ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Scinapse

The Insider's Guide

Citation-based paper search, field trends and expert finding



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

Made by Pluto Labs · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.8
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 Scinapse's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Scinapse'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

1.8

GPA, above 5 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade

Scinapse is an academic search and analytics service from Pluto Labs. It measures papers and authors by how they are cited inside a chosen field, and offers journal analytics, an expert finder and AI-generated mini-reviews. A free tier covers basic paper search, and paid tiers add analysis and AI features.

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

> "
>
> **It is web only, and it costs more than most of its category.**
>
> From our report card of Scinapse

1 **Best for finding papers by impact in a field**

Scinapse ranks papers by their impact within a field and adds author analytics and an expert finder.

2 **Paid plans start at $23 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $23 per month, billed annually.

3 **There is a free plan**

Keyword paper search ranked by impact, collections and history, citation export, and basic paper, author and journal information.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Field-specific impact**

Measures citation impact inside the set of papers for a topic instead of across all research.

6 **AI mini-reviews**

Generates a short review of a field; Basic and above can generate them, Pro and above can save them.

7 **Expert Finder**

Finds researchers by keyword and filters by career and affiliation; full search needs a paid plan.

8 **A 1.8 GPA, above 5 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 Scinapse 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.

Scinapse at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $23 per month, billed annually	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL 7-day free trial on the Pro plan	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Pluto Labs	CATEGORY AI Research Tools
OUR GRADE 1.8 GPA, weak	

The report card

Best for finding papers by impact in a field

Scinapse ranks papers by their impact within a field and adds author analytics and an expert finder. The free plan covers keyword search and

citation export, but network maps and AI Smart Query start at $36 a month. It is web only, and it costs more than most of its category.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Scinapse	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	Basic is $23 a month billed yearly, which is where the dearest tenth of the category starts ($23). Network maps and saved AI reviews need Pro at $36, and Max is $52.
Free plan and trial	C	A free plan with search, collections and citation export, plus a 7-day Pro trial. AI features, advanced filters and author analytics sit behind paid plans.
Features	C	Field-specific impact, expert finder, journal analytics and AI mini-reviews. The listing shows network maps and AI Smart Query only on Pro or Max, and Smart Query is rate limited every 4 hours.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record, and you work through filters, collections and citation analyses to get value from it.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only: no mobile or desktop app and no API are listed.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.8**

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 Scinapse is for

- ✓ Fits if you judge papers by citations within your own field
- ✓ Works for people hunting for experts on a topic

Who it is not for

- ✕ Pricey if you want the network maps or saved mini-reviews, which start at $36 a month
- ✕ Tight if you stay free: AI mini-reviews, author analytics and advanced filters are paid
- ✕ Watch out: AI Smart Query is capped at 5 credits per 4 hours on Pro
- ✕ Skip it if you want an app, as it is web only

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Researchers sizing up the trends and key papers of an unfamiliar field
- ✓ Editors looking for reviewers or tracking competing journals
- ✓ Teams buying access for a whole institution

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Network maps, saved mini-reviews and AI Smart Query need Pro or Max.
- ⓘ AI Smart Query is rate limited to a set number of credits every 4 hours.
- ⓘ Prices shown are billed annually; the pricing page says yearly billing saves up to about 21%.
- ⓘ Web only; no mobile or desktop app is listed.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$23

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Scinapse has a free plan. Paid plans start at $23 per month, billed annually.

> **AI features, advanced filters and author analytics sit behind paid plans.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Keyword paper search driven by impact, collections and history, customizable citation export.

BASIC

$23

per month, billed annually

Adds real-time citation analysis within a field, advanced paper search filters, author analytics and AI mini-review generation by field.

PRO

$36

per month, billed annually

Adds network maps of paper and author citations, saved AI mini-reviews and AI Smart Query at 5 credits per 4 hours.

MAX

$52

per month, billed annually

Everything in Pro, with AI Smart Query at 25 credits per 4 hours.

The free plan

Keyword paper search ranked by impact, collections and history, citation export, and basic paper, author and journal information.

Trying it first

7-day free trial on the Pro plan

Read from scinapse.io on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Save up to about 21% with yearly billing

The pricing page says yearly billing saves up to about 21% against monthly.

