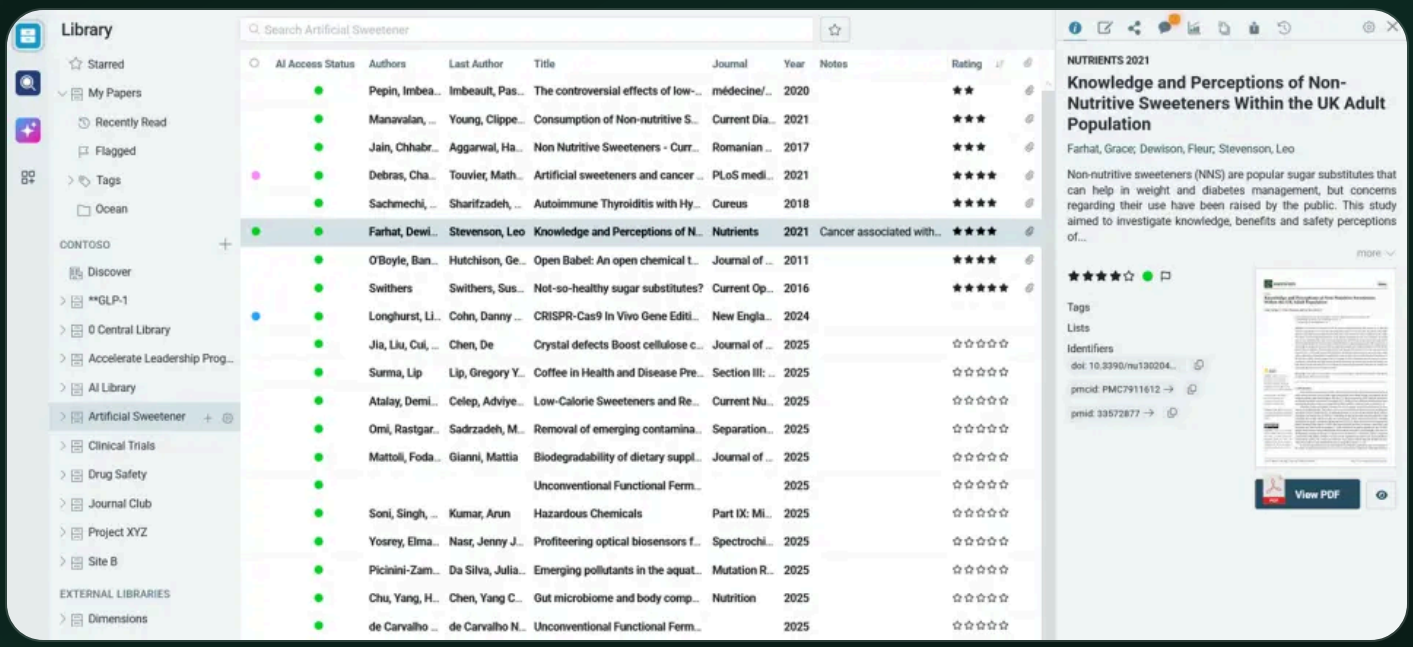
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

