ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Lean Library Workspace

The Insider's Guide

Reference manager and citation add-ins, formerly Sciwheel



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

Made by Lean Library · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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

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

Lean Library Workspace, the product formerly called Sciwheel, is a reference manager with a library organized into projects and tags, annotations on web pages and PDFs, and shared projects. A Lean Library browser extension finds legal access to articles through a user's institution, and add-ins insert citations in Word and Google Docs.

> "
>
> **There are projects, tags and add-ins to set up.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for a reference manager with Word and Docs add-ins**

Lean Library Workspace, which used to be Sciwheel, is a reference manager with projects, annotations and add-ins for Word and Google Docs.

2 **Paid plans start at $6.99 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $6.99 per month.

3 **There is a free plan**

Starter plan: free account with up to 3 projects.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web, with a browser extension too.

5 **Browser extension**

The Lean Library extension, offered for Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera and Edge, saves references and links to free or institutional access.

6 **Projects and tags**

References are organized in flexible projects and tags, with unlimited cloud storage synced across devices.

7 **Annotations**

Highlight and add notes directly on web texts, PDFs and other resources, kept with the saved reference.

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 Lean Library Workspace 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.

Lean Library Workspace at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $6.99 per month	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web, Browser extension
MADE BY Lean Library	CATEGORY AI Research Tools
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for a reference manager with Word and Docs add-ins

Lean Library Workspace, which used to be Sciwheel, is a reference manager with projects, annotations and add-ins for Word and Google Docs. The free

plan stops at 3 projects, the pricing page is unfinished with placeholder bullets, and the site shows no AI features.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Lean Library Workspace	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	Premium is $6.99 a month, under the $7.92 that starts the cheaper quarter of research tools, though the billing basis is not stated.
Free plan and trial	C	A free account with up to 3 projects. A cap you will meet fast.
Features	C	Browser extension, projects and tags, annotations, shared projects and Word and Docs add-ins. No AI features are shown.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. There are projects, tags and add-ins to set up.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web and a browser extension, with Word and Google Docs add-ins only.
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 Lean Library Workspace is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a cheap reference manager that cites inside Word and Docs
- ✓ Works for students whose university already gives Premium access

Who it is not for

- ✗ Tight if you stay free: up to 3 projects
- ✗ Watch out: the pricing page is unfinished, with bullets reading Feature 2, 3 and 4
- ✗ Watch out: $6.99 is shown per month with no annual or monthly basis stated
- ✗ Skip it if you want AI features, as the site shows none
- ✗ Skip it if you want phone apps, as none are listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Students whose university provides Lean Library access
- ✓ Researchers who want citations in Word or Google Docs
- ✓ Small groups sharing projects of references

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The pricing page is unfinished: plan bullets read Feature 2, 3 and 4, and its link is commented out of the site menu.
- ⓘ The $6.99 figure is shown as per month with no annual or monthly basis stated.
- ⓘ Free accounts are limited to 3 projects; some universities provide Premium access.
- ⓘ The site shows no AI features.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$6.99

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Lean Library Workspace has a free plan. Paid plans start at $6.99 per month.

STARTER

$0

Free account limited to 3 projects.

PREMIUM

$6.99

per month (billing basis not stated)

Unlimited projects, references and storage.

INSTITUTION / LAB GROUP

Custom

Everything in Premium; enquire for pricing.

The free plan

Starter plan: free account with up to 3 projects.

Read from sciwheel.com on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

2

Places it runs: Web and Browser extension

Reference manager and citation add-ins, formerly Sciwheel. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: real-time collaboration, web clipper, research, citations, highlights.

> **Browser extension, projects and tags, annotations, shared projects and Word and Docs add-ins.**
>
> From our grade for features

Browser extension

The Lean Library extension, offered for Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera and Edge, saves references and links to free or institutional access.

Projects and tags

References are organized in flexible projects and tags, with unlimited cloud storage synced across devices.

Annotations

Highlight and add notes directly on web texts, PDFs and other resources, kept with the saved reference.

