

# SLRMentor User Guide

## 1. Introduction — What is SLRMentor?

SLRMentor is an intelligent assistant designed to help researchers begin and develop their **Systematic Literature Reviews (SLRs)**. It was created to support both new and experienced researchers by:

- Explaining key SLR concepts
- Helping structure research questions
- Generating search strings for academic databases
- Creating inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Answering general and technical SLR-related questions

SLRMentor acts as a guided companion throughout your SLR process, offering clear explanations and iterative support whenever needed.

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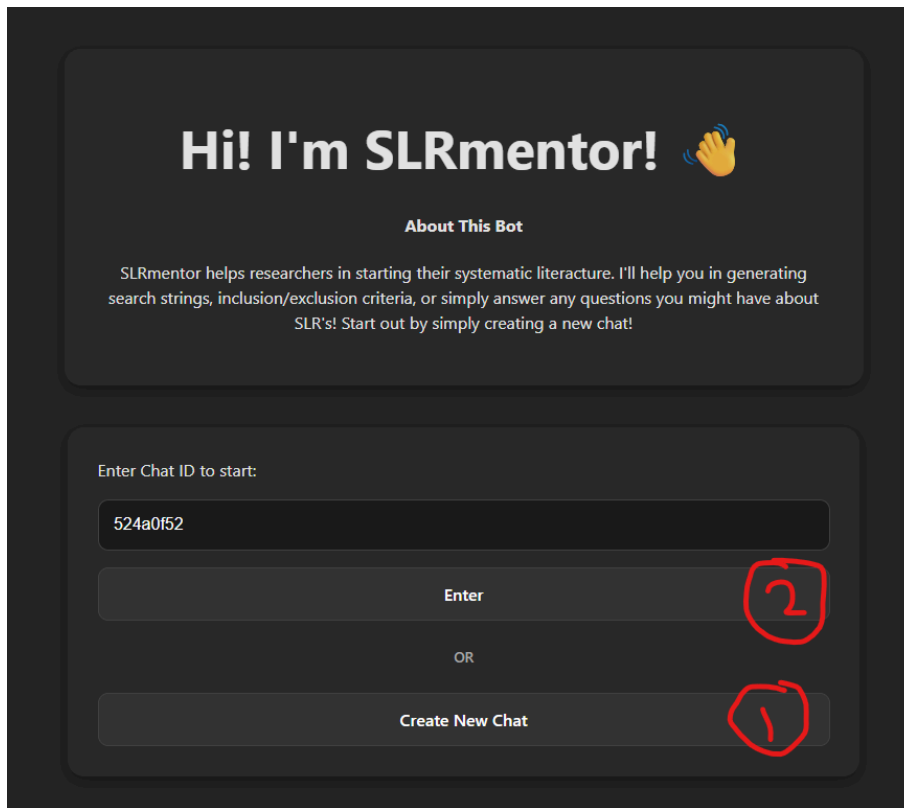
## 2. Getting Started — Creating Your First Session

Every conversation with SLRMentor happens inside a dedicated session, which is tracked by a unique session hash. This allows you to return to your work anytime.

### How to start a session:

1. Click “**Create New Chat.**”
2. A unique **session hash** will appear in the input box.
3. **Save this hash!** You will need it to return to your ongoing chat later.

4. Click “**Enter**” to begin interacting with SLRmentor.



The image shows the SLRmentor chat interface. At the top, it says "Hi! I'm SLRmentor!" with a waving hand emoji. Below this is a section titled "About This Bot" which explains that SLRmentor helps researchers in starting their systematic literature. It then asks the user to enter a Chat ID to start. A text input field contains the ID "524a0f52". Below the input field are two buttons: "Enter" and "Create New Chat". The "Enter" button is circled in red with a red number "2" next to it. The "Create New Chat" button is also circled in red with a red number "1" next to it.

