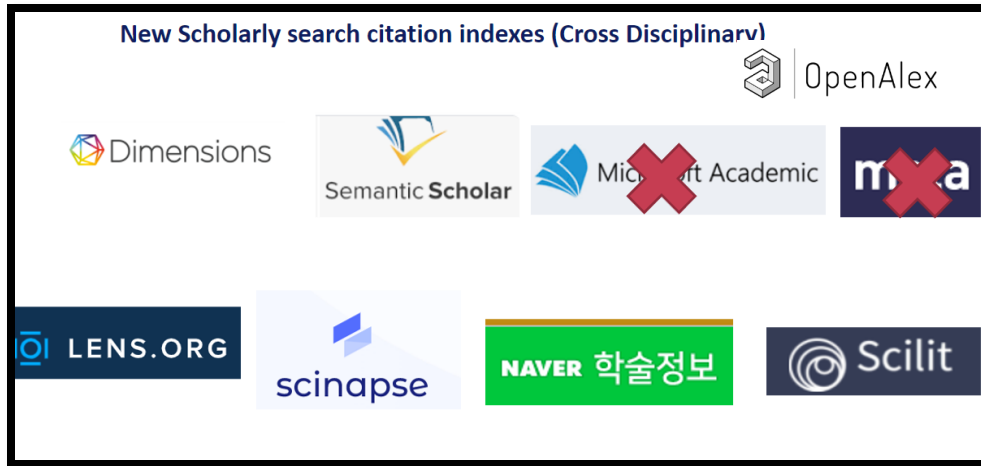


Fig. 1. Percentage of citations found by each database, relative to all citations (first row), and relative to the number of citations found by the other databases (subsequent rows).