Shared projects

Collaborators work in shared projects and see highlights, notes and references in one place.

Word and Google Docs add-ins

Insert formatted references and bibliographies in over 7,000 styles while writing.

Where it runs

Web

Browser extension

What it works with

Microsoft Word

Google Docs

Lean Library Workspace is made by Lean Library.

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

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

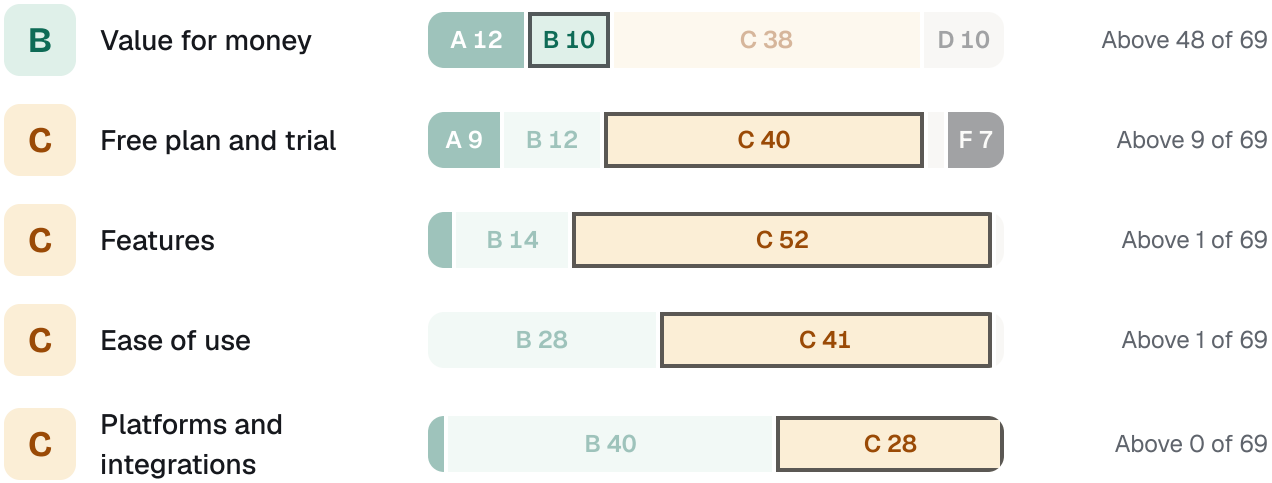
It stands best on value for money (B, above 48 of 69) and worst on platforms and integrations (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $6.99 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 7 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 12 tools score higher and cost less.

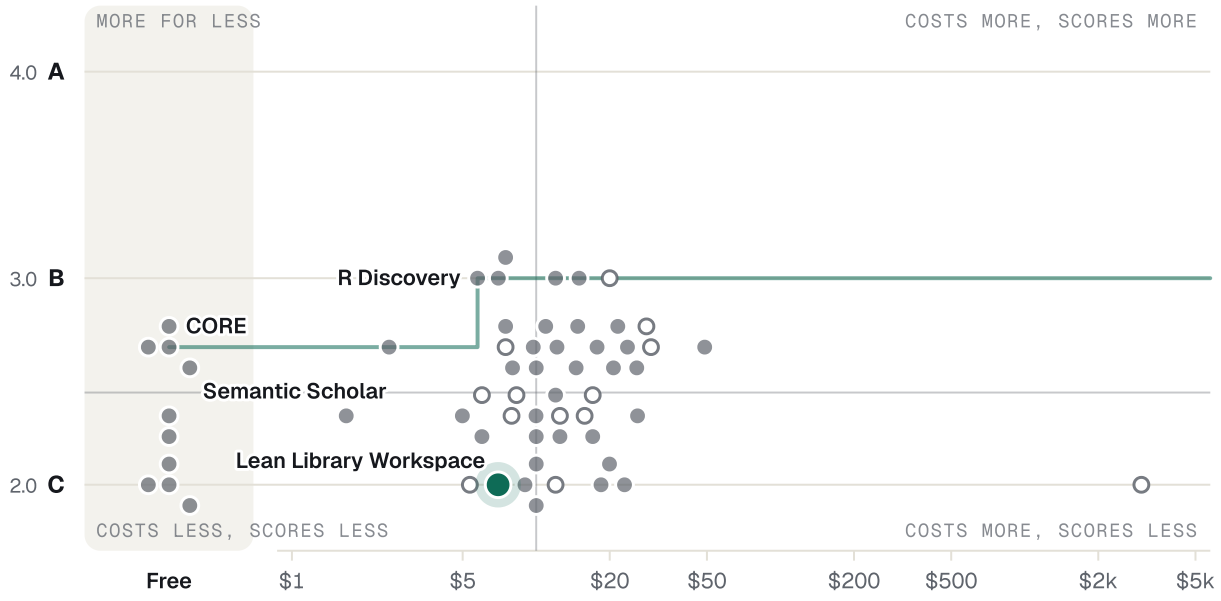
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 70 AI research tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Lean Library Workspace'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. Lean Library Workspace 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 Lean Library Workspace 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 $83.88 a year.