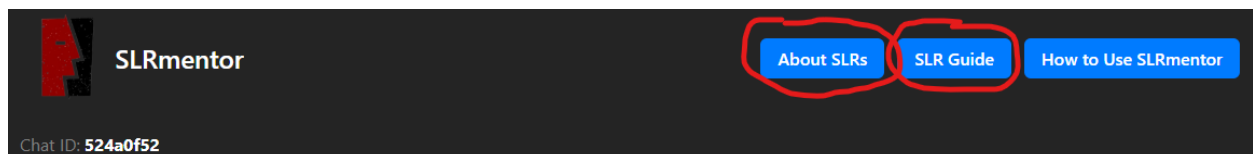
Once created, your session will store your chat history, SLR context, and any generated results until you return.

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### 3. Navigating the Interface

At the top of the page you will find the SLRmentor **navigation bar**, which contains:

- The SLRmentor **name and logo**
- Buttons such as **About SLRs** and **SLR Guide**



These buttons open reference panels that explain:

- What an SLR is
- Main components of an SLR
- Why systematic reviews are important
- Key terminology and methodologies

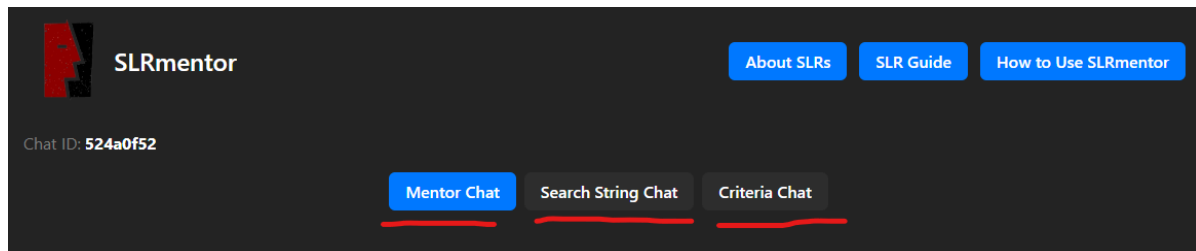
You can close these panels at any time by clicking the button again.

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## 4. Understanding the Three Chat Tabs

Beneath the navigation bar, SLRmentor provides three dedicated chat workspaces:

1. **Mentor Chat** — for general SLR questions
2. **Search String Chat** — for constructing academic search strings
3. **Criteria Chat** — for generating and refining inclusion/exclusion criteria



Each chat specializes in its own part of the SLR process, helping you stay organized and focused.

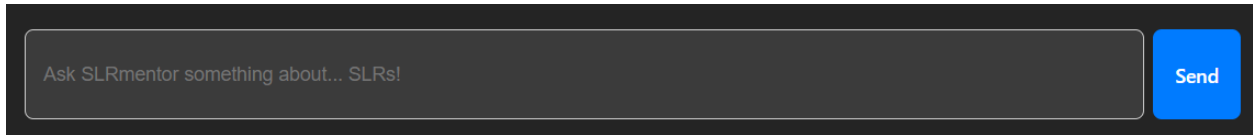
Before diving into the specifics of each chat, it is important to understand how interaction works.

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## 5. How to Interact With Each Chat

Every chat includes an **input field** next to the “**Send**” button.

This is where you enter questions, instructions, or prompts—using **natural language**, just like talking to ChatGPT.

A dark gray chat input bar with a rounded rectangle. On the left, there is a placeholder text "Ask SLRmentor something about... SLRs!". On the right, there is a blue button with the text "Send" in white.

You can:

- Ask direct questions
- Request improvements
- Ask for refinements
- Provide additional context

This iterative interaction is key when generating search strings or criteria, as you may need multiple rounds of refinement.

Each chat responds based on its unique purpose while still incorporating your session context.

