

Mega
databases, AI
and semantic
searches:
magic buzz
words or
something
real there?

Information Retrieval Meeting
(IRM 2024), Cologne, Germany
26 April 2024

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[@aarontay](https://twitter.com/aarontay)



<https://musingsaboutlibrarianship.blogspot.com>

3 Predictions for 2027

1. Semantic Search will become so effective, evidence synthesis will adapt to use it despite it being less transparent.
2. Data Extraction with LLMs will be popular. Either used as a second option check or used alone with human in loop checks
3. Agent LLM based retrieval will start being used but will still be minority

An attempt to classify new discovery tools-June 2023

SMU Classification: Restricted

New mega citation indexes

Citation based literature mapping services

Science mapping tools

Research Graphs

Graphs extracted using LLM

Retriever Augmented Language Models* Academic

General Web

Citation sentiment tools

Other full-text extraction+ Summarization

Aaron Tay @aarontay

One year down the road, my update of my categorization of interesting new academic discovery tools. As always it is not all inclusive (many evidence synthesis tools ignored), and categorizations are grey (1)

Aaron Tay @aarontay · Jun 2, 2022

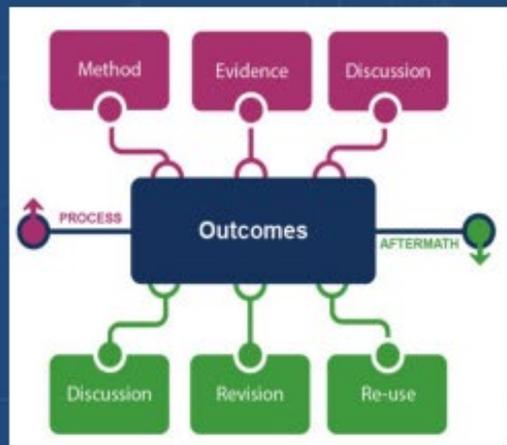
A bit difficult to classify since they overlap plus a lot more research tools in more specialised areas like evidence synthesis support that I do not include. But here's my best attempt to classify. ... [Show more](#)

1:00 AM · Jul 5, 2023 · 14K Views

My 2018 prediction about game changers

Diversity in record + Open + New Technology (e.g. ML) = New roles

Diversity in
scholarly record



Push to Open



Open Access
Open Data
Open Edu resources
Open Citations
Open Science
Open infrastructure

Technology



Linked data
Machine
Learning
NLP

Major milestones in academic search

- 1996 - PubMed
- 2004 – Google Scholar, Scopus launches
- 2009 – Summon discovery service/layer launches
- 2015 – **Semantic Scholar launches – later also Semantic Scholar Open Corpus (S2ORC) and Semantic Scholar Academic Graph (S2AG)**
- 2016 – **Microsoft Academic and Microsoft academic graph (MAG) relaunches**
- 2017 – **Transformer architecture introduced in "Attention is all you need" paper**
- 2017 – **Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC)**
- 2018 – **Lens.org Scholarly work search launches combining MAG+Crossref+Pubmed**
- 2018 – **BERT model introduced**
- 2019 – **Elsevier , ACS make citations open**
- 2020 – **Connected papers, ResearchRabbit etc launches**
- 2020 – **GPT3**
- 2022 – **Crossref makes deposited references mandatory open**
- 2022 – **OpenAlex launches, MAG closes**
- 2022 – **ChatGPT/GPT3.5 launches, Perplexity.ai, Elicit, Bing Chat launches with RAG**

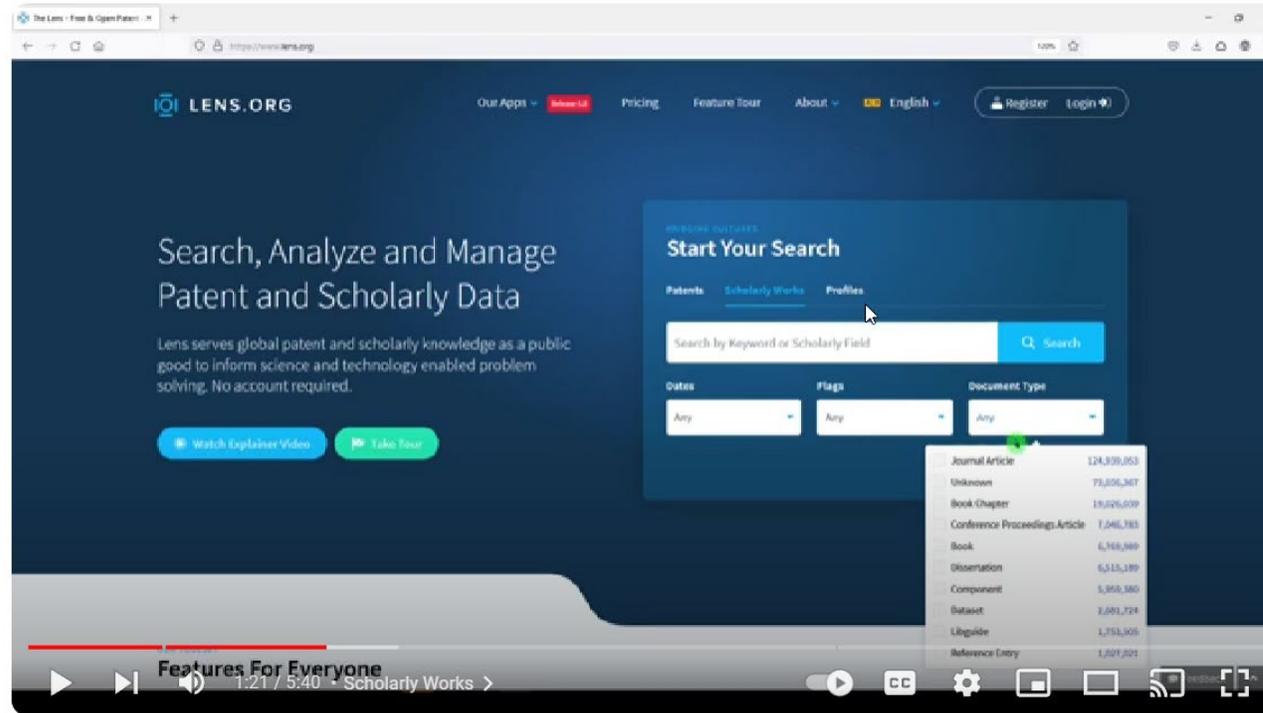
Push to Open

New technology

New resulting discovery tools

Rise of the "mega-indexes"

Evidence synthesis librarians talk about lens.org



The Lens | Search Effectively for Scholarly Works in this AMAZING PLATFORM



Carrie Price
1.96K subscribers

Subscribe

11



Share

Save



631 views 1 year ago Publishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DDgqPp-hVQ>

EPPI reviewer – early pioneer on use of Microsoft Academic graph as far back as 2019

MAG Browser v1.0 User Guide – 21 October 2019

Microsoft Academic Graph Browser in EPPI-Reviewer – User Guide (v1.0)

What MAG Browser v1.0 can do and how to use it

[Finding new reports](#)

[Using automation to produce a “living map” of the COVID-19 research literature](#) , [Cost-effectiveness of Microsoft Academic Graph with machine learning for automated study identification in a living map of coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) research](#)

Microsoft Academic Graph as a single source of records

Figure 3 shows the number of unique records found in each source during our evaluation period and the overlap between them. We found that while MAG had a 99% recall overall, MEDLINE/Embase only had a recall of up to 83% due to the large number of additional records found in MAG that were not in our conventional searches.

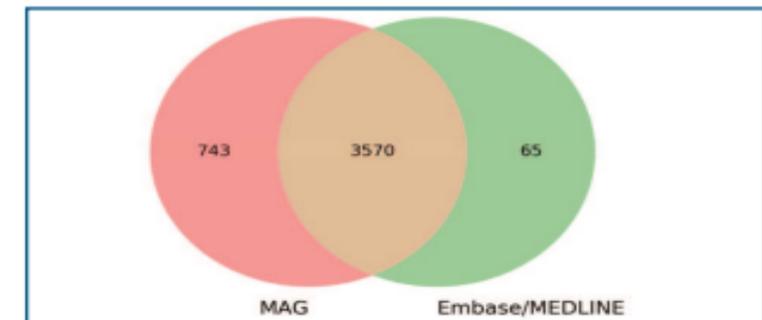


Fig. 3. Number of records found in each source.

Why use Lens.org/ MAG (now Openalex)

- Large - >150 million, includes some grey literature, includes non-english literature
- Nice web interfaces that support boolean and field searches and or great analytical features (e.g. Lens.org)
- License is relatively open, public domain, CCO etc
- Allows multiple ways to access e.g. OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar
 - Via web interface
 - API (openalex, Semantic Scholar)
 - Data Dumps (OpenAlex)

The screenshot displays the Lens.org web interface. At the top, the logo 'LENS.ORG' is visible on the left, and the language 'English - EN' is on the right. Below the header, a navigation bar shows '271,105,935 Scholarly Works'. A left sidebar contains a 'FILTERS' section with various search criteria: Date Range, Flags, Author, Institution, Institution Country/Region, Identifier Type, Funding, Journal, Conference Name, Document Type, Publisher, Subject Matter, Open Access, and Query Tools. The main content area is titled 'New Scholar Search' and shows 'Scholarly Works (271,105,935) = All Docs'. It indicates 'Filters: No filters applied' and provides two search options: 'Scholarly Works' with 271,105,935 results and 'Works Cited by Patents' with 5,390,152 results. Below this, there are tabs for 'Structured Search', 'Query Text Editor', and 'Profiles'. The 'Structured Search' tab is active, showing a search field with 'All Fields' selected and the text 'e.g. malaria'. The 'Predicate' is set to 'AND'. Below the search field, there are additional filter options: 'Date Range', 'ORCID Lookup Author', and 'Flags'.