What you could make

- Web clipper and highlights: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- A library of papers and sources to search.

- ✕ Citation records for millions of papers.
- ✕ Several people working in it at the same moment.

What this rests on. Lean Library Workspace'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, ReadCube Papers and Scholarcy

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

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Paperpile

Free trial · from $8.30/mo

Reference manager built around Google Drive, Docs and Word.

- Lean Library Workspace has a free plan. Paperpile does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Paperpile lists iOS and Android apps.

Lean Library Workspace and Paperpile compared in full

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Zotero

Free plan · from $20/yr

Free, open-source reference manager from a nonprofit.

- Only Lean Library Workspace lists a web app.
- Only Lean Library Workspace lists a browser extension.
- Only Zotero lists macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS and Android apps.

Lean Library Workspace and Zotero compared in full



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Mendeley

Free plan · from $26/mo

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

- Only Lean Library Workspace lists a browser extension.
- Lean Library Workspace also covers web clipper.
- Mendeley also covers chat assistant.

Lean Library Workspace and Mendeley compared in full



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ReadCube Papers

Free trial · from $95/yr

Reference library with an AI assistant for cited answers.

- 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.

Lean Library Workspace and ReadCube Papers compared in full



2.6 GPA

Scholarcy

Free plan · from $90/yr

Summarizes research papers into interactive flashcards.

- Lean Library Workspace also covers web clipper and highlights.

Lean Library Workspace and Scholarcy compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

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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 Lean Library Workspace free?

Lean Library Workspace has a free plan. Starter plan: free account with up to 3 projects.

How much does Lean Library Workspace cost?

Lean Library Workspace lists 3 plans. Starter: $0.

What platforms does Lean Library Workspace work on?

Lean Library Workspace is available on Web. It also has a browser extension.

Does Lean Library Workspace have an Android app?

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

Does Lean Library Workspace have an iPhone app?

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

Is Lean Library Workspace open source?

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

What does Lean Library Workspace integrate with?

Lean Library Workspace's listing names Microsoft Word and Google Docs.

Who makes Lean Library Workspace?

Lean Library Workspace is made by Lean Library.

What are the alternatives to Lean Library Workspace?

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

How does Lean Library Workspace compare with other AI research tools?

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

Is Lean Library Workspace good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Lean Library Workspace B for value for money. Its paid plans start at $6.99 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 7 of the 48 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Lean Library Workspace?

To replace Lean Library Workspace 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 Lean Library Workspace'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 Lean Library Workspace'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 Lean Library. Prices change, so check sciwheel.com before you buy.

sciwheel.com/pricing

sciwheel.com/

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

Lean Library Workspace, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/sciwheel

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

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI research tools after Lean Library Workspace, 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 Lean Library Workspace'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. Lean Library Workspace is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Lean Library. Prices and plans change: check sciwheel.com before you buy.