ReadCube Papers

The Insider's Guide

Reference library with an AI assistant for cited answers

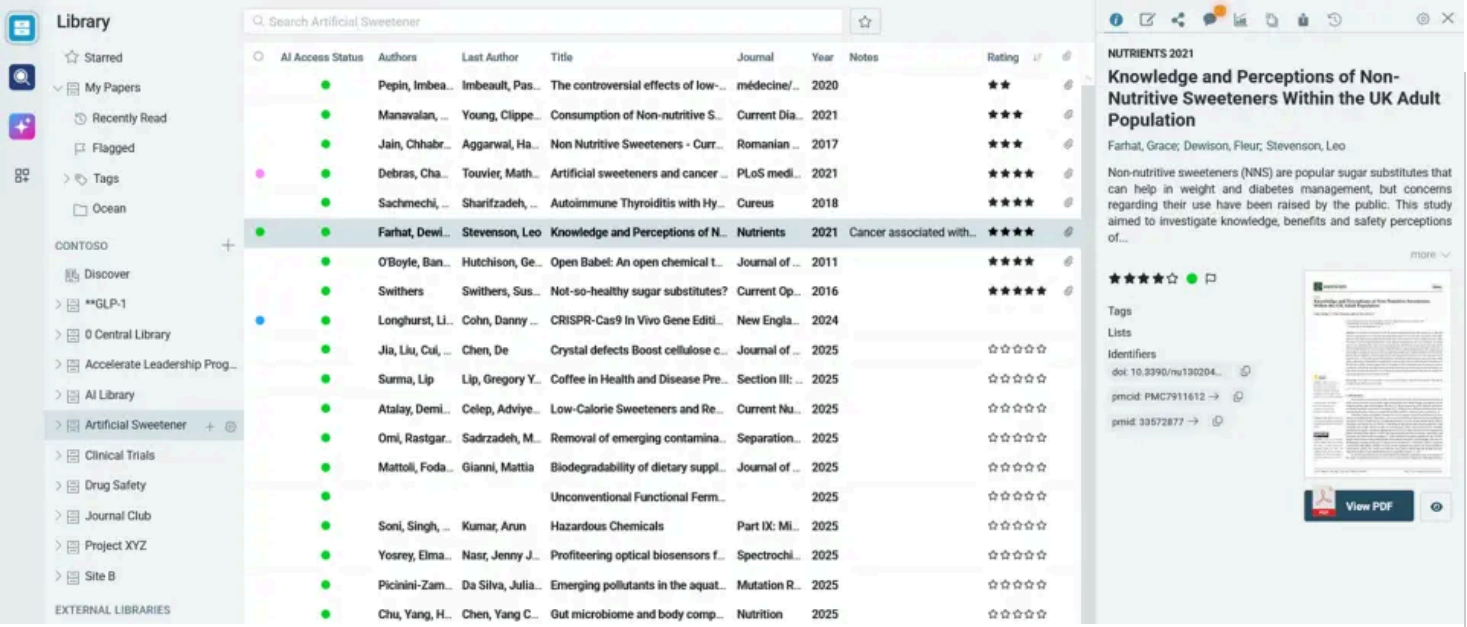


Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI research tools, read from ReadCube Papers's own pages.

Made by Digital Science · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4

GPA



Contents

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

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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 ReadCube Papers's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on ReadCube Papers'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

2.4

GPA, above 31 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade

ReadCube is a literature management platform from Digital Science that combines a reference library, PDF annotation, citation tools and an AI assistant. The older Papers plans now sit under the ReadCube name as Essentials and Plus, with an Enterprise tier that adds a research assistant and systematic literature review.

> "
>
> **It has a library to build and import, and citation tools to set up.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for a reference library with an AI assistant**

ReadCube Papers is a reference library from Digital Science with PDF annotation, citations and an AI assistant.

2 **Paid plans start at $7.92 a month when paid by the year for each person**

As its pricing page puts it: $95 per user / year, billed annually ($10 billed monthly).

3 **You can try it first**

30-day free trial of Plus, no credit card required

4 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Web, iOS and Android, with a browser extension too.

5 **Library and PDF annotation**

Store and organize PDFs with tags, custom fields and Smart Lists, and highlight, underline, draw and add notes on the PDF.

6 **SmartCite**

Insert citations into Word and Google Docs from more than 10,000 citation styles.

7 **AI Assistant**

Ask questions of one PDF, or of up to 20 papers at once on Plus, with answers linked to the source passage. Daily limits apply.

8 **A 2.4 GPA, above 31 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 ReadCube Papers 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.

ReadCube Papers at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $95 per user / year, billed annually ($10 billed monthly)

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day free trial of Plus, no credit card required

RUNS ON
Web, iOS, Android, Browser extension

MADE BY
Digital Science

CATEGORY
AI Research Tools

OUR GRADE
2.4 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for a reference library with an AI assistant

ReadCube Papers is a reference library from Digital Science with PDF annotation, citations and an AI assistant. Essentials limits shared libraries to 5 and PDF chat to daily limits, and chat across a library needs Plus at $185 a year.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