Why NOT use these mega-indexes

- Not curated – WILL contain predatory journals
- Quality of meta-data – might be lower quality than Scopus, Web of Science

Table 6 Performance of the five data sources on the PubMed Baseline gold standard | $N = 5,512,064$

From: Finding citations for PubMed: a large-scale comparison between five freely available bibliographic data sources

	COCI (%)	COCI.Updated (%)	Dimensions (%)	MAG (%)	NIH-OCC (%)	S2ORC (%)
Coverage	65.57	72.29	99.98	87.36	100.00	63.03
Precision	99.87	99.87	99.60	97.87	99.90	97.66
Recall	84.69	85.18	98.80	90.80	98.99	79.00
F1-score	90.59	90.95	99.07	93.37	99.34	86.27
Accuracy	15.67	15.60	81.55	27.73	89.08	5.86

Bold font denotes the data source with the best performance

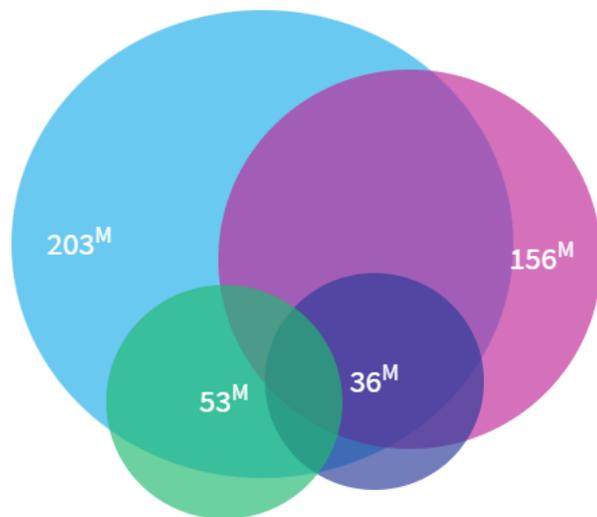
Note: Only documents covered by the specific data source were included in the calculation of precision, recall, and F1-score

Why "mega"

SCHOLARLY DATA SET

Last updated: Apr 22, 2024 (Release 202416)

The below scholarly data sources are currently ingested and integrated in the Lens. Updates are performed on a fortnightly basis at the present time.



● Microsoft Academic ● CrossRef ● PubMed
● OpenAlex

Coverage

Last updated Fri Jan 12 2024

248M Works

52M Open Access works
28M from the Global South
3M datasets

90M Authors

5M with ORCIDs
12M from the Global South

250K Sources

46K that are Open Access

10K Publishers

32K Funders

107K Institutions

65K Concepts

[OpenAlex coverage](#)

[What's in Lens.org](#)

▼ PRESET 1: When to select 'systematic keyword searching'?

Systematic keyword searching is the most critical element of search strategies in most systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Its goal is to identify all relevant records that meet the eligibility criteria in a reproducible and transparent manner. Boolean searching, mostly relying on OR/AND operators, is the foundation of any systematic search. It yields many relevant results when performed well with the right database and the right search string. Moreover, Boolean searching proves highly reproducible and transparent, but only with the suitable search systems and good reporting. However, only a fraction of databases support key functionalities for systematic searching. Search Smart allows to easily identify the databases that support critical functionality. **To warrant the criteria for 'rigorous research' in systematic reviews, a database needs to fulfill nine minimum capabilities that are enabled all at once via the "systematic keyword searching" preset:**

1. *Minimum search string length (narrow field code) is 25 or more*
2. *Verbatim queries*
3. *Reproducible queries over time/place*
4. *Boolean OR*
5. *Boolean AND*
6. *Boolean operators work exactly*
7. *Field code "abstract"*
8. *Nested search (parenthesis)*
9. *Accessible records: 1000 or more (systematic searches will, in most cases, go well beyond the first results page)*

These criteria are based on the ones developed here: Gusenbauer, M., & Haddaway, N. R. (2020). Which Academic Search Systems are Suitable for Systematic Reviews or Meta-Analyses? Evaluating Retrieval Qualities of Google Scholar, PubMed and 26 other Resources. *Research Synthesis Methods*, 11(2), 181–217. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1378> **[direct download]**

Additionally, selecting the **"Bulk select & export options"** button will activate two more filters that further limit the selection by requiring databases to support:

1. *Bulk select records*
2. *Bulk export records: 50 or more at a time*

Users with advanced requirements may limit the selection further with additional filtering options: e.g., *truncation, Boolean NOT operator, search history, query builder, proximity operators, or support for exceptionally long queries.*

**Emerald Insight**

Business, Management and Accounting (48.52 %); Social Sciences (17 %); Economics, Econometrics and Finance (9.52 %)

Total coverage (1929–2022) **495.00K**Subject coverage (1) **240.19K/48.52%**Open access coverage **9.00K/1.82%****ABI/Inform Global (via ProQuest)**

Business, Management and Accounting (26.88 %); Economics, Econometrics and Finance (23.9 %); Social Sciences (21.14 %)

Total coverage (1906–2022) **29.02M**Subject coverage (1) **7.80M/26.88%**Open access coverage **N/A****Business Source Premier (via EBSCOhost)**

Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1894–2022) **21.55M**Subject coverage (1) **5.64M/26.16%**Open access coverage **N/A****EconBiz**

Economics, Econometrics and Finance (48.93 %); Business, Management and Accounting (21.23 %); Social Sciences (15.96 %)

Total coverage (1689–2023) **12.05M**Subject coverage (1) **2.56M/21.23%**Open access coverage **2.19M/18.21%****Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Social Science & Humanities (via Web of Science)**

Social Sciences (31.96 %); Business, Management and Accounting (19.68 %); Arts and Humanities (18.13 %)

Total coverage (1990–2023) **962.24K**Subject coverage (1) **189.39K/19.68%**Open access coverage **105.71K/10.99%****RePEc (via EconPapers)**

Economics, Econometrics and Finance (40.09 %); Business, Management and Accounting (17.11 %); Social Sciences (13.92 %)

Total coverage (N/A–N/A) **4.13M**Subject coverage (1) **706.22K/17.11%**Open access coverage **N/A****SSRN**

Economics, Econometrics and Finance (49.25 %); Social Sciences (18.13 %); Business, Management and Accounting (16.15 %)

Total coverage (1994–2022) **1.02M**Subject coverage (1) **174.77K/16.15%**Open access coverage **N/A****RePEc (via IDEAS)**

Economics, Econometrics and Finance (44.07 %); Business, Management and Accounting (15.4 %); Social Sciences (13.22 %)

Total coverage (N/A–N/A) **4.14M**Subject coverage (1) **637.06K/15.40%**Open access coverage **N/A****EconLit (via EBSCOhost)**

Economics, Econometrics and Finance (63.61 %); Social Sciences (14.36 %); Business, Management and Accounting (13.93 %)

Total coverage (1892–2022) **1.85M**Subject coverage (1) **257.78K/13.93%**Open access coverage **N/A**

Rigorous methodology to estimate

- Absolute and relative coverage of databases by subject (26 categories)
- Internal and external validity checks, e.g. comparing databases on different platforms
- Allowing sorting by relative subject coverage (example shows Business)

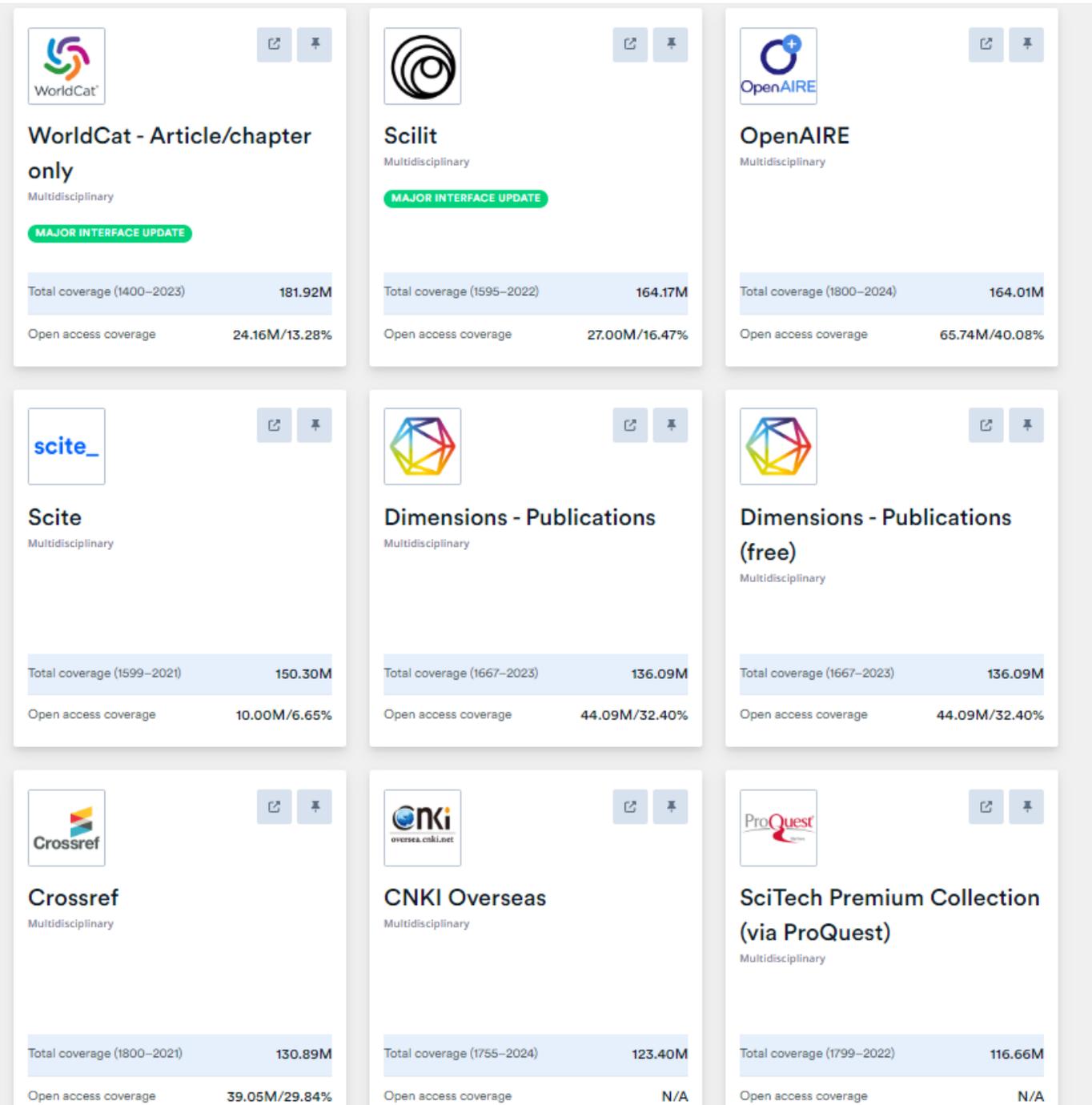
Methodology

- Gusenbauer, M. (2022). Search where you will find most: Comparing the disciplinary coverage of 56 bibliographic databases. *Scientometrics*, 1-63. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-022-04289-7>
- [My simplified coverage](#)