Coverage of open citation data approaches parity with Web of Science and Scopus

That is why the world of discovery + search is now complicated



Citation based literature mapping services

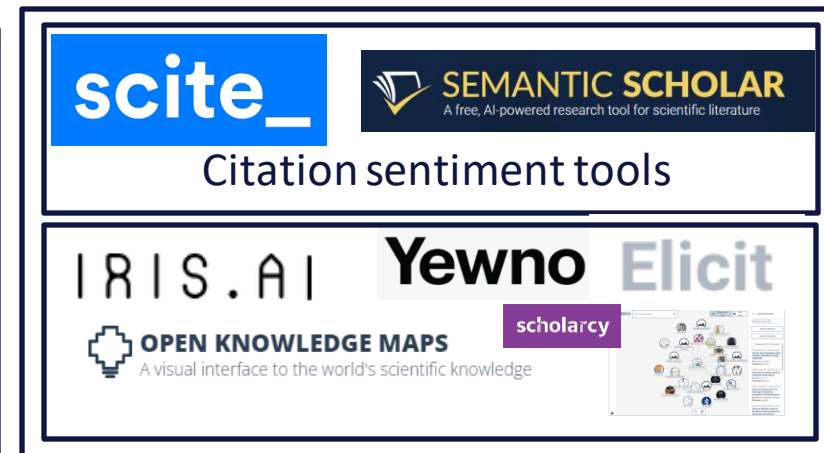
New mega citation indexes



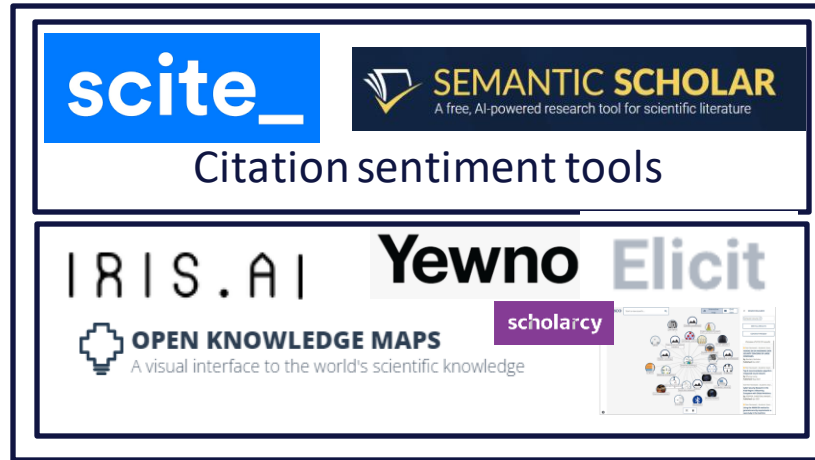
Science mapping tools



Research Graphs



Full-text extraction



Full-text extraction

- Tools based on full-text (NLP, Large language models) tend to be less common due to lack of availability of full text (Open Access is still rising) + greater computation power needed for computation – so mostly expensive commercial tools'
- Some examples of interesting tools that rely on processing full-text
 - [Scite.ai](https://scite.ai) - Classifies citation by citation sentiment/context/type - Mentioning cite vs supporting cite vs contradicting cites
 - [Semantic Scholar](https://www.semanticscholar.org) – Classifies citations by citing background/citing methods/citing results and identifying "influential cites"

Elicit.org example – magic of NLP – Large Language Models for data extraction

Elicit

what is the sensitivity rate of covid-19 ART tests



FAQ

Tasks

Starred

	Paper title	Takeaway from abstract	PDF	Year	Citations	Region	Question-relevant summary
☆	Covid-19: Point of care test reports 94% sensitivity and 100% specificity compared with laboratory test	The CovidNudge real time PCR platform can test results in 90 minutes with 94% sensitivity and 100% specificity.	PDF	2020	2	UK	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is 94%.
☆	Scaling up COVID-19 rapid antigen tests: promises and challenges	Antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 should be replaced by a combination of molecular and serological tests.	PDF	2021	108	-	-
☆	Systematic review with meta-analysis of the accuracy of diagnostic tests for COVID-19	RT-PCR remains the gold standard for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in sputum samples.	PDF	2020	195	-	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is 84.5%.
☆	Diagnostic Accuracy of Rapid Antigen Tests for COVID-19 Detection: A Systematic Review With Meta-analysis	The pooled sensitivity and specificity of the rapid antigen tests against the reference test (the real-time PCR) were 69% and 99% respectively.	PDF	2022	1	-	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is 69%.
☆	Covid-19: Lateral flow tests are better at identifying people with symptoms, finds Cochrane review	The Covid-19 test had a sensitivity of 58% in identifying people with symptoms.	PDF	2021	6	-	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is 72%.
☆	Sensitivity, Specificity and Predictive Values of Molecular and Serological Tests for COVID-19: A Longitudinal Study in Emergency Room	Molecular tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection showed excellent specificity, but significant differences in sensitivity.	PDF	2020	16	Italy	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is >90%.
☆	Sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of molecular and serological tests for COVID-19: A longitudinal study in emergency room.	Molecular tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection showed excellent specificity, but significant differences in sensitivity.	PDF	2020	12	Italy	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is 91.8%.
☆	Diagnostic Accuracy of COVID-19 Antibody Tests Authorized by FDA Philippines: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Clinical accuracy of COVID-19 antibody tests was excellent with high specificities.	PDF	2021	1	Philippines	The sensitivity rate of covid-19 art tests is 68.5%.

Show more

Add info

Paper title

Takeaway from abstract ×

PDF ×

Year ×

Citations ×

Region ×

Question-relevant sum... ×

+ Add Column

Metadata

Source

Authors

Journal

Influential citations

DOI

Funding source

Population studied

Number of participants

Number of studies

Population characteristics

Age of participants

Download csv

CITATION BASED LITERATURE MAPPING SERVICE*


1. Typically web-based service with built-in citation network/academic knowledge graph
2. Accepts input of one or more "seed" papers
3. From 1+2 , "recommend" papers via bibliometric methods/algo - a visualization is also usually provided
4. User friendly interface, avoids bibliometric jargon





Examples includes ConnectedPapers, Citation Gecko, Research Rabbit, LitMaps, Inciteful, Cocites - See List [actively maintained by me!](#)


Recommended Papers


- Seed Papers
- Papers Cited-By Seed Papers
- Papers Citing Seed Papers


The Pricing of Audit Services: Theory and Evidence 
Simunic
Journal of Accounting Research


The Role of Risk Management and Governance in
Determining Audit Demand 
Knechel
Journal of Business Finance & Accounting

Auditor Selection and Audit Committee Characteristics 
Abbott
Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory

Board Characteristics and Audit Fees 
Carcello
Contemporary Accounting Research

Relation between External Audit Fees, Audit Committee
Characteristics and Internal Audit 
Goodwin-Stewart
Accounting & Finance