Stated on scinapse.io

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Citation-based paper search, field trends and expert finding. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, AI search, research, citations, reports.

"

Field-specific impact, expert finder, journal analytics and AI mini-reviews.

From our grade for features

Field-specific impact

Measures citation impact inside the set of papers for a topic instead of across all research.

AI mini-reviews

Generates a short review of a field; Basic and above can generate them, Pro and above can save them.

Expert Finder

Finds researchers by keyword and filters by career and affiliation; full search needs a paid plan.

Network map

Shows how papers and authors connect through citations. Pro and Max only.

Journal analytics

Shows journal performance and trending topics, aimed at journal editors and authors choosing where to publish.

AI Smart Query

Turns a plain description of a research question into a query. Credits are shared with Expert Finder and Research Intelligence.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Scinapse is made by Pluto Labs.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

5/69

Other AI research tools it is graded above

Scinapse's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 5 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 2.

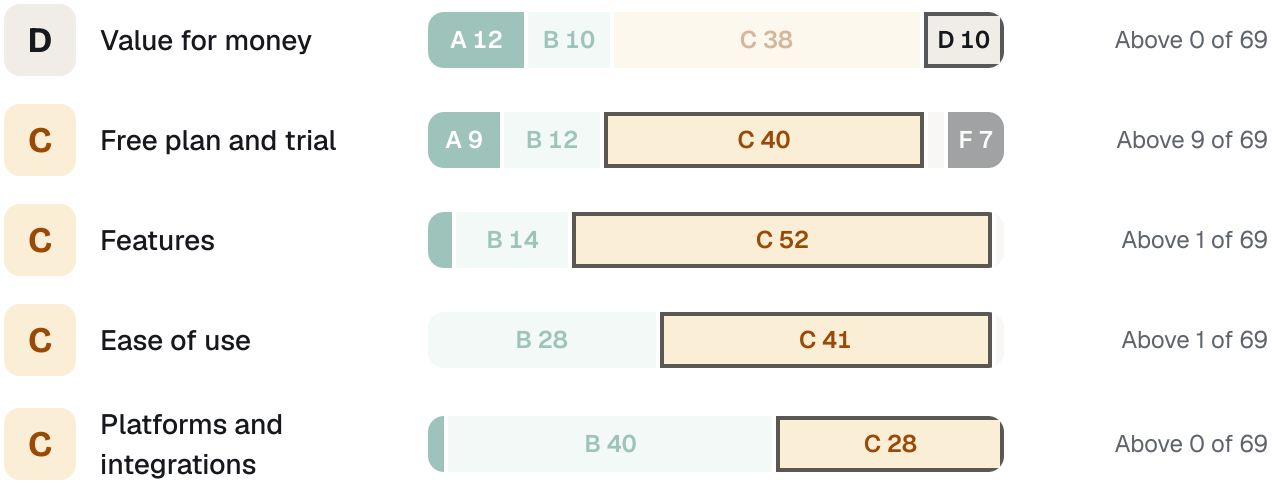
It stands best on free plan and trial (C, above 9 of 69) and worst on value for money (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $23 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 44 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 42 tools score higher and cost less.

