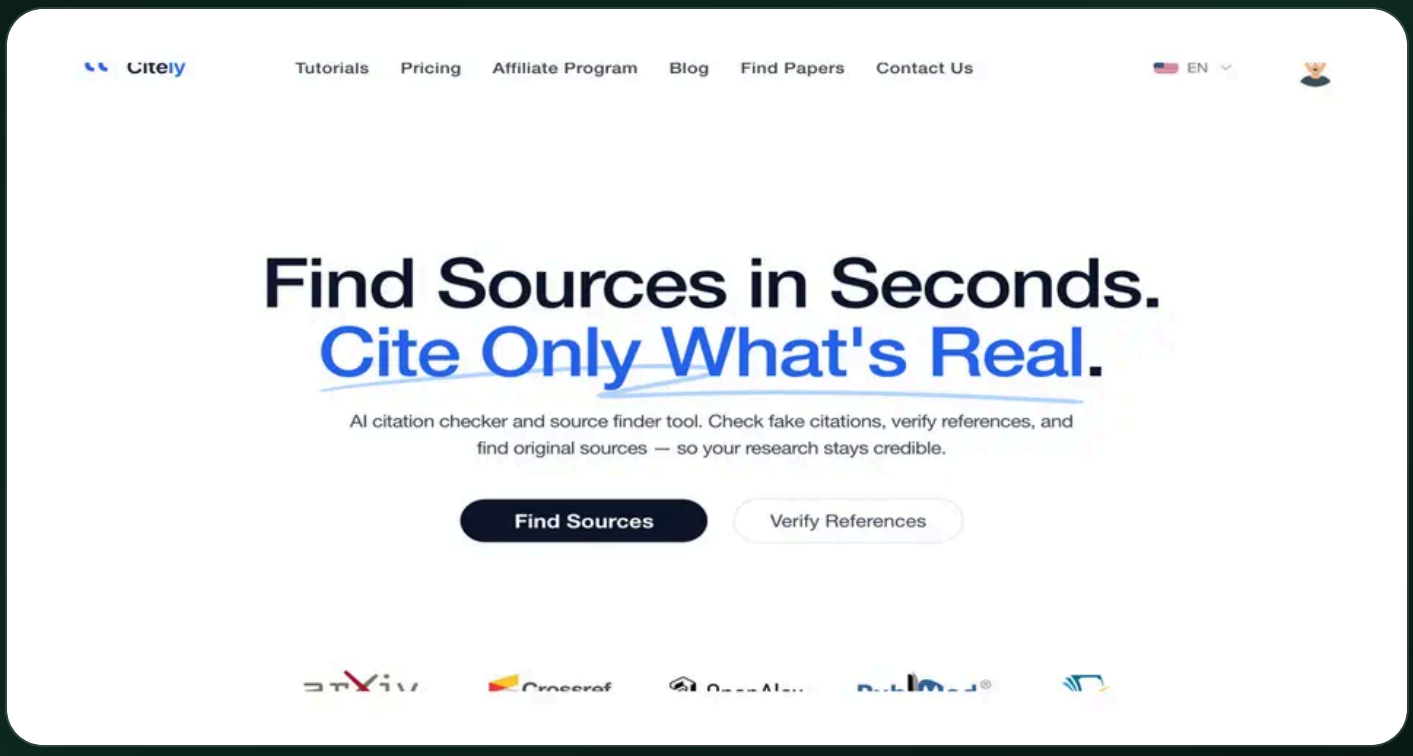
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Citely

The Insider's Guide

Citation checker that flags fake references and finds sources



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI research tools, read from Citely's own pages.

Made by Citely · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.2
GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Citely's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Citely's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.2

GPA, above 16 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade

Citely checks whether the references in a paper or an AI-written draft are real, and flags fabricated or mismatched ones. It can also take a claim and return published papers that support it. It verifies against scholarly databases such as Crossref, OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, PubMed and arXiv.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Citely**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **Everything runs on credits, with each plan capping how much one check covers.**
>
> From our report card of Citely

1 **Best for checking a paper's references for fakes**

Citely checks the references in a paper for fakes and finds sources, using Crossref, OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, PubMed and arXiv.