ReadCube Papers

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	Essentials is $95 a year, about $7.92 a month, which is the edge of the cheaper quarter of research tools ($7.92). Plus is $185 a year.
Free plan and trial	C	A 30-day trial of Plus with no card, and no free plan after it.
Features	C	Library, annotation, citations, literature monitoring and an AI assistant. Library chat and saved searches need Plus, and the research assistant is Enterprise only.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. It has a library to build and import, and citation tools to set up.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, iPhone, Android and a browser extension, with Word, Docs, EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley and Dimensions. No desktop OS is named.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

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 ReadCube Papers is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a reference library with PDF chat, at about $8 a month
- ✓ Works for researchers who cite in Word or Google Docs

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a plan that stays free, as there is only a 30-day trial
- ✗ Tight if you share: Essentials allows 5 shared libraries and limits PDF chat per day
- ✗ Pricey if you need chat across a library, saved searches and full Dimensions search, which need Plus at $185 a year
- ✗ Watch out: the research assistant and systematic review add-on are Enterprise only, sold through sales
- ✗ Watch out: the pricing page lists mobile apps but names no desktop operating systems

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Academics who want a reference manager with built-in AI chat
- ✓ Teams that share libraries of up to 10 users on Plus
- ✓ Organizations that need SSO and an admin dashboard

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Essentials allows only 5 shared libraries, and PDF chat is under daily limits.
- ⓘ Chat across a library, saved searches and full Dimensions search need Plus or higher.
- ⓘ The Research Assistant and the systematic review add-on are Enterprise only, sold through sales.
- ⓘ The pricing page lists mobile apps but names no desktop operating systems.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$7.92

A month to start, paid by the year, for each person

ReadCube Papers is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $95 per user / year, billed annually ($10 billed monthly).

ESSENTIALS

$95

per user / year, billed annually ($10 billed monthly)

Unlimited PDF storage, sync, SmartCite, 5 shared libraries and chat with a PDF under daily limits.

PLUS

$185

per user / year, billed annually ($20 billed monthly)

Adds groups of up to 10 users, saved searches, extended PDF chat and chat across up to 20 papers.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Everything in Plus with unlimited users, SSO, an admin dashboard and the Research Assistant; sold through sales.

Trying it first

30-day free trial of Plus, no credit card required

Read from about.readcube.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

EDUCATION

Academics take 40% off

Academic discount applied at checkout on Essentials and Plus, verified with an academic email address or ID.

Stated on about.readcube.com

What it does

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

4

Places it runs: Web, iOS, Android and Browser extension

Reference library with an AI assistant for cited answers. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, chat assistant, web clipper, research, citations, highlights.

> **Library, annotation, citations, literature monitoring and an AI assistant.**

From our grade for features

Library and PDF annotation

Store and organize PDFs with tags, custom fields and Smart Lists, and highlight, underline, draw and add notes on the PDF.

SmartCite

Insert citations into Word and Google Docs from more than 10,000 citation styles.

AI Assistant

Ask questions of one PDF, or of up to 20 papers at once on Plus, with answers linked to the source passage. Daily limits apply.

Literature monitoring

Save a recurring search so new papers are added to your library, with daily, weekly or monthly email alerts.

Search and discovery

Plus searches more than 150 million publications through the Dimensions database; Essentials searches metadata only.

Systematic literature review

Dual-reviewer screening, custom extraction forms and PRISMA flow diagrams are offered as an optional add-on for Enterprise.

Where it runs

Web · iOS · Android · Browser extension

What it works with

Microsoft Word · Google Docs · EndNote · Zotero · Mendeley · Dimensions

ReadCube Papers is made by Digital Science.

Where it stands

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

31/69

Other AI research tools it is graded above

ReadCube Papers's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 31 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 15.

