

Academic Case Study



# Purdue University Embraces AI-Enhanced Research With Scite





Purdue University, a leading STEM-focused public research institution, has recognized the growing importance of artificial intelligence tools in academic research and instruction. As AI becomes increasingly prevalent in higher education, Purdue sought to implement solutions that would align with their academic values while providing cutting-edge capabilities to their faculty and students.

## Challenge

Purdue University needed an AI research tool that would connect with the library's existing knowledge base and citation databases while providing reliable, academically sound information for researchers. The solution needed to integrate smoothly with existing research practices, offer transparent sources that could be verified by users, and address concerns about AI reliability while leveraging its benefits.

Purdue has been emphasizing to students the importance of verifying information from AI tools like ChatGPT. The fact that Scite places clear limits around what it's doing and has a very defined use case has been particularly encouraging for students who are learning to approach AI tools with appropriate caution.

## Solution

After initial discovery through a colleague in Industrial Engineering who had begun using Scite with his students, Purdue's library team investigated the platform. They were particularly impressed by Scite's citation-based approach.

**“The fact that Scite is citation-based was very, very helpful. We know Web of Science, we know Scopus. We know citation databases that exist out in the world. So just seeing this as a new spin on that was very helpful.”**

**David Zwicky**  
Chemistry Librarian  
at Purdue University



With support from Purdue's Office of Research, which recognized Scite as both "interesting and cutting edge," the university secured funding and implemented a campus-wide subscription.

The implementation strategy included:

- Creating a clearly designed landing page in collaboration with Scite
- University-wide announcements through administrative email channels
- Training sessions and workshops conducted by library liaisons for graduate students and postdocs
- Faculty meetings to introduce the platform to different departments

# Result

Purdue has seen significant engagement with Scite across various disciplines, particularly in STEM fields:

## Engagement Metrics

- Higher attendance rates at Scite workshops compared to other library offerings (e.g., 260 attendees from 550 registrants in 2024, compared to typical 20/100 ratio for other workshops)
- Continuous request for training from different departments
- Adoption in classroom settings as a required research tool

## Primary Use Cases

- **Literature Research:** Faculty and students use Scite to find relevant research papers and verify sources.
- **Research Strategy Development:** "For students who are coming into a topic relatively uninformed about it, [Scite] can really give them some alternate search terms that they might want to consider," explains Zwicky.
- **Search Transparency:** Users appreciate that Scite shows not only search results and citations but also explains its search strategy, helping researchers develop better research approaches.

- **Citation Context Analysis:** Uniquely, Scite tracks where in papers citations appear. "This is the only database that I know of that tracks where in the paper something was cited," Zwicky notes. This feature has been particularly valuable for researchers looking to demonstrate their methodological impact.
- **Faculty Profiles:** Professors have shown special interest in creating and reviewing their Scite profiles, which has helped drive faculty adoption.

# Future Plans

Purdue continues to promote Scite through ongoing outreach and workshops. The library team actively encourages users to discover new applications for the platform, fostering innovation in how AI tools can support academic research.

The library team's approach moving forward focuses on remaining attentive to user needs and being responsive to emerging interests and applications across the campus community.



## About Purdue University

Founded in 1869, Purdue University is a public research university located in West Lafayette, Indiana. As one of the nation's leading STEM-focused institutions, Purdue is known for its strengths in engineering, agriculture, science, and technology programs. The university serves over 50,000 students across its main and regional campuses, and has produced numerous innovations, including 27 astronauts and countless technological breakthroughs. Its library system manages extensive research collections and plays a critical role in supporting the institution's research and teaching missions.

To learn more about how Scite works and how your institution can benefit, [visit our website](#) or contact us at [sales@scite.ai](mailto:sales@scite.ai).