2 **Paid plans start at $14 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $14 per month, billed annually ($19 billed monthly).

3 **You can try it first**

Two free checks per new account, no credit card required

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Citation checker**

Checks each entry of a reference list and flags fake, mismatched or unverifiable references.

6 **AI-reference checks**

Aimed at references produced by ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini, including invented DOIs and mixed-up details.

7 **Source finder**

Paste a claim or paragraph and get published papers with verified metadata; searches are limited to 300 characters.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 16 of 69**

That is against the other AI research tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Citely you would be making a library of papers and sources to search. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Citely at a glance

PRICING Free trial, from $14 per month, billed annually ($19 billed monthly)	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL Two free checks per new account, no credit card required	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Citely	CATEGORY AI Research Tools
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for checking a paper's references for fakes

Citely checks the references in a paper for fakes and finds sources, using Crossref, OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, PubMed and arXiv. Everything runs on credits, with each plan capping how much one check covers. It checks references only: no library, no writing help.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Citely	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Yearly is $14 a month, at the category's dearer-quarter line, and Monthly is $19. Believer is $347 one-time.
Free plan and trial	C	Two free checks per new account, with no card. After that it is the $9 Trial or a subscription.
Features	C	Citation checker and source finder with APA, MLA and Chicago export. It does that job fully, but it is a smaller job: no library and no writing help.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record. Paste your references and run a check, with nothing to set up.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with scholarly databases behind it. No API or apps are listed.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Citely is for

- ✓ Fits if you need to check a thesis for invented references before submitting
- ✓ Works for labs that screen many papers and would buy the 5,000-credit pack

Who it is not for

- ✕ Tight if you stay free, as you get two checks per new account
- ✕ Pricey if you cram it monthly at $19 for 150 credits and a 4,000-character cap per check
- ✕ Watch out: no refund once more than 10 credits are used, and one-time packs are non-refundable
- ✕ Too light for managing a library or writing the paper, as it only verifies references

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Students checking a bibliography before submitting
- ✓ Editors and supervisors screening manuscripts for fabricated references
- ✓ Writers who drafted with an AI chatbot and want its citations verified

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Usage runs on credits, and each plan caps how many characters one check can cover.
- ⓘ Monthly and Yearly plans renew automatically; the refund policy gives no refund once more than 10 credits are used.
- ⓘ One-time packages are non-refundable and their credits expire after 1 month (Trial) or 3 years (Believer).
- ⓘ It verifies references but does not manage a library or help write the paper.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$14
A month to start

Citely is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $14 per month, billed annually ($19 billed monthly).

> **Two free checks per new account, with no card.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

TRIAL

$9

one-time, 15 credits valid for 1 month

For checking one paper; reference checks up to 2,000 characters and basic verification.

MONTHLY

$19

per month, billed monthly

150 credits a month, reference checks up to 4,000 characters, and APA, MLA and Chicago export.

YEARLY

$14

per month, billed annually ($168 a year)

1,500 credits for the year, the Monthly features and priority support.

BELIEVER

$347

one-time, 5,000 credits valid for 3 years

For heavy users and labs; adds all citation formats, dedicated support and professor guidance sessions.

Trying it first

Two free checks per new account, no credit card required

Read from citely.ai on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Yearly plan at $14 a month

Billed as $168 a year, which works out to about $14 a month against $19 on the Monthly plan.

Stated on citely.ai

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Citation checker that flags fake references and finds sources. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, AI search, research, citations.

> **Citation checker and source finder with APA, MLA and Chicago export.**

From our grade for features

Citation checker

Checks each entry of a reference list and flags fake, mismatched or unverifiable references.

AI-reference checks

Aimed at references produced by ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini, including invented DOIs and mixed-up details.

Source finder

Paste a claim or paragraph and get published papers with verified metadata; searches are limited to 300 characters.

Scholarly databases

Verifies against Crossref, OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, Google Scholar, PubMed, arXiv, Wanfang and CNKI.

Citation export

Paid plans export citations in APA, MLA and Chicago; the Believer plan adds all formats.

