



# AI tools for Academic Writing: *Research & Literature Review*

*By: Dr. Etana Fikadu(PhD)*

# 1. ResearchRabbit

## What it is ResearchRabbit

ResearchRabbit is a powerful AI-supported **literature discovery and visualization** tool. It helps you explore research papers through interactive graphs showing how publications are connected by authors, citations, or topics.

## Why it is useful

- Visualizes citation networks
- Helps discover related papers quickly
- Tracks authors, research fields, and co-authorship networks
- Allows adding papers into “collections” for organized literature review

## Official Link

□ <https://www.researchrabit.ai/>

## Hands-on Practice

1. Create a free account.
2. Search for a topic (e.g., “Hate speech detection in low-resource languages”).
3. Add 10 papers to a collection.
4. Explore the visualization graph:
  - Click "**Similar Works**"
  - Click "**Influential Papers**"
5. Download or export your collection list.

## 2. Scite.ai

### What it is

Scite is an AI-powered scientific referencing tool that analyzes **how** a paper is cited — whether other authors **agree**, **disagree**, or **just mention** it.

### Why it is useful

- Provides “smart citations”
- Shows whether a key paper is widely supported or debated
- Helps evaluate credibility and impact
- Great for literature reviews and research gaps

## Official Link

□ <https://scite.ai/>

## Hands-on Practice

1. Enter a key paper DOI (e.g., “10.1109/TKDE.2020.2981335”).
2. Check the number of **supporting / disputing / mentioning** citations.
3. Use the “Reports” section to evaluate paper quality.
4. Save your citation report as a PDF.

# 3. Elicit

## What it is

Elicit is an AI research assistant that automates parts of the research workflow such as literature search, summarization, and dataset extraction.

## Why it is useful

- Finds research papers even without keywords
- Summarizes papers automatically
- Extracts key variables (methods used, datasets, results, etc.)
- Very helpful for systematic reviews

# **Official Link**

<https://elicit.com/>

## **Hands-on Practice**

1. Search: “Machine learning for Afaan Oromo text classification.”
2. Let Elicit return 20 papers.
3. Click “Summarize” for a paper.
4. Extract:
  - Problem
  - Method
  - Results
5. Export your table.

## **4. Zotero**

### **What it is**

Zotero is a free reference management tool for storing, organizing, citing, and sharing research papers.

### **Why it is useful**

- Automatically saves PDFs from the web
- Creates citations in any format (APA, IEEE, Chicago, etc.)
- Syncs your library across devices
- Works with Word, Google Docs, and LibreOffice



## Official Link

□ <https://www.zotero.org/>

## Hands-on Practice

1. Install Zotero + Zotero Connector.
2. Create a folder (e.g., “Afaan Oromo NLP”).
3. Use the browser plugin ^ click “**Save to Zotero**” on a paper.
4. Insert citations into Word:
  - Click **Add/Edit Citation** ^ choose APA or IEEE
5. Generate a bibliography instantly.

# **AI Tools for Academic Writing & Publication Support**

# Top AI Tools for Academic Writing & Publication Support

## 1. Focus: Drafting, Paraphrasing, and Clarity Refinement

These tools act as intelligent editors, ensuring your language meets the high standards of academic journals.

Tool Name	Core Function & Features	Key Benefit for Abstracts/Clarity
Paperpal	All-in-one academic writing assistant. Offers grammar checks, paraphrasing, academic tone correction, and research citation support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Advanced Paraphrasing: Improves fluency and word choice while ensuring an appropriate academic tone.</li><li>➤ Provides real-time suggestions to enhance clarity and conciseness, ideal for tightening abstracts.</li></ul>
QuillBot	Widely popular paraphrasing and summarizing tool. Offers multiple rewriting modes to adjust the level of change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Paraphrasing/Summarizing:</li><li>➤ Excellent for quickly rephrasing dense text to avoid plagiarism and making complex sentences clearer. Its Summarizer feature is great for getting a concise overview.</li></ul>
Grammarly	General-purpose writing assistant, but the Premium/Academic versions offer sophisticated checks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Clarity &amp; Coherence: Provides suggestions to improve conciseness and remove unnecessary words, which is crucial for the word limits of abstracts. Offers a dedicated Abstract Generator.</li></ul>
Writefull	Specialized tool designed specifically for academic and scientific writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Academic Language Patterns: Uses a database of millions of published papers to suggest appropriate phrases, verb tenses, and hedging language common in scholarly work.</li></ul>

## **2. Focus: Drafting Abstracts & Summaries (Content Generation)**

These tools can take your full paper or key points and generate a structured summary or abstract draft.

Tool Name	Core Function & Features	Key Benefit for Abstracts/Summaries
Jenni AI	AI academic writer that helps with outlining, generating, and completing sentences/paragraphs.	Drafting from Notes: You can feed it your research points, and it can help structure and generate a coherent abstract or summary draft, complete with in-text citations from your imported sources.
Scholarcy	Converts long documents (PDFs, Word files) into interactive summary "flashcards" or structured knowledge cards.	Instant Abstracting: Rapidly extracts the key concepts, contributions, and findings from your full manuscript, essentially giving you the building blocks for your abstract in seconds.
SciSpace (formerly Typeset)	Offers a suite of research tools, including an AI Research Agent and an AI Writer.	Structured Abstract Generation: Can draft a manuscript or abstract based on a clear outline or prompt, adhering to academic formatting and including relevant citations.

# Important Considerations for Ethical Use

While these tools are powerful, remember that they are **support tools**, not substitutes for human writing.

- **Human Oversight is Essential:** Always review, verify, and refine any content generated by AI. It can still produce factual errors or non-contextual phrasing.
- **Maintain Academic Integrity:** Most institutions require you to write the core intellectual content yourself. Use these tools for polishing, improving clarity, and streamlining the drafting process, not for generating entire sections of original work.
- **Check Institutional Policies:** Before using any AI tool extensively, confirm your university or target journal's policy on AI assistance.

**Thank You!**