Databases with estimated >200 million records according to [Searchsmart.org](https://searchsmart.org)

 Google Scholar Multidisciplinary	 Bielefeld Academic Search Engine Multidisciplinary	 Naver Academic Multidisciplinary
Total coverage (1500–2021) 389.00M	Total coverage (1000–2021) 274.90M	Total coverage (N/A–N/A) 251.61M
Open access coverage N/A	Open access coverage 164.80M/59.95%	Open access coverage 88.06M/35.00%
 Internet Archive Scholar Multidisciplinary	 OpenAlex Multidisciplinary RECENTLY LAUNCHED	 Lens Multidisciplinary
Total coverage (1500–2024) 250.31M	Total coverage (1800–2024) 248.20M	Total coverage (1800–2021) 236.41M
Open access coverage 83.68M/33.43%	Open access coverage 52.86M/21.30%	Open access coverage 40.59M/17.17%
 CORE Multidisciplinary	 Semantic Scholar Multidisciplinary	 Scinapse Multidisciplinary
Total coverage (1000–2021) 220.12M	Total coverage (1931–2021) 203.59M	Total coverage (N/A–N/A) 200.00M
Open access coverage 219.11M/99.54%	Open access coverage N/A	Open access coverage N/A

Databases with
estimated 100-
200 million
records
according to
[Searchsmart.org](https://searchsmart.org)





Mendeley
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1879–2021) **114.00M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



Scopus
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1864–2021) **84.92M**

Open access coverage **16.90M/19.91%**



CAS SciFinder-n
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1799–2021) **81.05M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



Embase (via Ovid)
Medicine (56.31 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (15.5 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (5.76 %)

Total coverage (1972–2022) **36.76M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



PubMed
Medicine (52.31 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (16.58 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (5.16 %)

Total coverage (1799–2021) **35.20M**

Open access coverage **3.79M/10.77%**



Virtual Health Library
Medicine (56.16 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (14.6 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (4.69 %)

Total coverage (1901–2023) **34.80M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



Web of Science Core Collection
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1900–2021) **79.89M**

Open access coverage **15.53M/19.44%**



ScienceOpen
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1500–2024) **76.31M**

Open access coverage **7.40M/9.69%**



Science Citation Index Expanded (via Web of Science)
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1900–2021) **59.52M**

Open access coverage **13.25M/22.26%**



Medline (via Web of Science)
Medicine (53.84 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (16.04 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (4.98 %)

Total coverage (1823–2022) **33.92M**

Open access coverage **10.09M/29.76%**



Medline (via EBSCOhost)
Medicine (53.75 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (16.05 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (4.84 %)

Total coverage (1799–2022) **33.68M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



Medline (via Ovid)
Medicine (53.35 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (16.29 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (5.04 %)

Total coverage (1860–2022) **33.10M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



Academic Search Premier (via EBSCOhost)
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1896–2023) **40.44M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



Europe PMC
Medicine (52.09 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (15.53 %); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (5.07 %)

Total coverage (1799–2022) **39.84M**

Open access coverage **3.67M/9.22%**



Academic Search Elite (via EBSCOhost)
Multidisciplinary

Total coverage (1896–2023) **39.70M**

Open access coverage **N/A**



BIOSIS Citation Index (via Web of Science)
Medicine (31.53 %); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (25.85 %); Agricultural and Biological Sciences (14.17 %)

Total coverage (1924–2022) **30.65M**



ABI/Inform Global (via ProQuest)
Business, Management and Accounting (26.88 %); Economics, Econometrics and Finance (23.9 %); Social Sciences (21.14 %)

Total coverage (1906–2022) **29.02M**



WorldCat - Thesis/dissertation
Multidisciplinary

MAJOR INTERFACE UPDATE

Total coverage (1578–2026) **28.50M**

This does not even include the new "AI powered search"!



Find the best science faster.

- ✓ Academic search engine
- ✓ Search 200M papers
- ✓ Results you can trust
- ✓ Making research accessible



One of our biggest projects right now is building a semantic search engine for 200 million abstracts and 66 million full-text papers using language model embeddings.



ScholarAI

Abstract Search

Search over 200M+ peer-reviewed articles in our database.

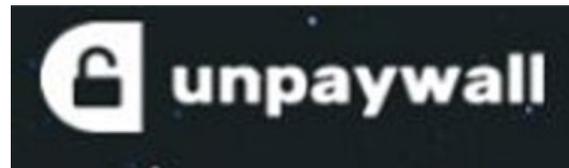
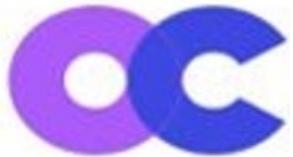
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Some sources of Open Scholarly Metadata + Applications



Open metadata & infrastructure (2018-)



Initiative for Open Citations -
successfully hits 90% open citations in Crossref records (Jan 2021)

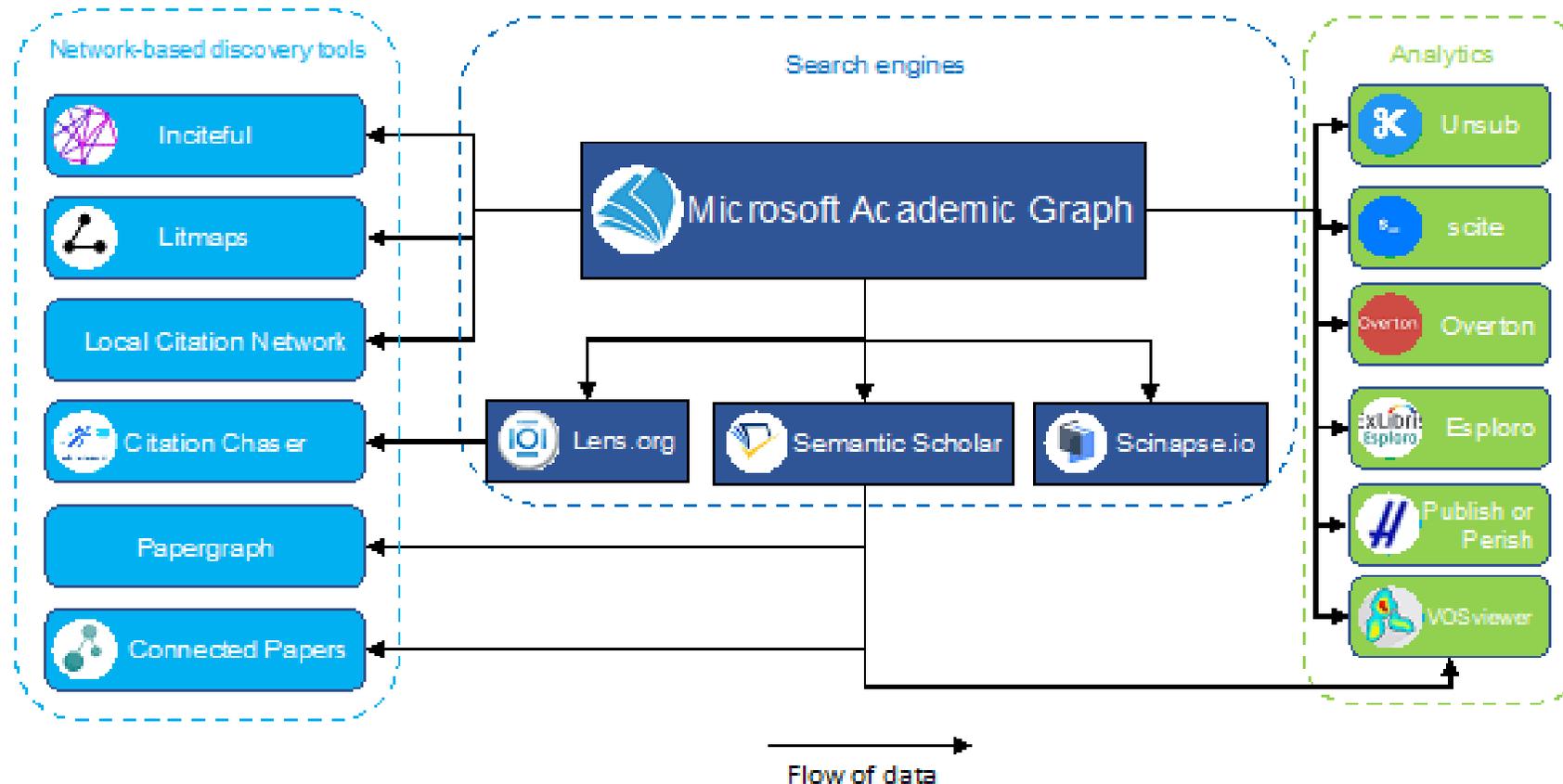


Initiative for Open Abstract launches (Sept 2020)



Formal adoption of The Principles of Open
Scholarly Infrastructure by Crossref,
Datacite, ROR, OurResearch etc in 2020

Goodbye, Microsoft Academic – Hello, open research infrastructure? (Dec 2021)



Citation based literature mapping tools

Not just indexes

[List of citation-based literature mapping tools](#)



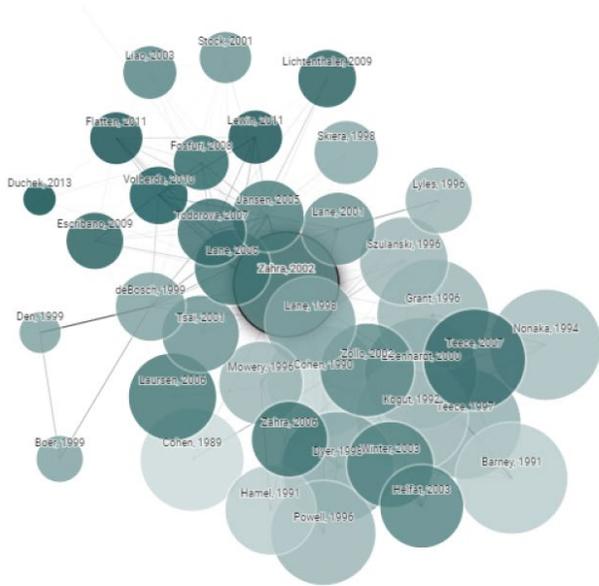
Citation based literature mapping tools



- Bottom-up approach
- Tends to require you to start by adding a few relevant seed papers (around 10-20)
- Used by any type of researcher who wants to find papers by citation relationships (and some are starting to use text based similarity approaches)
- One step process, comes with a index that you can pull papers from
- User-friendly interface, does not use technical jargon