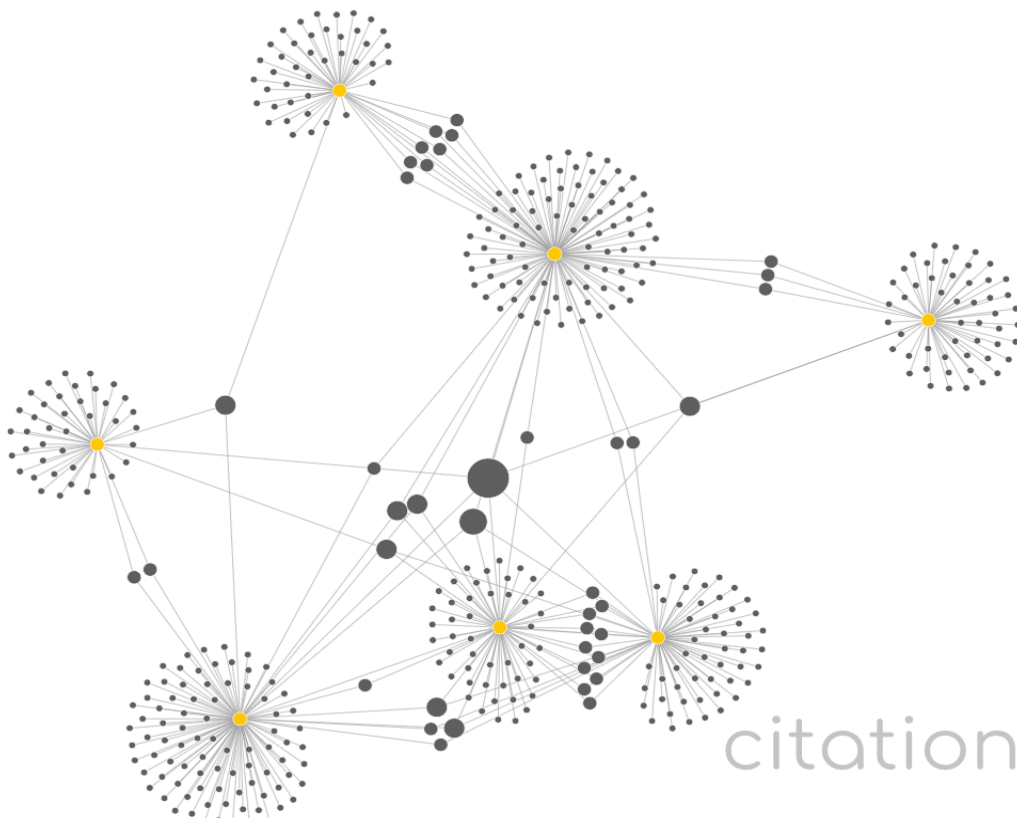
Audit Fees: A Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Supply and
Demand Attributes 
Hay
Contemporary Accounting Research

Evidence on the Impact of Internal Control and Corporate
Governance on Audit Fees 
Hay

Add as seed

Export

Save Image



citation gecko

Servant Leadership: A Review and Synthesis:

Prior works

Search... Expand

Origin paper

Servant Leadership: A Review and Synthesis:

D. Dierendonck 2011

Servant leadership: Development of a multidimensional measure and multi-level assessment ☆

R. Liden, S. Wayne, Hao Zhao, D. Henderson 2008

A Systematic Literature Review of Servant Leadership Theory in Organizational Contexts

D. Parris, J. W. Peachey 2013

Scale Development and Construct Clarification of Servant Leadership

J. Barbuto, D. Wheeler 2006

Servant leadership and serving culture: Influence on individual and unit performance

R. Liden, S. Wayne, Chenwei Liao, Jeremy D. Meuser 2014

Defining and Measuring Servant Leadership Behaviour in Organizations

S. Sendjaya, J. Sarros, Joseph C. Santora 2008

Servant leaders inspire servant followers: Antecedents and outcomes for employees and the organization

Emily M. Hunter, M. Neubert, S. Perry, L. Witt, Lisa M. Penney, E.... 2013

Servant leadership, procedural justice climate, service climate, employee attitudes, and organizational citizenship behavior: ...

Fred O. Walumbwa, Chad A. Hartnell, A. Oke 2010

Prior works

These are papers that were most commonly cited by the papers in the graph.

This usually means that they are **important seminal works** for this field and it could be a good idea to get familiar with them.