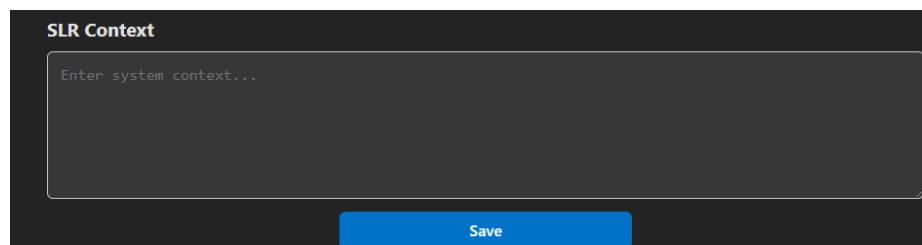
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## 6. Providing SLR Context

At the bottom of the interface, you will find an input area labeled **“SLR Context.”**

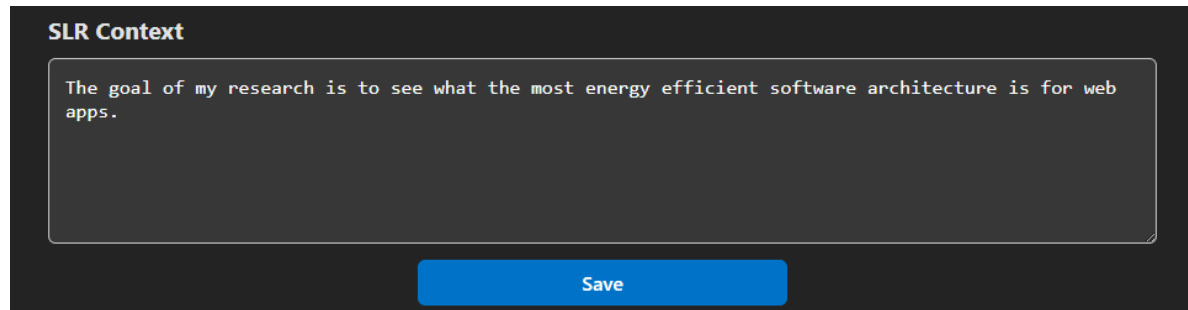
This field allows you to give SLRmentor background details about your research such as:

- Your research goals
- Your research questions
- Your target population or domain
- Any specific focus or constraints

A dark gray form titled "SLR Context" in white. It contains a large text input area with a placeholder "Enter system context...". Below the input area is a blue button with the text "Save" in white.

## Examples:

- *“The goal of my study is to examine the effects of phone usage on young children and how it affects their social skills.”*
- *“My research question is: What is the most power-efficient software architecture for building web applications?”*

A screenshot of a web interface titled "SLR Context". It features a dark grey background. At the top left, the title "SLR Context" is in white. Below it is a light grey rectangular input field containing the text: "The goal of my research is to see what the most energy efficient software architecture is for web apps." At the bottom center of the interface is a blue rectangular button with the word "Save" in white text.

**SLR Context**

The goal of my research is to see what the most energy efficient software architecture is for web apps.

Save

Once provided, SLRmentor automatically considers your context in all future responses—helping it stay aligned with your study.

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## 7. Detailed Guide to the Three Main Chats

### 7.1 Mentor Chat

Mentor Chat is the general-purpose workspace for learning, asking questions, and receiving guidance about SLRs.

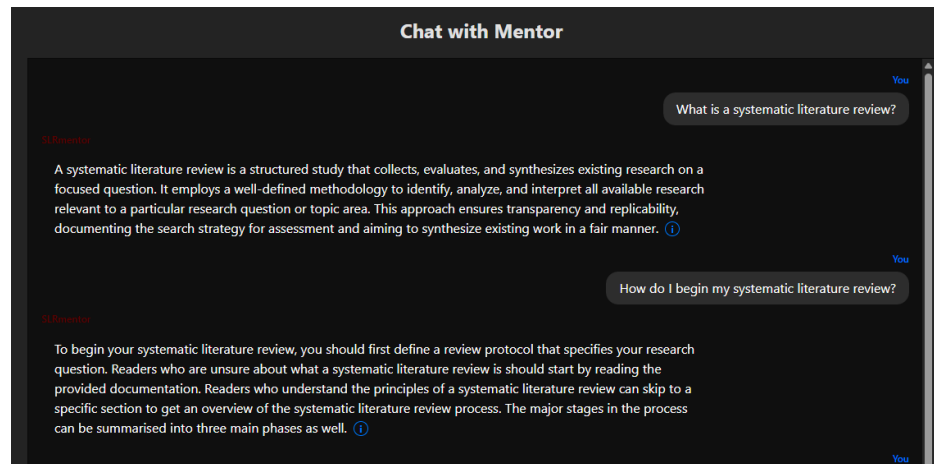
Use Mentor Chat to:

- Ask introductory questions
- Clarify SLR methodology
- Understand terminology
- Get guidance on structuring your review

## Examples of questions you might ask:

- “What is a systematic literature review?”
- “How do I begin my systematic literature review?”

Mentor Chat responds conversationally, allowing natural back-and-forth discussion.



**Figure: Example of Mentor Chat Interaction**

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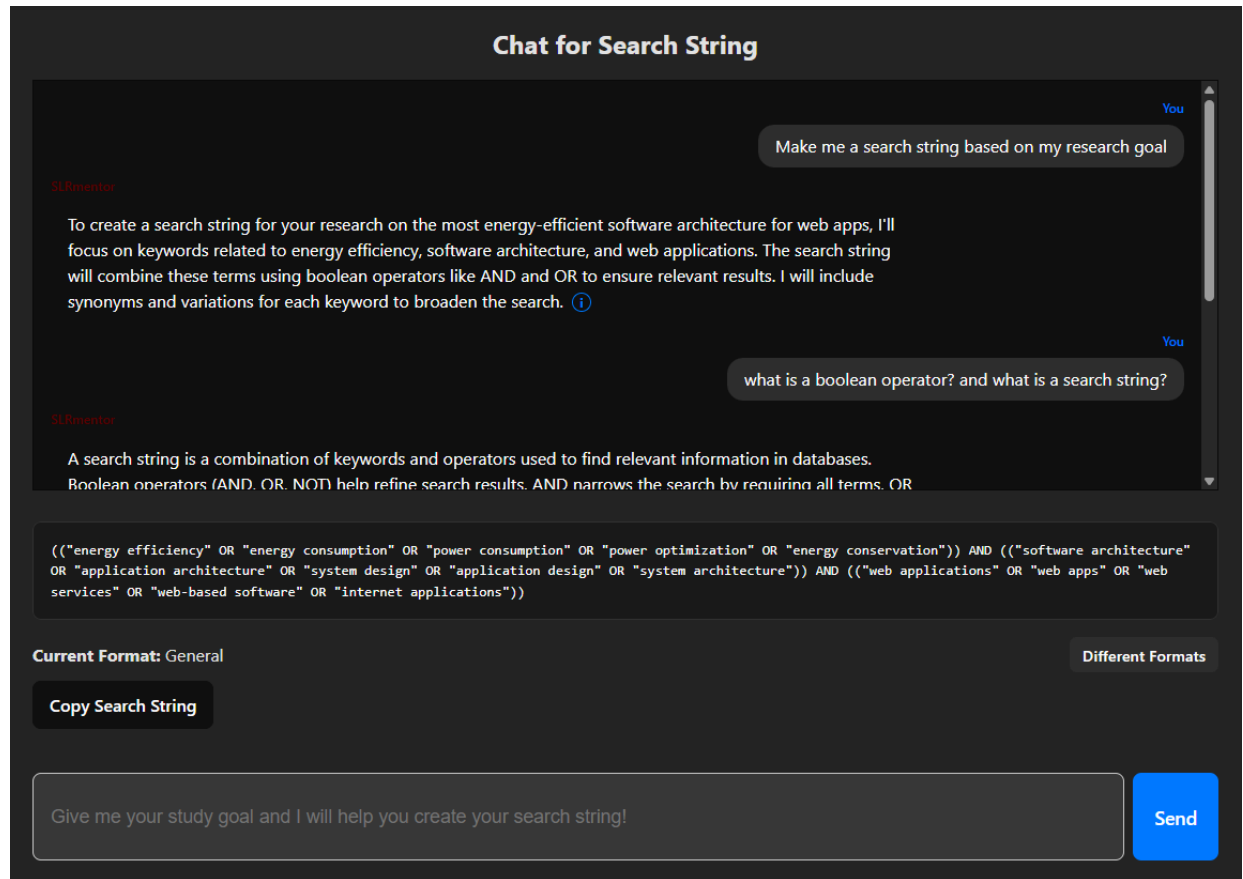
## 7.2 Search String Chat