[VOSviewer](#), [Citespace](#), [Bibliometrix](#) , [CitNetExplorer](#), [Sci2](#), [HistCite](#), [Hazing](#)
[Publish or Perish](#)

New innovative tools by startups, hobbyist etc



[ConnectedPapers](#)

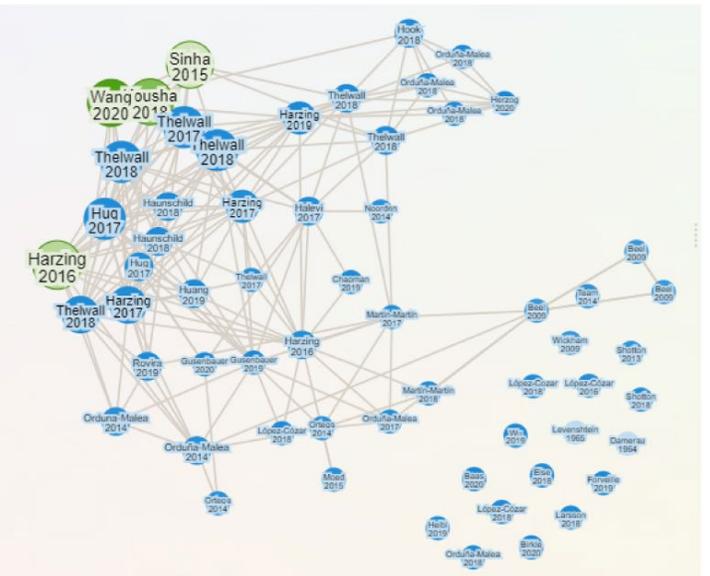
7437 Citations, 86 References

Open in:

Origin paper ...

Researchers have used the absorptive capacity construct to explain various organizational phenomena. In this article we review the literature to identify key dimensions of absorptive capacity and offer a reconceptualization of this construct. Building upon the dynamic capabilities view of the firm, we distinguish between a firm's potential and realized capacity. We then advance a model outlining the conditions when the firm's potential and realized capacities can differentially influence the creation and sustenance of its competitive advantage.

[Research Rabbit](#)



You can think of this as *citation searching/chasing etc at scale*. However, these tools may use citation/bibliometric based techniques that are not transparent.

Transparency of Research Rabbit – article level

The screenshot displays the Research Rabbit interface for an article. On the left, a sidebar shows search filters and a list of articles. The main panel shows details for the selected article: "Servant Leadership: A Review and Synthesis:" by Dirk van Dierendonck, published in the Journal of Management in 2011. The article text is visible below. On the right, there are sections for "EXPLORE PAPERS" and "EXPLORE PEOPLE".

Abstracts Comments

Select None Select All

● management consulting

Dierendonck 2011
↓ 1365

Servant Leadership: A Review and Synthesis:
Journal of Management

test test23r43 test23
servant leadership

Davis Rothstein 2006
↓ 207

The effects of the perceived behavioral integrity of managers on employee attitudes: A meta-analysis

1 selected paper

Dirk van Dierendonck

Servant Leadership: A Review and Synthesis:
Journal of Management 2011
↓ 1365

No PDF

Servant leadership is positioned as a new field of research for leadership scholars. This review deals with the historical background of servant leadership, its key characteristics, the available measurement tools, and the results of relevant studies that have been conducted so far. An overall conceptual model of servant leadership is presented. It is argued that leaders who combine their motivation to lead with a need to serve display servant leadership. Personal characteristics and culture are positioned alongside the

Add to Other Collection

EXPLORE PAPERS

- Similar Work 1775
- All References 115
- All Citations 1365

EXPLORE PEOPLE

- These Authors 1
- Suggested Authors 2

EXPLORE OTHER CONTENT

Not transparent

Transparent

Transparency of Research Rabbit – collection level

The screenshot shows the Research Rabbit interface. On the left, there is a filter section with a 'Filter' dropdown set to 'Custom', checkboxes for 'Abstracts' (unchecked) and 'Comments' (checked), and a 'Select All' link. Below this, a search result for 'management consulting' is displayed, featuring a card for a 2011 paper by Dierendonck titled 'Servant Leadership: A Review and Synthesis:' from the Journal of Management. The card includes tags for 'test', 'test23r43', 'test23', and 'servant leadership'. Below this is another card for a 2006 paper by Davis and Rothstein titled 'The effects of the perceived behavioral integrity of managers on employee attitudes: A meta-analysis' from the Journal of Business Ethics. At the bottom, a third card for a 2010 paper by Ladkin and Taylor is partially visible.

On the right, the 'EXPLORE PAPERS' section is highlighted with a red box and contains the following items:

Category	Count
Similar Work	2057
Earlier Work	12
Later Work	26

Below this, the 'EXPLORE PEOPLE' section is highlighted with a green box and contains:

Category	Count
These Authors	6
Suggested Authors	174

The 'EXPLORE OTHER CONTENT' section shows 'Linked Content' with a count of 2. At the bottom, the 'EXPORT PAPERS' section offers options for 'BibTeX', 'RIS', and 'CSV'.

Not transparent

Transparent

Transparency of Connected papers

How does it work?

- **To create each graph, we analyze an order of ~50,000 papers** and select the few dozen with the strongest connections to the origin paper.
- In the graph, **papers are arranged according to their similarity**. That means that even papers that do not directly cite each other can be strongly connected and very closely positioned. Connected Papers is not a citation tree
- Our similarity metric is based on the concepts of ***Co-citation* and *Bibliographic Coupling***. According to this measure, two papers that have highly overlapping citations and references are presumed to have a higher chance of treating a related subject matter
- Our algorithm then builds a ***Force Directed Graph*** to distribute the papers in a way that visually clusters similar papers together and pushes less similar papers away from each other. Upon node selection we **highlight the shortest path from each node to the origin paper** in similarity space.
- Our database is connected to the [Semantic Scholar Paper Corpus](#) (licensed under ODC-BY). Their team has done an amazing job of compiling **hundreds of millions of published papers across many scientific fields**.

Not transparent

Transparent

Transparency of inciteful

 [Help](#) [Follow](#) 

Comments on “Discrete particle-continuum fluid modelling of gas–solid fluidised beds” by Kafui et al. [Chemical Engineering Science 57 (2002) 2395–2410]

Yuqing Feng | Aibing Yu Chemical Engineering Science | [10.1016/j.ces.2003.11.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ces.2003.11.003)

14	6	2004	No	4,728	53,578	2
Cited By	Citing	Published	Open Access	Papers in Graph	Citations in Graph	Graph Depth

Links: [Publisher](#) | [Full Text from LibKey](#)

Not transparent

Transparent

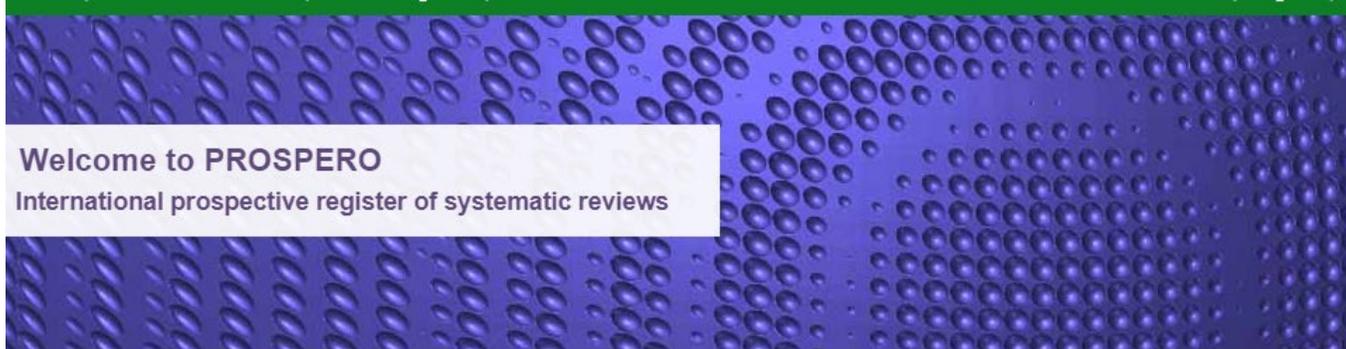
Use the Query Editor below to explore the graph centered around the above paper. You can also test out the examples below, explore the [schema](#) or click on the magnifying glass on any data table on the site to see the sql used to produce the results.

- Basic Sort
- Journals with Most Papers
- Most Frequent Authors
- Most Cited Authors

```
SELECT paper_id, doi, authors, title, journal, page_rank, num_cited_by, published_year
FROM papers p
WHERE p.distance >= 1
ORDER BY page_rank DESC, adamic_adar DESC
```

How frequent are these tools
used in evidence synthesis

How to estimate use?



PROSPERO is fast-tracking registration of protocols related to COVID-19

PROSPERO accepts registrations for systematic reviews, **rapid reviews** and umbrella reviews. PROSPERO **does not accept scoping reviews** or **literature scans**. Sibling PROSPERO sites registers systematic reviews of **human studies** and systematic reviews of **animal studies**.

This method probably undercounts usage of these tools*

Click to **show your search history and hide search results**. Open the **Filters** panel to find records with specific characteristics (e.g. all reviews about cancer or all diagnostic reviews etc). See our **Guide to Searching** for more details.

Click to **hide the standard search and use the Covid-19 filters**.