Selecting a prior work will highlight all graph papers referencing it, and selecting a graph paper will highlight all referenced prior work.

Download

Title	Last author	Year	Citations	Graph citations
Antecedents of team potency and team effectiveness: an examination of goal and process clarity and servant...	R. Liden	2011	409	19
The Servant Leadership Survey: Development and Validation of a Multidimensional Measure	Inge Nuijten	2010	620	18
A correlation of servant leadership, leader trust, and organizational trust	B. Winston	2005	484	15
Distinguishing between transformational and servant leadership	B. Winston	2009	167	14
Reflections on leadership : how Robert K. Greenleaf's theory of Servant-leadership influenced today's top management...	Larry C. Spears	1995	400	14
Servant leadership: A theoretical model	K. Patterson	2003	425	14
The Future of Leadership in Learning Organizations	B. Bass	2000	621	13
Stewardship: Choosing Service over Self-Interest	Peter L Block	1993	848	12
Examining the Impact of Servant Leadership on Sales Force Performance	James A. Roberts	2009	175	11
Transformational and Servant Leadership: Content and Contextual Comparisons	Tatiana Kuzmenko	2004	448	11

KEY TO UNDERSTANDING NEW TOOLS

Underlying data
e.g. [NIH-OCC](#)

This affects coverage of the tool. Get a sense of what the tool can never find, recency etc

Technique or method used
e.g. [cocitation, documented in this paper](#)

Might be totally black box, partly documented or totally open with formulas or codes specified

Use case +
Business model

A lot of tools are now going "freemium", e.g. Connected Papers, LitMaps.

Other factors to consider

- Recency of coverage
 - Two tools might use the same dataset e.g. OpenAlex, but one tool might be pulling the info real time via API (update by source immediately), another might be downloading the data in full-text every x weeks , cleaning before being loaded into tool (might have time lag).
- Price?
- Additional features – collaborative functions, Sync with Zotero collections, visualization capabilities

Tool	Index used	Transparency of method	Main method
Citation Gecko	OpenCitations Index of Crossref open DOI-to-DOI Citations(COCI) & OpenCitations Corpus (OCC)	High, documented, Open Source	Identify papers which are highly cited or citing seed papers
Connected Papers	Semantic Scholar Academic Knowledge Graph	Low, loosely explained	Similarity metric based on cocitation & bibliometric coupling
ResearchRabbit	MAG, OpenAlex	Depends on method used. Mostly not explained	Unknown for "similar work", "earlier work", "later work"
Litmaps	Crossref, Semantic Scholar	Low,	Select papers within 1-2 citation

ARE CITATION BASED LITERATURE MAPPING SERVICE USED IN SR?

Yes, somewhat

Straightforward Citation searching/citation chasing

C30: Searching reference lists (**Mandatory**)

Check reference lists in included studies and any relevant systematic reviews identified.

Searches for studies should be as extensive as possible in order to reduce the risk of publication bias and to identify as much relevant evidence as possible.

[MECIR Box 4.3.e.](#)

Straightforward Citation searching/citation chasing

"It is good practice to carry out forwards citation searching on reports of studies that meet the eligibility criteria of a systematic review. Thus forwards citation searching usually takes place after the results of the bibliographic database searches have been screened and a set of potentially includable studies has been identified (Briscoe et al 2020a)... Since researchers may selectively cite studies with positive results, forwards citation searching should be used with caution as an adjunct to other search methods in Cochrane Reviews"

[4.S1 Technical Supplement to Chapter 4:](#)
Searching for and selecting studies , P.5

Citation Chaser, straight forward – forward and backward citation searcher

CitationChaser

Home Article input References

Enter the articles that you want to start from. We will find references and citations for you.

You must complete this step before retrieving references and citations

EITHER:

- Paste your identifiers in (each id separated from the next using a comma)

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

Microsoft Academic identifiers (MAGIDs)

OR:

Upload your data as a CSV or RIS file

Choose CSV File

Browse... No file selected

Help

Choose RIS File

Browse... ResearchRabbit_Export_5_17.ris

Upload complete

Help

PubMedCentral identifiers (PMCIDIS)

Lens.org identifiers (LENSIDS)