Ten site languages

The site is available in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, German, French, Portuguese and Russian.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Crossref
OpenAlex
Semantic Scholar
PubMed
arXiv

Citely is made by Citely.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

16/69

Other AI research tools it is graded above

Citely's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 16 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 14.

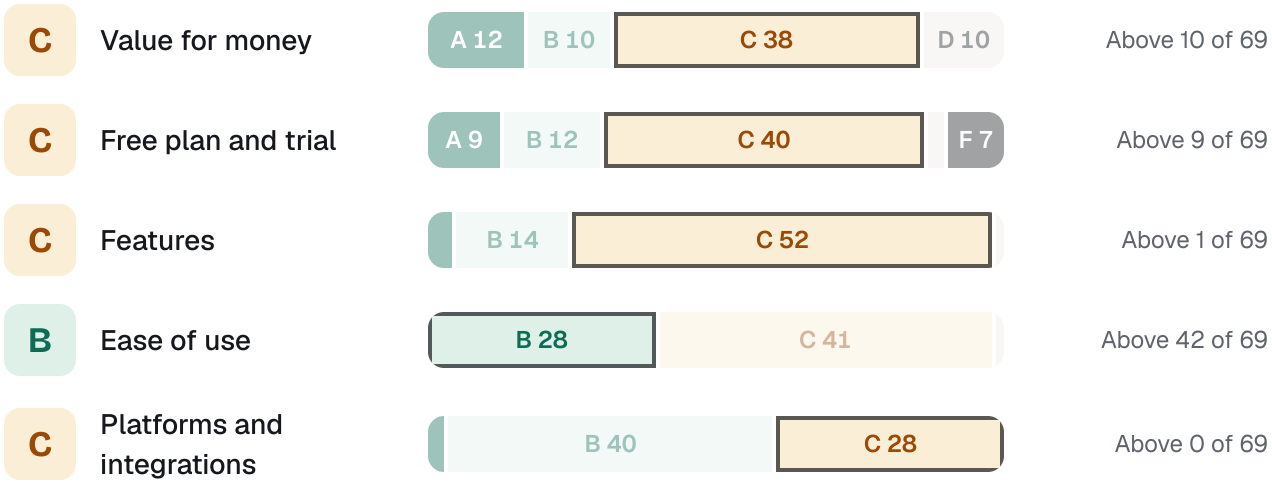
It stands best on ease of use (B, above 42 of 69) and worst on platforms and integrations (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $14 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 34 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 20 tools score higher and cost less.

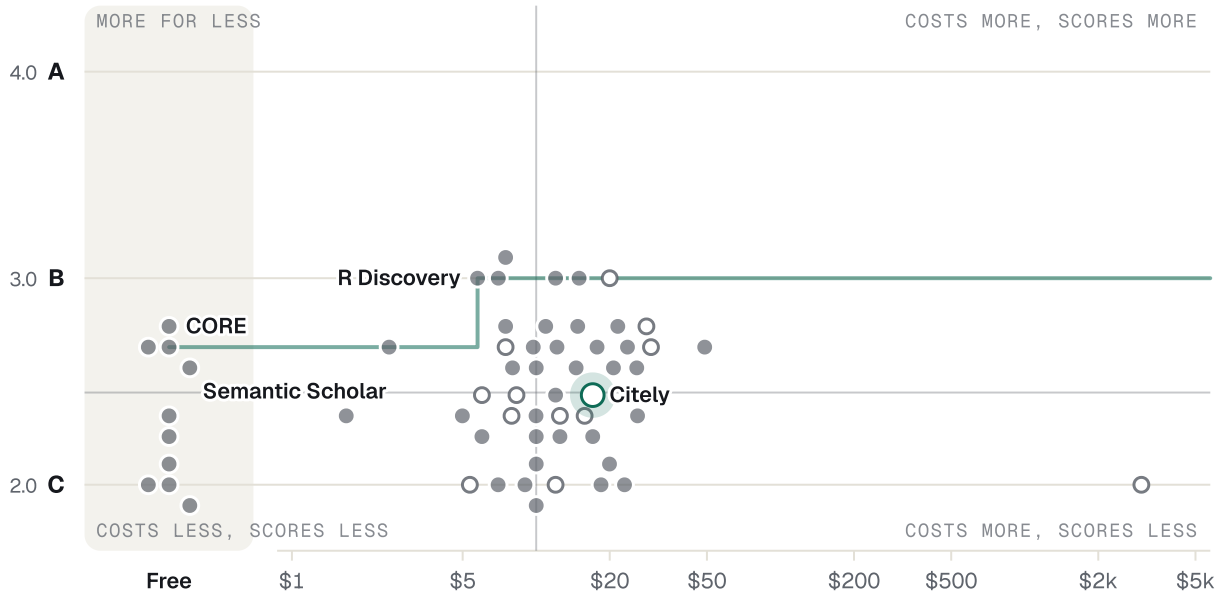
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 70 AI research tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Citely's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 59 AI research tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Citely is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double) ⍰