Q researchrabbit [X] Go MeSH Clear filters Show filters

First Previous Next Last (page 1 of 1)

10 records found for **researchrabbit**

Show checked records only | Export

<input type="checkbox"/>	Registered	Title	Type	Review status
<input type="checkbox"/>	06/02/2023	Systematic review and meta-analysis of risk prediction models for abdominal aortic aneurysm [CRD42023395635]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	17/03/2023	A systematic and methodological search of statistical methods using a hierarchical structure (or grouping system) to analyse adverse events in randomised controlled trials [CRD42023404082]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	14/03/2023	Area-deprivation Measures for Assessment of the Pediatric Surgical Population: A Systematic Review [CRD42023404921]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/04/2023	The impact of learning activities on fitness and wellness staff and sports coaches supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disorders in community or residential exercise settings: A systematic review [CRD42023412708]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	02/08/2023	Place-based approaches to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people: a rapid realist review [CRD42023450778]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	23/10/2023	A systematic review of the effect of volatile anaesthetic agents on cerebral blood flow and intracranial pressure [CRD42023474587]		Review Ongoing

Use of citation based literature mapping tools

- **CitationChaser(72)** - 2021-2024
- **ConnectedPapers (24)** - 2020-2024
- **CoCites(11)** - 2020-2023 (discontinued)
- **ResearchRabbit(10)** - 2023-2024
- **Litmaps(6)** - 2023-2024
- **CitationGecko(4)** - 2022-2024

The screenshot shows the CitationChaser web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: citationchaser, Home, Article input (highlighted), References, Citations, Analysis, and Network. Below the navigation bar, there is a main heading: "Enter the articles that you want to start from. We will first check the full citations in the Lens.org database. You must complete this step before retrieving references and citations." Below this, there is a section titled "EITHER:" with two options: "1: Paste your identifiers in (each id separated from the next using a comma, carriage return (new line), or space)". There are four input fields for identifiers: "Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)", "PubMed identifiers (PMIDs)", "Microsoft Academic identifiers (MAGIDs)", and "CORE identifiers (COREIDs)". Each field contains the placeholder text "separate identifiers with a comma". Below these fields, there is a section titled "OR:" with two options: "2: Upload your data as a CSV or RIS file". There are two file upload sections: "Choose CSV File" and "Choose RIS File". Each section has a "Browse..." button and a "No file selected" button. There are also "Help" buttons for each section. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Load my input articles" (blue) and "Reset" (orange).

CitationChaser by Haddaway, N. R.,
Grainger, M. J., Gray, C. T.

Use of new mega-indexes

- Semantic Scholar (202) - 2018-2024
- Microsoft Academic (90) - 2015-2024
- Lens org(27) - 2018-2024
- Dimensions ai(13) - 2021-2024
- OpenAlex(12) - 2022-2024
- Scinapse(12)- 2020-2023
- Scilit(9) - 2021-2023
- Microsoft Academic Graph(4) - 2020-2022



Comparison – Google Scholar mentioned 8k times in 2023 alone!

What are the tools used for

- Normal database search
 - [The studies will be searched in PubMed/MEDLINE, AMED, CINAHL, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials \(CENTRAL\), PsycINFO, ERIC, ScienceDirect, SciencePubCo, Scopus database, JSTOR, ProQuest, Google Scholar, Semantic Scholar, ClinicalTrials.gov.](#)
 - [This search will be completed by a search in the world wide web using google and Bing Chat \(chatbot based on ChatGPT-4\) and in ClinicalTrials.gov.](#)
 - [We will screen PubMed, CINAHL, EMBASE, PERPLEXITY without any date restriction.](#)
 - [The systematic review will search: AI-assisted tools: Elicit.org, Consensus AI Research Assistant and other relevant GPTs/AI Research Assistants](#)
- Search grey literature
 - [Grey literature will be searched on Google Scholar, BASE, Semantic Scholar, OpenGrey and the researchers will also hand-search using reference lists and books.](#)
 - [Use of search engines to identify grey literature \(not yet completed\): Elicit <https://elicit.org/> – first 20 results](#)
- Supplementary search
 - [In an effort to find the greatest number of related publications, an additional search in Google Scholar, the related search tools in PubMed and connectedpapers.com were used as secondary sources](#)
- Citation chasing
 - [Forward /backward citation searches of included studies will be performed in Research Rabbit \(<https://researchrabbitapp.com/home>\) and Scite \(<https://scite.ai/home>\).](#)
 - [In addition, manual searches were carried out using the snowball method, the PubMed “similar” tool and the use of the \[www.connectedpapers.com\]\(http://www.connectedpapers.com\) tool](#)
- Citation in context
 - [Scite and Litsense to capture citation in context.](#)

The next generation discovery citation indexes — a review of the landscape in 2020 (I)



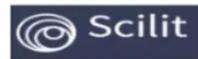
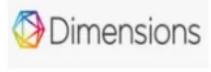
Aaron Tay

Published in Academic librarians and open access · 30 min read · Oct 8, 2020

201 6



[Chinese translated version available here](#)



Some Discovery Citation Indexes in 2020

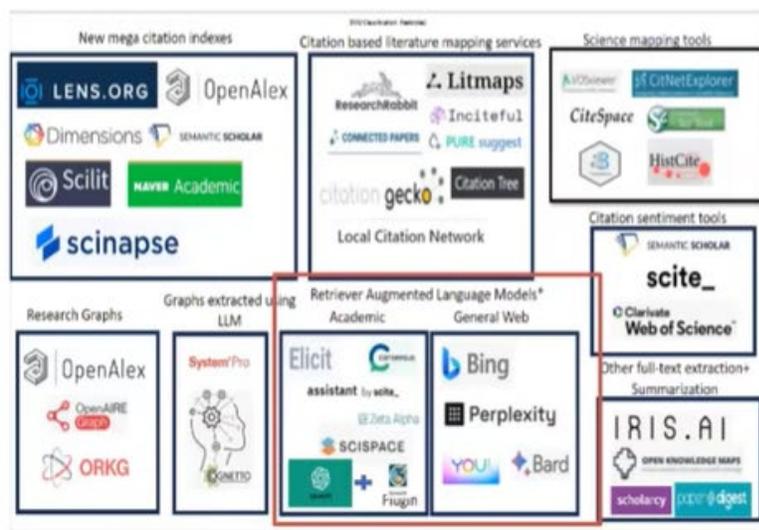
Moral of story

1. It is now relatively easy for any startup to create a search engine/index from 200 million academic works
2. This creates the foundation for the rise of AI powered search tools

[Learn more](#)

Three ways "AI" will change
search

AI and search



The confusing world of discovery

Transformer based Large Language Models (e.g. GPT4, BERT, PaLM2, LLaMA)

- Improved relevancy
- Generation of direct answers
- Extraction of information from papers (abstract and full-text) to enhance search engine result pages

The possible impact of AI on search and discovery

[The possible impact of AI on search and discovery \(42 minutes\)](#)

What do we mean by "generative AI"?

- These days AI = Large Language Models (implemented by Neural nets with Transformer architecture)
- OpenAI's – GPT3.5, GPT4, GPT4-Turbo
- Anthropic - Claude 3 Opus, Sonnet, Haiku
- Google/Deep Mind – BERT*, T5*, Gemini Ultra, Gemini 1.5 pro
- Meta's – Llama 3 (opensource)
- AI2 - OLMo (Academic Open Language Model)

* Most of the list are decoder only models, BERT is encoder model and T5 is Encoder decoder model

** Some restrictions

Large Language Models (such as ChatGPT, BERT models)

```
graph TD; A[Large Language Models (such as ChatGPT, BERT models)] --> B[Natural Language Understanding]; A --> C[Natural Language Generation*];
```

Natural Language
Understanding

Natural Language
Generation*

For doubts about "understanding" see - [On the Dangers of Stochastic Parrots: Can Language Models Be Too Big?](#) & LLMs can't plan (..but they can help you in planning)

List of academic search engines that use Large Language models*



- Technically I list only academic search engines that use RAG for generation of answers

<https://musingsaboutlibrarianship.blogspot.com/p/list-of-academic-search-engines-that.html>

How do LLM's improve search (2023)

Current "standard" (2023) use

- **Improved relevancy (through contextual embeddings)**
- **Extraction of information from papers (abstract and full-text) to enhance search engine result pages**
- Generation of direct answers (paragraph or two using RAG)

Things people working on

- Semi automation of systematic reviews (agent based)
- Intergration with Knowledge Graph
- **Literature review generation (holy grail)**

Generation of direct answer
using Retrieval Augmented
Generation

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one" – Neil Gaiman

With RAG (retrieval augmented generation) - Scite.ai assistant and other search engines can too!

↳ Can you use Google Scholar alone for systematic reviews? 

 Google Scholar is a widely used search engine for academic literature, and its applicability to systematic reviews has been a topic of interest in the research community. Several studies have investigated the role of Google Scholar in systematic reviews and its effectiveness as a standalone tool for literature searches. [Haddaway et al. \(2015\)](#) concluded that while Google Scholar can retrieve a substantial amount of grey literature and specific known studies, it should not be relied upon as the sole source for systematic review searches. Similarly, [Gehanno et al. \(2013\)](#) suggested that Google Scholar should be used in addition to other trusted sources of information, such as PubMed and Cochrane, for searches related to clinical trials and systematic reviews. These findings are consistent with the study by [Giustini & Boulos, 2013](#), which also emphasized that Google Scholar alone is not sufficient for conducting systematic reviews.

↳ Ask a question... (type '/' for menu)



Other answers – Dimension Research GPT

Insight from top [5 papers](#) ▼

English (en) ▼

Save 

Google Scholar alone is n
While Google Scholar car
Google Scholar has been
engine ^[3]^[4]. Issues with
record display limit ^[5].



Dimensions Research GPT

No, using Google Scholar alone for systematic reviews is generally not recommended. Google Scholar, while extensive, does not provide the same level of comprehensive and systematic coverage, controlled vocabulary, and advanced search capabilities that specialized databases like Dimensions offer. Dimensions ensures more thorough and reproducible searches due to its structured and indexed content which is crucial for systematic reviews.

To help answer your question or prompt, data related to Open Access publications has been retrieved from Dimensions to inform the generated statements. For information on the Enterprise version of the Dimensions Research GPT and for further exploration and discovery via the Dimensions web app, visit [Dimensions AI](#).

of Science ^[1].
]. However,
primary search
ing the 1,000-

[Scispace](#)

Bing Chat (Copilot)



Using Google Scholar alone for systematic reviews is not generally recommended. While Google Scholar can be a useful tool for finding scholarly literature, it has limitations that make it insufficient as the sole source for a systematic review. The search algorithm of Google Scholar is not transparent and cannot be controlled, which means that searches are not replicable—a key requirement for systematic reviews¹. Additionally, Google Scholar may not provide comprehensive

For a systematic review, typically involves search like the PRISMA 2020 st

search process, which includes how studies were identified and selected³.

Therefore, while Google Scholar can be part of the search strategy, it should be used in conjunction with other databases and resources to ensure a thorough and systematic approach to literature searching⁴.



[Google Search as an Additional Source in Systematic Reviews](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11948-017-0010-4)

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11948-017-0010-4>

Google Search is indeed an imperfect tool to perform systematic reviews: the search algorithm is...

Search on Bing:

using Google Scholar for systematic...

ChatGPT+

ChatGPT 4 ▾



You

Search for academic papers on the topic Can you use Google Scholar alone for systematic review.