Your input articles

You provided 33 potential starting identifiers, corresponding to 33 unique records. We found 33 of them on Lens.org

ids	type	found
10.1111/jgs.12095	doi	found
10.1000/13602381.2021.1094839	doi	found
10.1016/j.buover.2020.101717	doi	found
10.1016/j.joeses.2021.05.005	doi	found
10.1007/s11747-017-0563-4	doi	found
10.1016/j.joeses.2019.07.039	doi	found
10.1177/1534484314536705	doi	found
10.1177/1534484316671606	doi	found
10.1007/s11747-020-00721-7	doi	found
10.1111/joms.12549	doi	found

Show 10 entries Previous 1 2 3 4 Next

Download an RIS file of your articles (including abstracts)

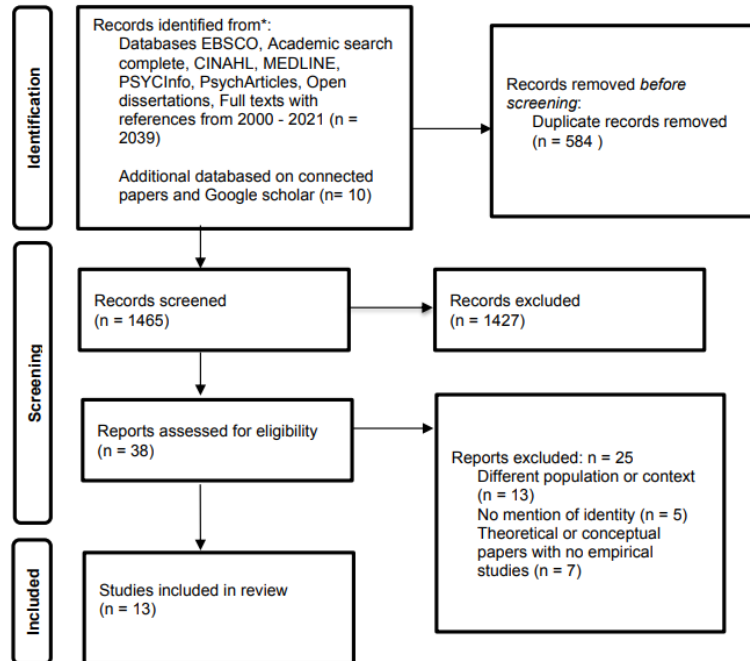
Download

authors	year	title	source_title	publisher	vols
Banarjee-Ballal, Rishang; Reio, Thomas G.; Rocca, Tonelle S.	2019	Mentoring Functions and Outcomes: An Integrative Literature Review of Sociocultural Factors and Individual Differences	Human Resource Development Review	SAGE Publications	18
Fernandez, Karen V.	2019	Critically Reviewing Literature: A Tutorial for New Researchers	Australasian Marketing Journal	SAGE Publications	27
Flach, Christian; Block, Joern	2018	Six tips for your (systematic) literature review in business and management research	Management Review Quarterly	Springer Science and Business Media LLC	68
Rauber, A. Rebecca	2010	Strengthening Your Literature Review	Family Business Review	SAGE Publications	23
Rowley, Chris; Paul, Justin	2021	Introduction: the role and relevance of literature reviews and research in the Asia Pacific	Asia Pacific Business Review	Informa UK Limited	27

NR Haddaway, MJ Grainger, CT Gray (2021) citationchaser: An R package and Shiny app for forward and backward citations chasing in academic searching. Zenodo, doi:[10.5281/zenodo.4533747](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4533747)

"Connected Papers was used to search for related papers"