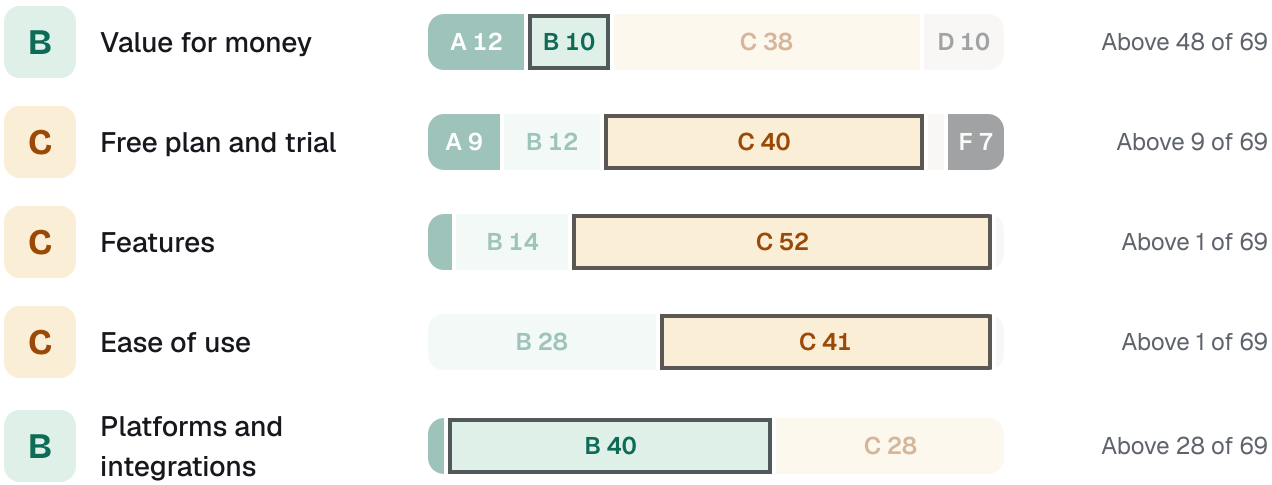
It stands best on value for money (B, above 48 of 69) and worst on features (C, above 1).

Its paid plans start at $7.92 a month when paid by the year for each person, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 12 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 10 tools score higher and cost less.

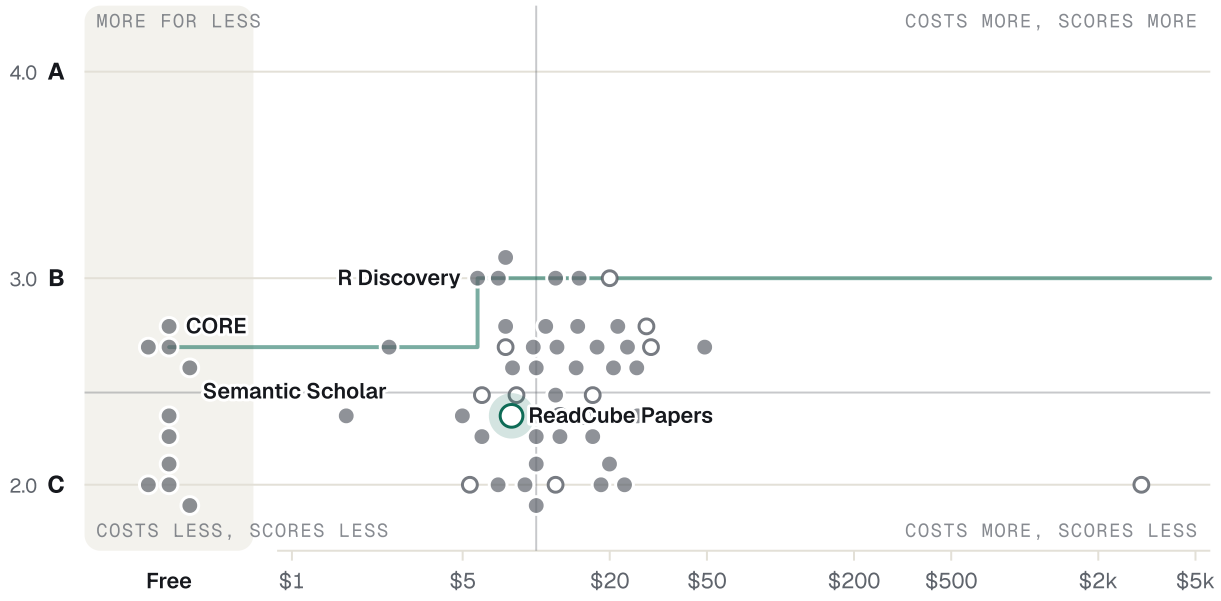
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 70 AI research tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. ReadCube Papers'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. ReadCube Papers 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 ReadCube Papers 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.

It costs $95 a year.