Search String Chat is specifically designed to help you generate and improve academic database search strings.

You can start by providing:

- Your research question
- A topic description
- General information about your study

Then simply ask the bot to generate a search string.



**Figure: Example of Search String Chat Prompt**

## Iterative Refinement

You can continue refining your search string through natural conversation. For example:

- Ask for synonyms
- Request a more restrictive or broader search string
- Modify Boolean logic
- Improve phrase grouping

## Search String Formats

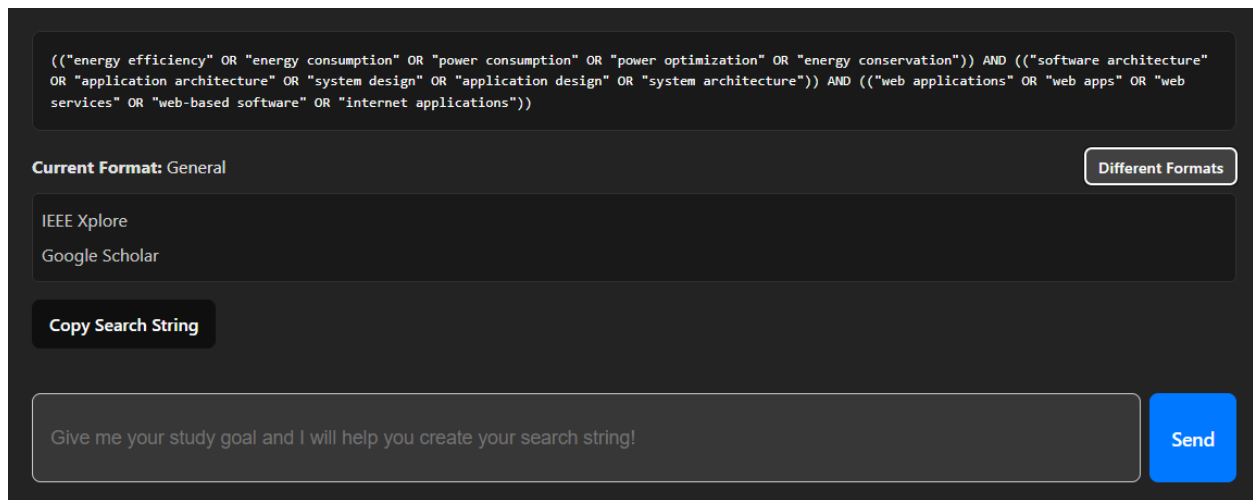
Not all databases use the same search string syntax. SLRmentor currently supports:

- **General Format**
- **IEEE Xplore Format**
- **Google Scholar Format**

At the top right of the search string panel, you will see:

- **Current Format:** The active search string format
- **Different Formats Button:** For converting your string to another supported style

Click “**Different Formats**” → select your desired format → and SLRmentor will automatically convert your search string.



The screenshot shows a dark-themed interface for SLRmentor. At the top, a text box contains a complex search string: `((("energy efficiency" OR "energy consumption" OR "power consumption" OR "power optimization" OR "energy conservation")) AND (("software architecture" OR "application architecture" OR "system design" OR "application design" OR "system architecture")) AND (("web applications" OR "web apps" OR "web services" OR "web-based software" OR "internet applications")))`. Below this, the "Current Format" is set to "General". To the right of this is a button labeled "Different Formats". Below the format selection, there are two options: "IEEE Xplore" and "Google Scholar". A "Copy Search String" button is located below these options. At the bottom, there is a large text input field with the placeholder text "Give me your study goal and I will help you create your search string!" and a blue "Send" button to its right.