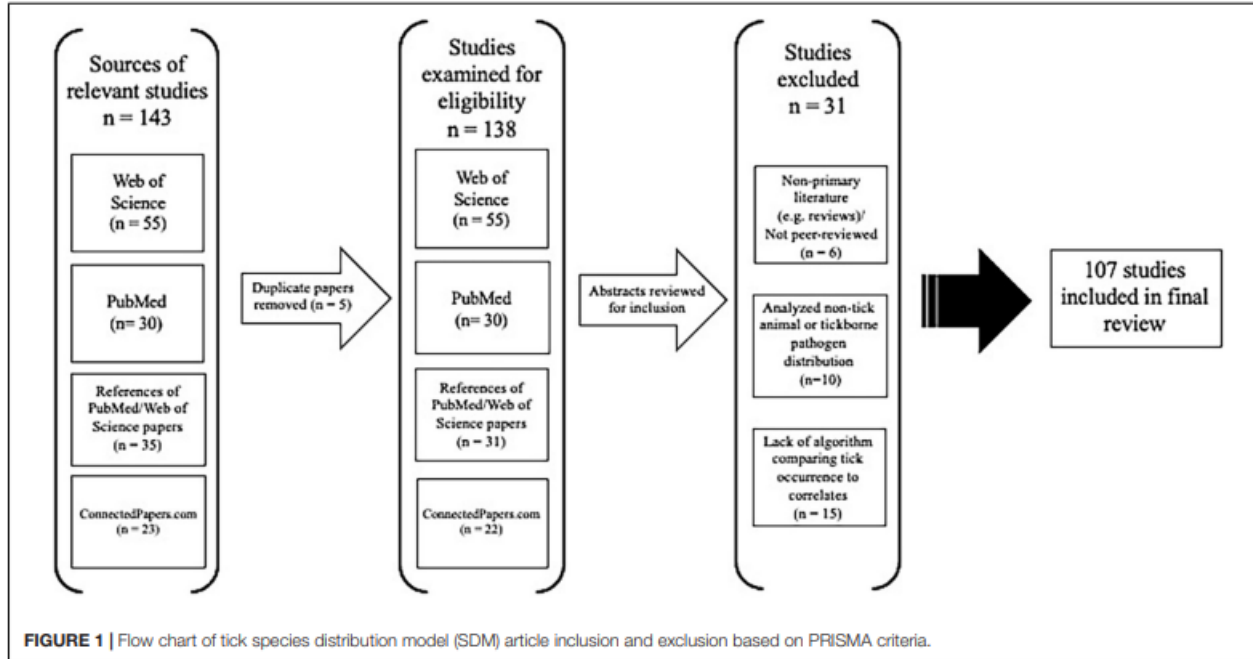
Figure 1: PRISMA Flow diagram of selection process



The search strategy was co-created as a team and with a university librarian, detailed in Table 1, which was inputted into the University of Liverpool database, on 21st November 2021 and rechecked on 17th May 2022 using EBSCO to access journals from Academic search complete, CINAHL, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Psych Articles, and University of Liverpool Catalogue was used for this. Hand searching of references from papers was conducted. Connected papers website was used to search for related papers. Figure 1 reports the selection procedure.

Gupta, V., Golding, L., Eames, C., Greenhill, B., Qi, R., Allan, S., ... & Fisher, P. (2022). Understanding the identity of lived experience researchers and providers: A conceptual framework and systematic narrative review.

"explored related publications through a graphical tool (www.connectedpapers.com).



Following the PRISMA-ScR checklist, we searched scientific databases for eligible articles, their references, and **explored related publications** through a graphical tool (www.connectedpapers.com).

Kopsco, H. L., Smith, R. L., & Halsey, S. J. (2022). A Scoping Review of Species Distribution Modeling Methods for Tick Vectors. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 10, 893016.

"The seed papers of the high-appropriate papers are used as seed papers in the CitationGecko tool (www.citationgecko.com, accessed on 9 November 2021) to get a deeper understanding of the interconnections between them and ensure that no relevant literature is ignored in this review"

Kaiblinger, A., & Woschank, M. (2022). State of the art and future directions of digital twins for production logistics: a systematic literature review. *Applied Sciences*, 12(2), 669.

"Additional sources were identified through the reference list of the eligible articles from the initial search and a co-citation method using the bibliographic coupling concept (www.connectedpapers.com)."

"Further, we only used PubMed as our primary search database. Nonetheless, we felt that using PubMed with a relatively broad search strategy was most relevant for the review, and we performed"

Willwacher, S., Kurz, M., Robbin, J., Thelen, M., Hamill, J., Kelly, L., & Mai, P. (2022). Running-Related Biomechanical Risk Factors for Overuse Injuries in Distance Runners: A Systematic Review Considering Injury Specificity and the Potentials for Future Research. *Sports Medicine*, 1-15.

**ELICT.ORG -DEMO IF HAVE
TIME**

INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE?

1. List of Innovative Literature mapping tools
2. Citation based literature mapping tools - an update - tools offering premium accounts, the effects of the loss of MAG and use for evidence synthesis? (latest)
3. **Academia's missing references**

Thank You!



Aarontay@gmail.com



@aarontay



<https://musingsaboutlibrarianship.blogspot.com>

Acknowledgement: Phil Gooch (Scholarcy) for advice on text mining applications