

Academic Case Study

A University Uses Scite To Help Students & Faculty To Better Discover & Understand Research





The Problem

A university was looking to help its students and faculty improve the quality of their research and enhance the literature discovery experience.

Teaching students and researchers how to find and evaluate literature is a common task for university educators. However, finding high-quality and relevant research is a time-consuming task that requires a depth of engagement and practice, which is often challenging to teach early researchers. The university found that most tools that addressed this problem were too complex and onerous, aimed more at bibliometricians performing complex queries than students and researchers in their day-to-day lives.

The university wanted to find a tool that provided researchers with a better way to discover, contextualize, and understand research beyond traditional metrics. Specifically, it was looking for a tool to help students and researchers discover how literature fit within the context of other findings, identify if the work had been tested by others, and, if so, if it had been supported or disputed.

How Scite Helped

1. Scite Reports help researchers analyze how a work is being discussed and cited.

The university was able to provide a comprehensive solution for their students, faculty, and staff to see exactly how research publications were cited (i.e., were they supported, contrasted, or how they were mentioned), not just what cited them (i.e., a count or list of citing publications).

Researchers could quickly and easily identify which studies had been supported or contested.

2. With Scite Citation Statement search, researchers can find exactly what they should be citing.

The university's researchers were able to use a literature discovery tool that allows them to search across over 900M citation statements to find evidence, analyses, and expert opinions on any topic.

3. Scite Dashboards enable the university to understand research outcomes, not just research outputs.

The university was able to use the scite Dashboards to evaluate their research by understanding which authors, research programs, or publications have been well supported, which ones have been heavily disputed, which publications have been retracted, and more.

Evaluating Literature With Scite Reports

Understanding the quality of a publication requires researchers to understand not only the publication itself but also thoroughly how other researchers have received that publication. Scite provided this university with a way to see everything said about a publication instantly and in one place instead of having to use various tools to find all of the citations, get access to the full text of those citations, and read those papers to see how a work was cited (hoping that the citation will be relevant to the research project). With Scite Reports, the university enabled its researchers to evaluate publications as experts in their field have and ensure that they are fully aware of any criticisms of the publication or its results when they choose to cite it. By teaching students to use Scite Reports, university educators were able to show students what good citation practices look like and how to understand literature as others have understood it. In this way, students are able to check to see if the citations they are making to literature are in line with what experts have said, thereby empowering students to avoid out-of-context and inappropriate citations.

The screenshot displays a Scite Reports interface. On the left, there is a search bar with the text 'Context, author(s), title e... Q' and a dropdown menu set to 'Order By: Relevance'. Below this are filters for 'Publications' (8 with citation statements, 8 without) and 'Citation Types' (3 supporting, 10 mentioning, 0 contrasting). A 'Year Published' bar chart shows data from 2017 to 2021. The main content area is titled 'Cited by 16 publications (13 citation statements)' and 'References 46 publications (79 reference statements)'. It shows three citation statements: two 'supporting' (92% and 91% confidence) and one 'mentioning' (99% confidence). Each statement includes a snippet of text from the citing publication, a section header, and a link to the full text.

Example of a report page showing citation statements and how they talk about a publication of interest

Knowing What To Cite With Citation Statement Search

Literature discovery is a difficult and time-consuming process. University libraries devote many resources to it, teaching researchers how to systematically search, evaluate, and collect relevant information and providing research support services to seasoned researchers.

However, most discovery tools fail to provide a direct way for researchers to find how a certain topic, method, result, dataset, or argument is being discussed in the literature. Search strategies are often indirect and clumsy when finding information not in the title or abstract. Even when a full-text search is provided, it is neither comprehensive nor contextual, meaning that search results are sparse and incomplete, and it is hard to immediately see why the retrieved result is relevant.

With Scite Citation Statement search, researchers at this university can now directly search the text within citation statements to find evidence, analyses, and expert opinions. By surfacing the result within the context of citations, researchers are able to see both how and why the query was retrieved. This allows researchers to not only find relevant literature to reference, but also ensure they are not missing any citations for their research project. With over 900 million searchable citation statements, students and faculty can explore entire bodies of research, ensuring they reference the most relevant and credible sources for their projects.