< 3/3 >



ChatGPT

Using Google Scholar (GS) alone for systematic reviews presents a mixed picture. On one hand, it offers broad access to both peer-reviewed and grey literature, making it a valuable tool, particularly in disciplines where non-commercially published materials are significant [1]. GS is recognized for its high recall rate, meaning it can identify a wide range of relevant studies, including those not indexed in traditional databases. For instance, one study found that GS could identify 95% of relevant studies, indicating it could locate all the necessary studies for specific systematic reviews [2].

Is the coverage of google scholar enough to be used alon...

.1.

Many , Many more...

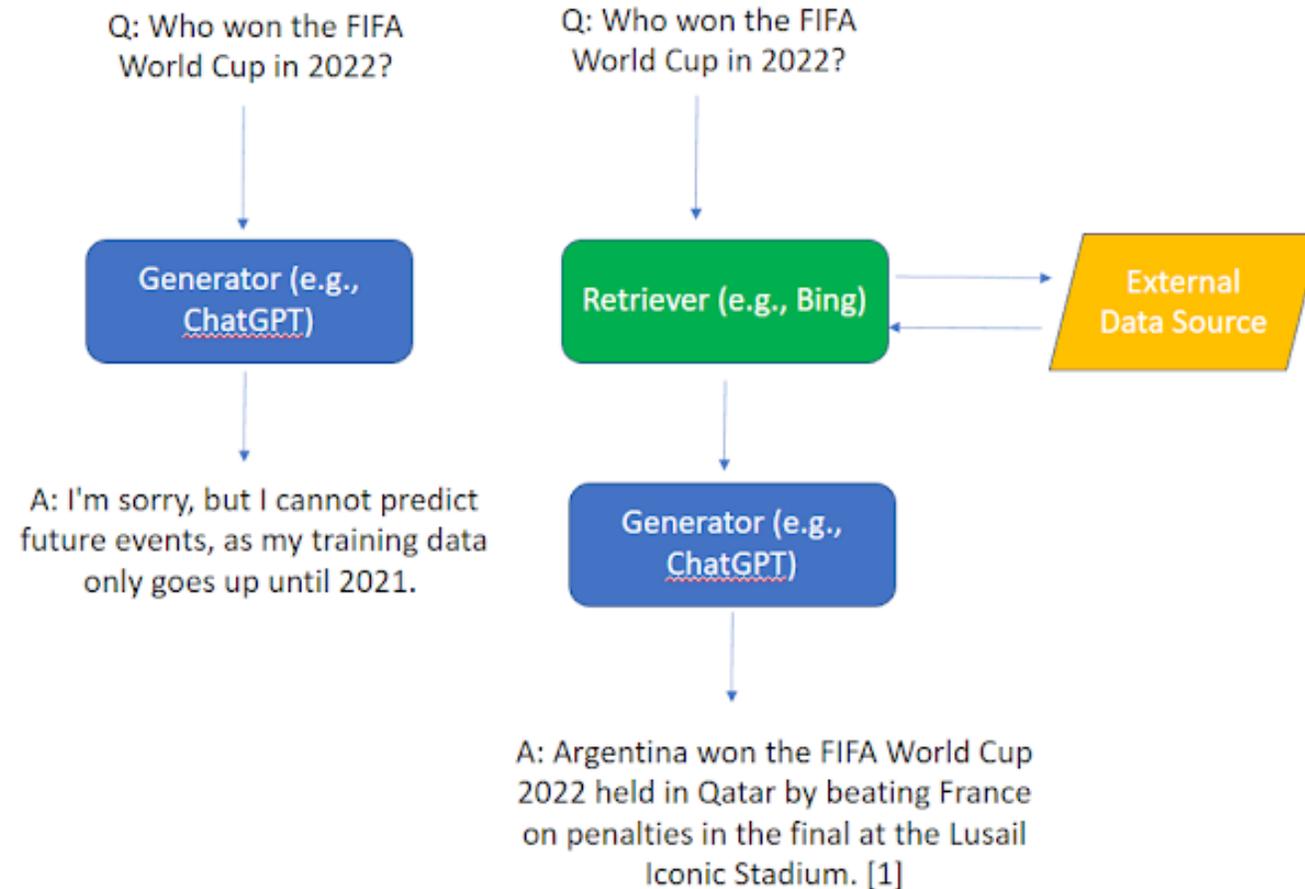
- Scopus AI
- Primo and Summon (coming 2Q 2024)
- [OpenRead](#)
- [ReadWonder](#)
- [Epsilon](#)

The image shows a screenshot of the ExLibris CDI Research Assistant interface. A blue vertical bar on the left contains the text 'CDI Research Assistant' at the top, 'User Question' with an arrow pointing to the input field, 'AI Generated Answer' with an arrow pointing to the main text area, 'Supporting Articles' with an arrow pointing to the list of resources, and 'ExLibris Next Chat' at the bottom with an arrow pointing to the chat input field. The interface itself has a dark header with navigation links: JOURNAL SEARCH, TAGS, LIBRARY SEARCH, ILL REQUEST, FETCH ITEM, BROWSESEARCH, and a menu icon. Below the header is a 'BACK' button. The main content area displays the user's question 'What does theory of relativity mean', followed by a detailed AI-generated answer explaining the special and general theories of relativity. Below the answer is a section titled 'To learn more about the theory of relativity, you can explore the following resources:' which lists three articles. On the right side, there is a 'Related Questions' sidebar with a list of eight related topics. At the bottom, there is a chat input field with the placeholder text 'Ask me anything' and a send button.

Primo Research Assistant – 2Q 2024 (on Roadmap)

Retriever augmented generation (RAG)

Idea : Let's ground the generated answer with evidence found via search of external sources (ie context)



ChatGPT (free) without search might make up references

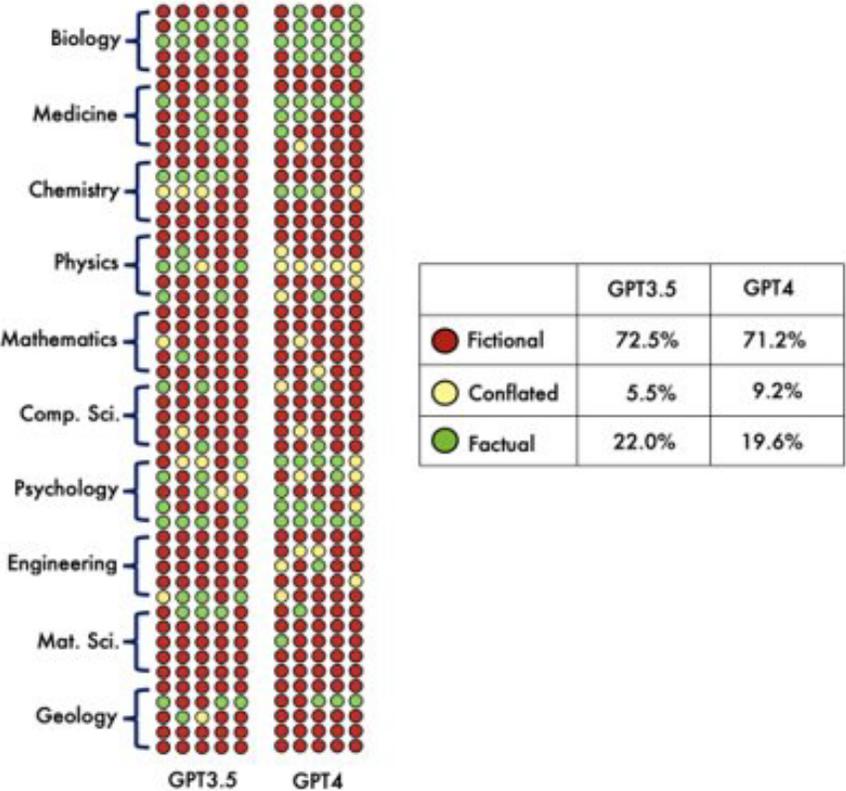


Fig. 1. Citations to answers given by LLMs. Each row represents 5 sources / citations for a single answer. Overall, 72.5% of citations provided by GPT3.5 were fictional. This figure was 71.2% for GPT4

[\[2307.04683\] CORE-GPT: Combining Open Access research and large language models for credible, trustworthy question answering \(arxiv.org\)](#)

Retrieval augmented generation does not mean "no hallucination"

Google Scholar is a widely used tool for academic research, and its utility for systematic review in the literature. While some studies have used Google Scholar as one of the database searches (Ward et al., 2017; K 2018; Hosseinpour & Walsh, 2020; T et al., 2019; Abdollahi et al., 2019; Farhat et al., 2022; Kiat 2021), there is a consensus in the literature that it should not be used alone for systematic reviews (Boulos, 2013; Haddaway et al., 2016; Boeker et al., 2016). Boeker et al. highlighted the limitations of Google Scholar coverage, recall, and precision such as PubMed, Embase, and Scopus (Boeker et al., 2016; Wirgin et al., 2016). It has been emphasized that systematic reviews should follow the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines for comprehensive literature searches.

Is the coverage of google scholar enough to be used alone

Jean-François Gehanno¹

Abstract

Background: In searching for literature, Google Scholar (GS) is often used in isolation, but its utility for systematic reviews has not been fully evaluated. We performed a study to assess if GS was sensitive enough to be used alone for systematic reviews.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the coverage of GS is much higher than previously thought for high quality studies. GS is highly sensitive, easy to search and could be the first choice for systematic reviews or meta-analysis. It could even be used alone. It just requires some improvement in the advanced search features to improve its precision and to become the leading bibliographic database in medicine.

never
before
d

What does the research say?

Paper comparing Bing Chat, Perplexity, Youchat and NeevaAI

51.5% of generated sentences are fully supported by citations and only **74.5%** of citations support their associated sentence. (Average of 4 search engines)

68.7% of generated sentences are fully supported by citations and only **89.5%** of citations support their associated sentence. (Best of 4 search engines)

First generated statement [1✓][2✗][3⚠].
Second generated statement [1✓][2✗][4✗].
Third generated statement [4✓][5⚠].

Citation Recall: 3/3 = 100%
Citation Precision: 3/8 = 37.5%

First generated statement [1⚠][2⚠].
Second generated statement [2✗].
Third generated statement.

Citation Recall: 1/3 = 33%
Citation Precision: 2/3 = 66%

First generated statement [1✓][2✓][3✗].
Second generated statement.
Third generated statement.