**Figure: Example of Format Conversion Menu**

## 7.3 Criteria Chat

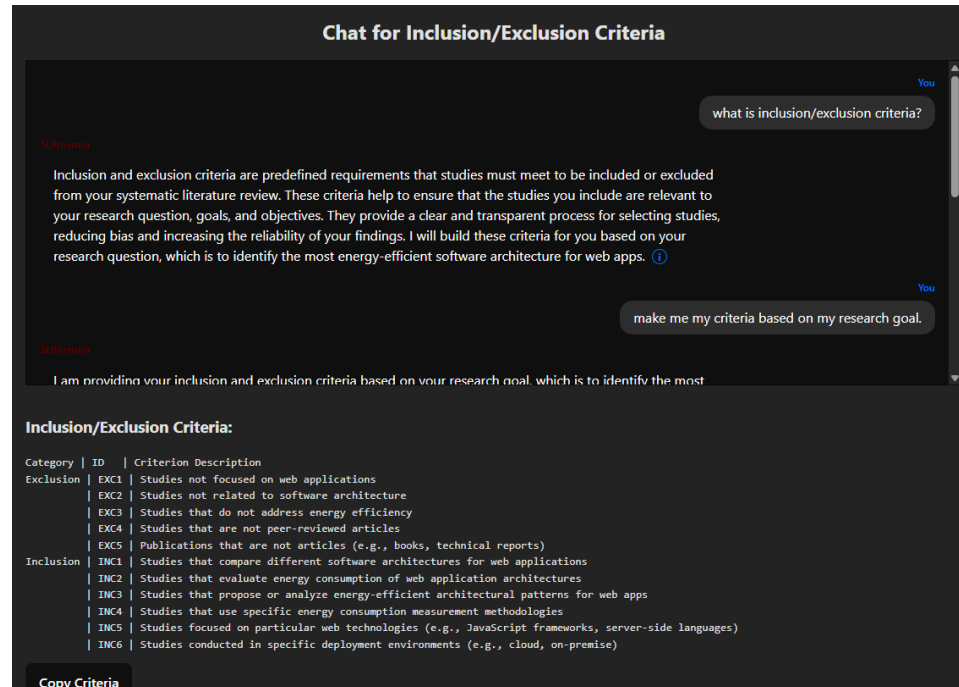
Criteria Chat focuses entirely on **inclusion and exclusion criteria**, which define the boundaries of your review.

Use Criteria Chat to:

- Generate initial inclusion/exclusion criteria



- Refine your criteria iteratively
- Ask questions about what should be included or excluded
- Review the reasoning behind certain criteria choices



**Figure: Example of Criteria Chat Interaction**

## Generated Criteria Output

Once generated, your criteria will appear directly below the chat.

You can then copy them using the **“Copy Criteria”** button.

You may continue to iterate with the bot to clarify or refine your criteria until satisfied.

## 8. Saving and Returning to Your Session

When you're done for the day, simply **save the session hash** displayed beneath the navigation bar.



This hash allows you to return to the exact same session later—including:

- Your chat history
- Your generated search strings
- Your criteria
- Your SLR context

Just enter the saved hash when prompted to resume your ongoing review.

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## 9. Summary

SLRmentor is a streamlined workspace built to guide you through the essential components of a systematic literature review.

Using three specialized chat environments—Mentor Chat, Search String Chat, and Criteria Chat—along with your custom SLR context, it supports you in:

- Learning SLR foundations
- Creating search strategies
- Developing high-quality inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Maintaining consistent progress through session tracking

Whether you're new to SLRs or refining an existing study, SLRmentor provides structure, clarity, and practical assistance every step of the way.