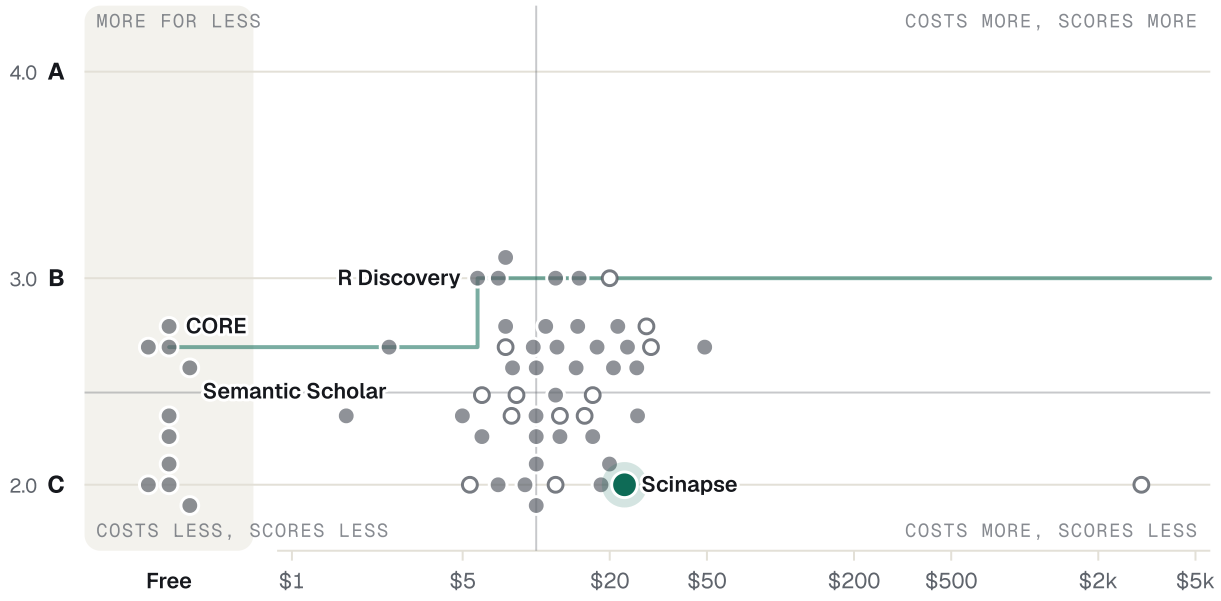
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 70 AI research tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Scinapse'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. Scinapse 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 Scinapse 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: 62 of the 69 other AI research tools grade higher. It costs $276 a year.

What you could make

- Reports: an app builder makes this well.

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.
- Sharing with other people, which means accounts and invitations.

What this rests on. Scinapse'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



Semantic Scholar, Connected Papers, Litmaps, ResearchRabbit and Dimensions

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

3.2 GPA

Semantic Scholar

Free

Free AI-powered search engine for scientific literature.

- Only Semantic Scholar lists a browser extension.
- Scinapse also covers reports.

Scinapse and Semantic Scholar compared in full

2.4 GPA

Connected Papers

Free plan · from $6/mo

Visual graphs of similar academic papers for literature search.

- Scinapse also covers AI search and reports.

Scinapse and Connected Papers compared in full



2.0
GPA

Litmaps

Free plan · from $10/mo

Literature review tool that maps papers by their citations.

- Scinapse also covers AI search and reports.

Scinapse and Litmaps compared in full



2.2
GPA

ResearchRabbit

Free plan · from $10/mo

Literature discovery tool that maps how papers connect.

- Scinapse also covers AI search and reports.

Scinapse and ResearchRabbit compared in full



2.8
GPA

Dimensions

Free plan

Linked research database of publications, grants and patents.

- Scinapse also covers reports.

Scinapse and Dimensions compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

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 Scinapse free?

Scinapse has a free plan. Keyword paper search ranked by impact, collections and history, citation export, and basic paper, author and journal information.

How much does Scinapse cost?

Scinapse lists 4 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Scinapse work on?

Scinapse is available on Web.

Does Scinapse offer any discounts?

Scinapse publicly lists the following: Save up to about 21% with yearly billing.

Does Scinapse have an Android app?

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

Does Scinapse have an iPhone app?

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

Is Scinapse open source?

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

Does Scinapse have a free trial?

Yes. 7-day free trial on the Pro plan.

Who makes Scinapse?

Scinapse is made by Pluto Labs.

What are the alternatives to Scinapse?

The closest alternatives to Scinapse in our directory are Semantic Scholar, Connected Papers, Litmaps, ResearchRabbit and Dimensions.

How does Scinapse compare with other AI research tools?

Scinapse's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 5 of the 69 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 2.

Is Scinapse good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Scinapse D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $23 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 44 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Scinapse?

To replace Scinapse 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 Scinapse'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 Scinapse'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 Pluto Labs. Prices change, so check scinapse.io before you buy.

scinapse.io/

scinapse.io/pricing

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

Scinapse, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/scinapse

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

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI research tools after Scinapse, 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 Scinapse'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. Scinapse is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Pluto Labs. Prices and plans change: check scinapse.io before you buy.