Citation Statement Search B.1.617.2 vaccine efficacy

supporting
Confidence: 86%
[flag classification](#)

These data, together with our previous findings, 3 reveal that AZD1222 recipients have lower NABTs than BNT162b2 recipients against SARS-CoV-2 variants, including **B.1.617.2** (appendix p 3). This finding is in line with the **vaccine**-induced NABTs observed during clinical trials of AZD1222 4 and BNT162b2. 7 Notably, our data are consistent with preliminary observational estimates based on rates of S gene target failure during PCR testing in England 8 and more recent data from Scotland, 9 which reports 19% reduced AZD1222 **efficacy** following two doses (60%) relative to two doses of BNT162b2 (79%) against the **B.1.617.2** variant and similar to reduced **efficacy** against the B.1.1.7 variant following two doses (73% for AZD1222 vs 92% for BNT162b2).
AZD1222-induced neutralising antibody activity against SARS-CoV-2 Delta VOC Wall, Wu, Harvey, et al. 2021 *The Lancet*

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supporting
Confidence: 83%
[flag classification](#)

A recent real-world study in participants who effectiveness of 75% against any documente disease caused by the variant B.1.351 25 , w Consistent with the modest reduction in neut reported here, a test negative case control st effectiveness of two doses of BNT162b2 aga to 93.4% effectiveness against B.1.1.7 lineage virus 26 . Thus, reductions in neutralization like those observed in this study have not been demonstrated to result in loss of **vaccine efficacy** against disease.

Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against the B.1.617.2 variant
Bernal, Andrews, Gower, et al. 2021 Preprint

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Section: Discussion
BNT162b2-elicited neutralization of B.1.617 and other SARS-CoV-2 variants Liu, Liu, Xia, et al. 2021 *Nature*

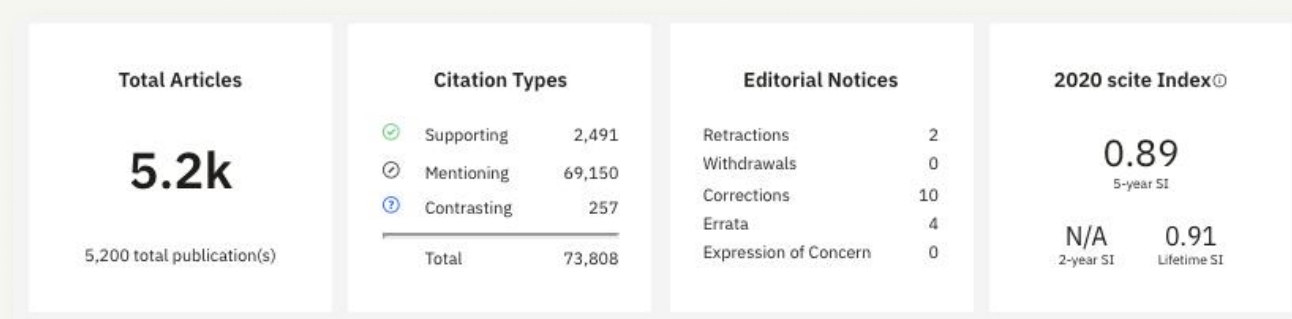
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Example of a citation statement search showing a search for vaccine efficacy

Understanding Research With Dashboards

Part of the mission of a university is to oversee the quality of research produced. Naturally, university libraries and provost offices are tasked with evaluating this research and understanding how it can be improved. This is done using tools such as Scopus and Web of Science to understand the output of their research programs and the impact of publications, research initiatives, and faculty as measured by citation counts. However, these tools lack the context needed to understand what those citation counts truly mean. One hundred citations could all be refuting a publication, supporting it, or using it as a fundamental method for a new field of research. Since citation counts fail to express how a citation is made, a publication that has been well-supported or heavily disputed is counted as the same.

The university wanted a way to understand not just how many citations publications and researchers received but what those citations were saying, such as whether a publication was reproduced or if a publication was severely criticized. By utilizing Scite Dashboards, the university can see its research outputs, as well as the outcomes of that work, by understanding how publications and faculty were supported, contrasted, or mentioned. In this way, the university is able to see the real impact of their research programs and understand what areas of research need improvement, saving them countless hours of trying to add context to traditional bibliometrics and research evaluation approaches.



Example of some of the aggregate information a university can receive in their research evaluation dashboards