What you could make

- Highlights and web clipper: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- A library of papers and sources to search.

- An AI model, which you can rent by the request but not make.
- Citation records for millions of papers.
- A real app for iOS and Android. Something home-made would be a web page.
- It is priced for each person, which means accounts and billing for a team.
- It plugs into other products, Microsoft Word, Google Docs and EndNote among them.

What this rests on. ReadCube Papers'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



Paperpile, Zotero, Mendeley, Lean Library Workspace and Scholarcy

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

2.2 GPA

Paperpile

Free trial · from $8.30/mo

Reference manager built around Google Drive, Docs and Word.

- ReadCube Papers also covers chat assistant.

ReadCube Papers and Paperpile compared in full

2.8 GPA

Zotero

Free plan · from $20/yr

Free, open-source reference manager from a nonprofit.

- Zotero has a free plan. ReadCube Papers does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only ReadCube Papers lists a web app.
- Only ReadCube Papers lists a browser extension.

ReadCube Papers and Zotero compared in full



2.2
GPA

Mendeley

Free plan · from $26/mo

Reference manager from Elsevier, with paid AI add-ons.

- Mendeley has a free plan. ReadCube Papers does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only ReadCube Papers lists iOS and Android apps.
- Only ReadCube Papers lists a browser extension.

ReadCube Papers and Mendeley compared in full



2.2
GPA

Lean Library Workspace

Free plan · from $6.99/mo

Reference manager and citation add-ins, formerly Sciwheel.

- Lean Library Workspace has a free plan. ReadCube Papers does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only ReadCube Papers lists iOS and Android apps.
- ReadCube Papers also covers chat assistant.

ReadCube Papers and Lean Library Workspace compared in full



2.6
GPA

Scholarcy

Free plan · from $90/yr

Summarizes research papers into interactive flashcards.

- Scholarcy has a free plan. ReadCube Papers does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only ReadCube Papers lists iOS and Android apps.
- ReadCube Papers also covers chat assistant, web clipper and highlights.

ReadCube Papers and Scholarcy compared in full

Quick answers

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

14

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 ReadCube Papers free?

No, ReadCube Papers is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day free trial of Plus, no credit card required.

How much does ReadCube Papers cost?

ReadCube Papers lists 3 plans. Essentials: $95 per user / year, billed annually ($10 billed monthly).

What platforms does ReadCube Papers work on?

ReadCube Papers is available on Web, iOS and Android. It also has a browser extension.

Does ReadCube Papers offer any discounts?

ReadCube Papers publicly lists the following: Academics take 40% off.

Does ReadCube Papers have a Windows app?

No Windows app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. ReadCube Papers is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Does ReadCube Papers have a macOS app?

No macOS app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. ReadCube Papers is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Is ReadCube Papers open source?

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

What does ReadCube Papers integrate with?

ReadCube Papers's listing names Microsoft Word, Google Docs, EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley and Dimensions.

Does ReadCube Papers have a student discount?

Academics take 40% off. Academic discount applied at checkout on Essentials and Plus, verified with an academic email address or ID.

Who makes ReadCube Papers?

ReadCube Papers is made by Digital Science.

What are the alternatives to ReadCube Papers?

The closest alternatives to ReadCube Papers in our directory are Paperpile, Zotero, Mendeley, Lean Library Workspace and Scholarcy.

How does ReadCube Papers compare with other AI research tools?

ReadCube Papers's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 31 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 15.

Is ReadCube Papers good value for money?

ToolGPA grades ReadCube Papers B for value for money. Its paid plans start at $7.92 a month when paid by the year for each person, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 12 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of ReadCube Papers?

To replace ReadCube Papers 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 ReadCube Papers'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 ReadCube'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 Digital Science. Prices change, so check about.readcube.com before you buy.

about.readcube.com/pricing/

about.readcube.com/

PART 07 · ABOUT

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

ReadCube Papers, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/readcube-papers

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, "ReadCube Papers: The Insider's Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/readcube-papers
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Know someone choosing between AI research tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/readcube-papers/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI research tools after ReadCube Papers, 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 ReadCube Papers'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. ReadCube Papers is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Digital Science. Prices and plans change: check about.readcube.com before you buy.