Citation Recall: 1/3 = 33%
Citation Precision: 2/3 = 66%

✓ : highlighted statement is fully supported by citations
⚠ : highlighted statement is not fully supported by citations.
✓ : citation fully supports its associated statement.
⚠ : citation partially supports its associated statement.
✗ : citation does not support its associated statement.

Liu, N. F., Zhang, T., & Liang, P. (2023). *Evaluating verifiability in generative search engines*. arXiv.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/2304.09848>

Trust in AI: Evaluating Scite, Elicit, Consensus, and Scopus AI for Generating Literature Reviews

Key take-aways include:

- Overall, the generated arguments were generally well-supported by the sources. **Scite Assistant** was able to retrieve full text of articles in addition to the abstracts, while the other three tools seem to mainly surface the abstracts.
- Sometimes these tools may inaccurately conclude based on the the introductory or general statements from the abstracts instead of specific findings or conclusions, potentially leading to biased summaries. There are also instances where these tools quote secondary sources, e.g. Consensus – Ref. 4, or where Elicit and Consensus both quote a “Note” Benson (2018) – which is only a brief summary of another research article. These could also introduce inaccuracies or bias into the summary.
- Among the four, **Scopus AI** seems to perform the worst. There are instances where the sources did not support the arguments (see “Mechanisms” part in the review). In another case, **Scopus AI** almost copied word-for-word from a source’s abstract in the summary (see “Experimental evidence” part), which could result in plagiarism. This part is aligned with the findings laid out in [this post](#).

Many things can go wrong

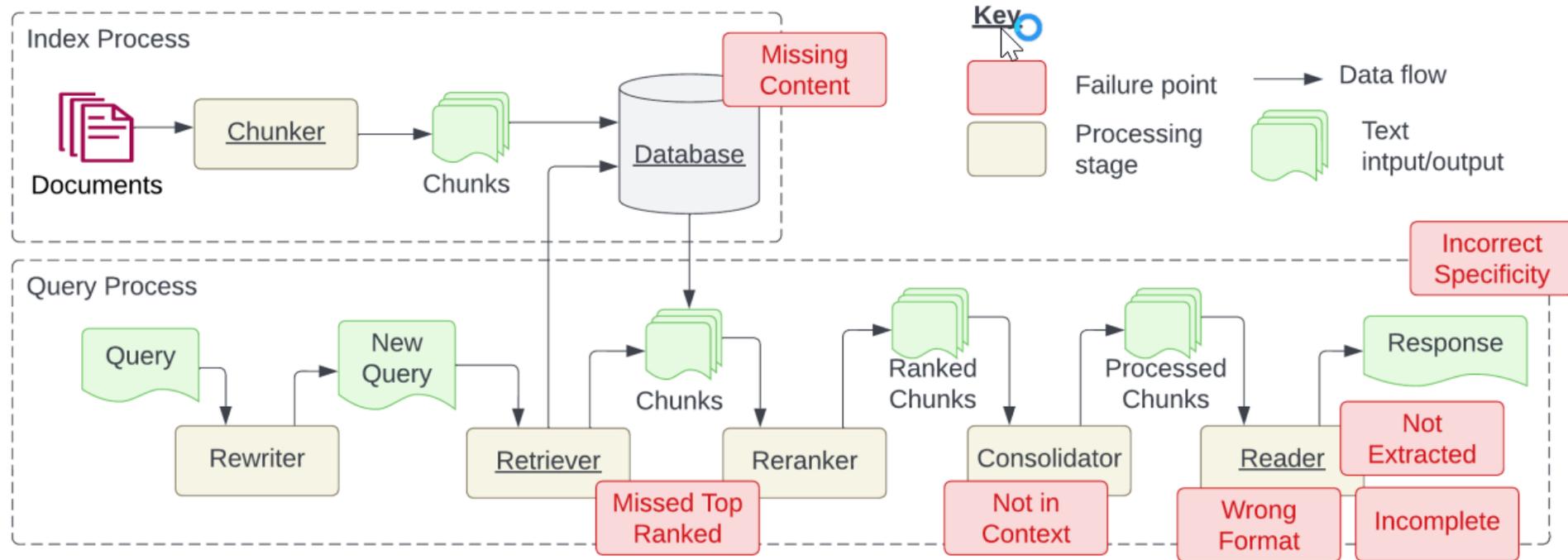
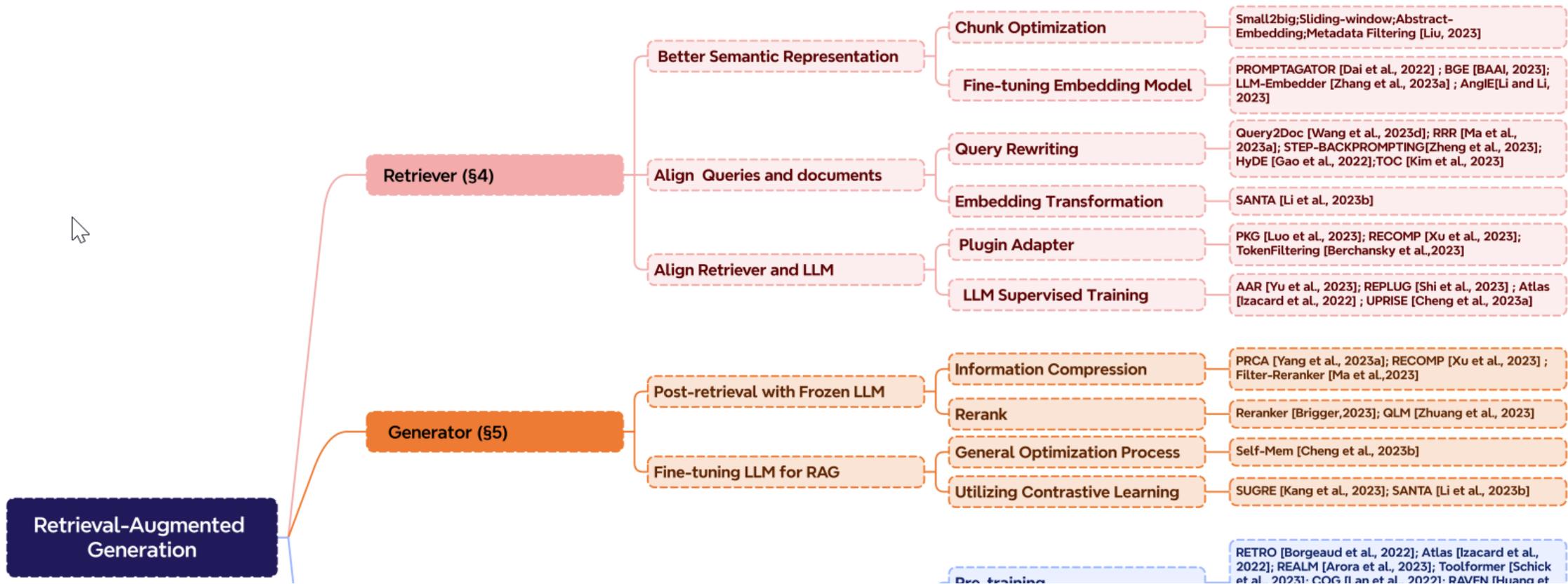


Figure 1: Indexing and Query processes required for creating a Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) system. The indexing process is typically done at development time and queries at runtime. Failure points identified in this study are shown in red boxes. All required stages are underlined. Figure expanded from [19].

Many workarounds and solutions.. Active research area



Other thoughts on RAG generated summaries

Often does not find the important, seminal papers to summarise

- Because many tools like Elicit, SciSpace do not by default weight citations and just use topic relevance
- Some tools like scite assistant allow you to upload/select papers, select search strategies used

Many generated summaries/answers lack coherence...

- Example "Paper A said this... Paper B said that"

May not be a big deal in academic search once people get used to it

- Accuracy will improve but academic search typically requires deep exploration not quick answers

Use of AI powered search in Evidence synthesis

- Elicit com or Elicit org (7) - 2022-2024
- SciSpace(4)- 2023-2024
- Scite (2)
- Perplexity.ai (1)
- Concensus.ai(1)
- Bing Chat (1)

[About PROSPERO](#) | [How to register](#) | [Service information](#)

to **show your search history and hide search results**. Open the **Filters** panel to filter results (e.g. results about cancer or all diagnostic reviews etc). See our **Guide to Searching** for more information.

to **hide the standard search and use the Covid-19 filters**.

elicit com



Go

MeSH

[Previous](#) [Next](#) [Last](#) (page 1 of 1)

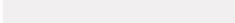
Results found for **elicit com**

Registered **Title**

24/10/2023

Cycles of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Africa: A systematic review of the association between childhood exposure to IPV and involvement in IPV in adulthood [CRD42023472461]

Extraction of information from papers (abstract and full-text) to enhance search engine result pages

Paper	Abstract summary	Methodology  	What is the disciplines covered  
<p>The Post-Embargo Open Access Citation Advantage: It Exists (Probably), It's Modest (Usually), and the Rich Get Richer (of Course)</p> <p> J. Ottaviani</p> <p> <i>PLoS ONE</i></p> <p>2016 63 citations PDF ↗ DOI ↗</p>	<p>Open access articles are cited more often than closed access/subscription-only articles.</p>	<p>The methodology involved comparing citations of open access articles with closed access articles in the same journal issue, using a random sample of 3,850 peer-reviewed and review articles published between 1990 and 2013. Data from Thomson Reuters' Web of Science and Journal Citation Reports were used to calculate actual and expected citation values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Sciences - Physical Sciences
<p>The citation advantage of open-access articles</p> <p> Michael Norris +2</p> <p>2008 124 citations DOI ↗</p>	<p>There appears to be a clear citation advantage for those articles that are OA as opposed to those that are TA.</p>	<p>The methodology involved selecting four subjects for comparison, counting citations using the Web of Science, and determining OA status through various sources. A sample of 4,633 articles was examined to assess the citation advantage between OA and TA articles. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life Sciences: Ecology - Physical Sciences: Applied Mathematics - Social Sciences: Sociology, Economics
<p>Revisiting the Open Access Citation Advantage for Legal Scholarship</p> <p> John R. Beatty</p> <p>2019 4 citations</p>	<p>Open access legal scholarship has shown a significant citation advantage in law citation studies.</p>	<p>The methodology in John R. Beatty (2019) refers to how the definition of open access and the source of citation data can influence the results of open access citation studies.</p>	<p>Social Sciences</p>
<p>Do open access journal articles experience a citation advantage? Results and methodological reflections of an application of multiple measures to an analysis by WoS subject areas</p> <p> Isabel Basson +2</p> <p> <i>Scientometrics</i></p> <p>2021 9 citations DOI ↗</p>	<p>Open access journal articles experience a citation advantage in very few subject areas.</p>	<p>The "Methodology" section describes the operationalization of the three measures of citation advantage, the conceptualization and operationalization of 'access status', and the data extraction methods used in the study.</p> <p>Add new step</p>	<p></p>

The Post-Embargo Open Access Citation Advantage: It Exists (Probably), It's Modest (Usually), and the Rich Get Richer (of Course)

J. Ottaviani

PLoS ONE

2016 63 citations PDF DOI

Open access articles are cited more often than closed access/subscriber-only articles.