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Citely you would be making a library of papers and sources to search. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 39 of the 69 other AI research tools grade higher. It costs $168 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ A library of papers and sources to search.
- ✕ A search engine with an AI model behind it.

- ✕ Citation records for millions of papers.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, Crossref, OpenAlex and Semantic Scholar among them.

What this rests on. Citely's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Scite, Scholarcy, Paperguide, SciSpace and Keenious

The 5 tools Citely is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

Scite

2.2 GPA

Free trial · from $20/mo

Research assistant that shows how papers have been cited.

- Only Scite lists a browser extension.
- Scite also covers chat assistant.

Citely and Scite compared in full

Scholarcy

2.6 GPA

Free plan · from $90/yr

Summarizes research papers into interactive flashcards.

- Scholarcy has a free plan. Citely does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Scholarcy lists a browser extension.
- Citely also covers AI search.

Citely and Scholarcy compared in full



2.6 GPA

Paperguide

Free plan · from $12/mo

AI research platform for literature and systematic reviews.

- Paperguide has a free plan. Citely does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Paperguide lists a browser extension.
- Paperguide also covers chat assistant, AI agents and long-form writing.

Citely and Paperguide compared in full



2.4 GPA

SciSpace

Free plan · from $12/mo

AI research platform for literature review and reading papers.

- SciSpace has a free plan. Citely does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only SciSpace lists an iOS app.
- Only SciSpace lists a browser extension.

Citely and SciSpace compared in full



2.6 GPA

Keenious

Free plan · from $10/mo

Academic search that recommends papers from your own text.

- Keenious has a free plan. Citely does not, though it has a free trial.
- Keenious also covers chat assistant.

Citely and Keenious compared in full

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

13

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Citely free?

No, Citely is a paid product, but you can try it first. Two free checks per new account, no credit card required.

How much does Citely cost?

Citely lists 4 plans. Trial: $9 one-time, 15 credits valid for 1 month.

What platforms does Citely work on?

Citely is available on Web.

Does Citely offer any discounts?

Citely publicly lists the following: Yearly plan at $14 a month.

Does Citely have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Citely is listed for Web.

Does Citely have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Citely is listed for Web.

Is Citely open source?

Citely is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

What does Citely integrate with?

Citely's listing names Crossref, OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, PubMed and arXiv.

Who makes Citely?

Citely is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Citely?

The closest alternatives to Citely in our directory are Scite, Scholarcy, Paperguide, SciSpace and Keenious.

How does Citely compare with other AI research tools?

Citely's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 16 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 14.

Is Citely good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Citely C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $14 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 34 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Citely?

To replace Citely you would be making a library of papers and sources to search.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Citely's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Citely's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Citely. Prices change, so check citely.ai before you buy.

citely.ai/
citely.ai/about.md
citely.ai/pricing.md
citely.ai/refund-policy

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721
Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Citely, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/citely

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Citely: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/citely
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Know someone choosing between AI research tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/citely/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI research tools after Citely, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

AI Research Tools Insider's Guide

Every one of the 70 AI research tools we grade, compared

Ai2 Asta Insider's Guide

AI research assistant for finding papers and analyzing data

3.2 GPA

Brave Search Insider's Guide

Private web search engine with its own index and AI answers

3.2 GPA

CORE Insider's Guide

Open access research search backed by a free API

3.2 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Citely's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Citely is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Citely. Prices and plans change: check citely.ai before you buy.