The methodology involved comparing citations of open access articles with closed access articles in the same journal issue, using a random sample of 3,850 peer-reviewed and review articles published between 1990 and 2013. Data from Thomson Reuters' Web of Science and Journal Citation Reports were used to

- Health Sciences
- Physical Sciences

RELEVANT QUOTES < 2 of 3 >

Open paper

The citation advantage of open-access articles

Michael Norris +2

2008 124 citations DOI

the corresponding subscriber-only/still-subscriber-only (closed) articles in that journal issue before and after availability in Deep Blue, we can determine what effect opening them may have had, i.e. a postembargo OACA.

The sample began with a random selection of 3,850 papers-peer-reviewed and review articles only; bibliographies, book reviews, corrections, discussions, editorials, letters, notes, etc. were not considered-with original publication dates ranging from 1990 to 2013. These were matched with the 89,895 corresponding articles which remained closed, using the specific journal issue as a proxy for comparability of subject matter and quality. (It is an imperfect proxy, of course, but as noted above, in theory each article is unique, so an exact like-for-like comparison is not possible.) Using data from Thomson Reuters' Web of Science and Journal Citation Reports databases

Revisiting the Open Access Citation Advantage for Legal Scholarship

John R. Beatty

2019 4 citations

Do open access journal articles experience a citation advantage? Results and methodological reflections of an application of multiple measures to an analysis by WoS subject areas

Isabel Basson +2

Scientometrics

2021 9 citations DOI

conceptualization and operationalization of 'access status', and the data extraction methods used in the study.

Add new step

Mathematics, Economics

ces, Social

Is it really 98% accurate for data extraction?

Elicit results

1.4 hours

saved per user per week

On average, users say that Elicit saves them 1.4 hours per week. 10% of users say Elicit saves them 5 or more hours per week.

96% recall

screening papers

When screening papers for a systematic review, Elicit achieved 96%+ recall over 5,000 papers. Trained research assistants and staff only achieved 92%.

98% accuracy

for data extraction

In our testing, Elicit was 98% accurate when extracting data. Trained staff were only 72% accurate. When Elicit may not be accurate, we show a flag so that users can double check Elicit's work.

13-26% more accurate

than manual data extraction

Elicit's data extraction accuracy was 13-26% higher (in absolute percentage points) than manual extraction by trained staff.

Improved relevancy (through contextual embeddings)

History of information retrieval

	Academia	Industry	Development
1960	Computer-based IR Boolean Retrieval Ranked Retrieval Evaluation of Ranking		
1970	Term Weighting Model TF-IDF Vector Space Model Query Transformation (Stopwords, Stemming)	Microsoft Apple	
1980	Probabilistic Ranking Principle BM25 Latent Semantic Indexing		
1990	Learning to Rank Text REtrieval Conference (TREC)	Amazon Booking.com Google	
2000	Diversification Personalized Search	Facebook YouTube Airbnb	Lucene Solr Elasticsearch
2010	Neural Information Retrieval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction-based • Representation-based • Hybrid 		

Most industrial search applications rely on BM25 that might not be suitable for their use cases while only a few big companies follows the recent trend?

Early use of NN – RNNs etc

2017 – "Attention is all you need" - Transformers invented



2018 - Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT)



2019 – GPT invented



2020-2023 – First effective "Semantic search" appear using BERT/GPT

Semantic Search – The holy grail

- The system understands “meaning” and doesn’t just look at word by word (bag of words).
- E.g. It must be able to “understand”, “It is **not** raining” is closer to “it is sunny” and not “it is raining”
- Implies – can solve vocabulary mismatch problem (even typos)
- Not the name of a technology but describes what we want to do
- Current state of art involves using *contextual embeddings from transformer models (BERT, GPT) to do semantic search*

Some “Evidence” it works – simple embedding example

```
✓ [13] matryoshka_dim = 64
0s      texts = [
          |   "It is not raining",
          |   "It is sunny",
          |   "It is raining",
          | ]
      embeddings = model.encode(texts)
      embeddings = embeddings[..., :matryoshka_dim] # Shrink the embedding dimensions
      print(embeddings.shape)

(3, 64)

✓ # Similarity of the first sentence to the other two:
0s # Similarity of the first sentence to the other two:
      similarities = cos_sim(embeddings[0], embeddings[1:])
      print(similarities)

tensor([[0.8151, 0.6417]])
```

Similarity of “It is not raining” and “It is sunny” is 0.8151

Similarity of “It is not raining” and “It is raining” is 0.6417, which is lower despite matching more keywords

This embedding search “understands” the meaning of “not raining”!

Two main types of search algos (not counting hybrids)

- Lexical/Keyword Search
- Bag of words
- Sparse embeddings/Representation/Retrieval

- Boolean
- TF-IDF/BM25 (probabilistic models)

- Semantic Search/ AI search
- Neural Information Retrieval (Neural IR/Search)
- Dense embeddings/Representation/Retrieval

- "Embedding based"/ "Vector search" eg ada002
- Bi-encoder/Cross-encoder/COLBERT

Finding an article by throwing in full text of news story

As
Ge

higher risk of contracting ovarian cancer (Stock photo) (Image: )

Mirror

NEWS POLITICS FOOTBALL CELEBS TV SHOPPING ROYALS

Ovarian cancer risk increases with these 7 jobs - check if yours is on the list

A new study has found that women working as hairdressers and beauticians are among those at higher risk of developing ovarian cancer - but scientists said more research is needed

By **Chiara Fiorillo**, News Reporter
21:27, 11 Jul 2023 | UPDATED 09:34, 8 DEC 2023

    |  | **BOOKMARK** 

Hairdressers, beauticians and accountants could be at higher risk of developing **ovarian cancer**, a new study has found. Women working in sales, retail, clothing and construction industries may also have a heightened risk, according to research published in the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Exposure to agents, including talcum powder, ammonia, propellant gases, petrol and bleaches may also have an important role, the findings suggest. But the study authors said that "inferences from the results are limited" and more research is needed to examine the links between ovarian cancer risk and different occupations.

Hairdressers, beauticians and accountants could be at higher risk of developing [ovarian cancer](#), a new study has found. Women working in sales, retail, clothing and construction industries may also have a heightened risk, according to research published in the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Exposure to agents, including talcum powder, ammonia, propellant gases, petrol and bleaches may also have an important role, the findings suggest. But the study authors said that "inferences from the results are limited" and more research is needed to examine the links between ovarian cancer risk and different occupations.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/health/ovarian-cancer-risk-increases-7-30444348>

Elicit/Scitespace - throw in a long series of text

<input type="checkbox"/> + Add columns	<input type="checkbox"/> Sort: Most relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Filters	Abstract summary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occupational environment and ovarian cancer risk 🔍 Lisa Leung +4 📖 <i>Occupational and Environmental Medicine</i> 2023 1 citation DOI ↗		Certain occupations, industries, and specific occupational exposures may be associated with ovarian cancer risk.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occupational exposures and the risk of ovarian cancer in Sweden. 🔍 T. Shields +5 📖 <i>American Journal of Industrial Medicine</i> 2002 48 citations DOI ↗		Hairdressers and beauticians were not at increased risk of ovarian cancer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of hair products in relation to ovarian cancer risk. 🔍 Alexandra J. White +4 📖 <i>Carcinogenesis</i>		Frequent use of hair straighteners/relaxers or pressing products in the hair was associated with an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

Elicit/Scitespace - throw in a long series of text

The screenshot shows the SCISPACE interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the query "Hairdressers, beauticians and accountants could be at higher risk of ovarian cancer". The interface includes a navigation sidebar on the left with icons for home, list, search, chat, quote, menu, AI, and social media. The main content area displays an "Insight from top 5 papers" section. Below this, there is a paragraph of text summarizing a study from the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The text discusses the association between occupations like hairdressers, beauticians, and accountants, along with industries like sales, retail, clothing, and construction, and a higher risk of ovarian cancer. It also mentions exposure to agents like talcum powder, ammonia, propellant gases, petrol, and bleaches, and notes that the study's results have limitations, emphasizing the need for further research.

Was this helpful? Ask a follow up

Below the text, there is a filter bar with options: "Add columns (2)", "PDF", "Open Access", "Top-tier papers", and "More filters". The results are sorted by "Relevance" and can be "Exported".

Papers (10)	Insights	TL;DR
<p>Journal Article • DOI [link]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Occupational environment and ovarian cancer risk</p> <p>Lisa Leung +4 more</p> <p>10 Jul 2023 - Occupational and Environmental Medicine</p> <p>1 Citations Ask Copilot</p>	<p>Certain occupations like hairdressers, beauticians, and accountants, along with industries such as sales, retail, and construction, may elevate ovarian cancer risk. Exposure to agents like talcum powder and ammonia could play a role.</p>	<p>In this paper, the authors investigated employment in an occupation or industry and specific occupational exposures in relation to ovarian cancer risk and found that exposure to each of the 29 most prevalent agents and risk was assessed.</p>

JSTOR experimental search

Access provided by Singapore Management University



All Content

Images

Advanced Search

aarontay@smu.edu.sg

is there an open access citation advantage?



Browse

Workspace

Keyword-based results Experimental results BETA

These experimental results use a variety of factors to understand the meaning of your query and the relationships between different concepts. It helps you find what you're looking for, even if you don't use the exact words.

Submit feedback

Top 11 results

Search help

BOOK CHAPTER

From collecting to connecting – the role of libraries in Open Access (pp. 62-74)

Wolfram Horstmann

From: *Praxishandbuch Open Access*, De Gruyter (2017)

Edition: 1

OPEN ACCESS

...Wolfram Horstmann 1h F rom collecting to connecting – the role of libraries in Open Access A short history of libraries and Open Access In the beginnings of Open Access , libraries were not directly involved. The Budapest Open Access Initiative had no representative of a major library among...

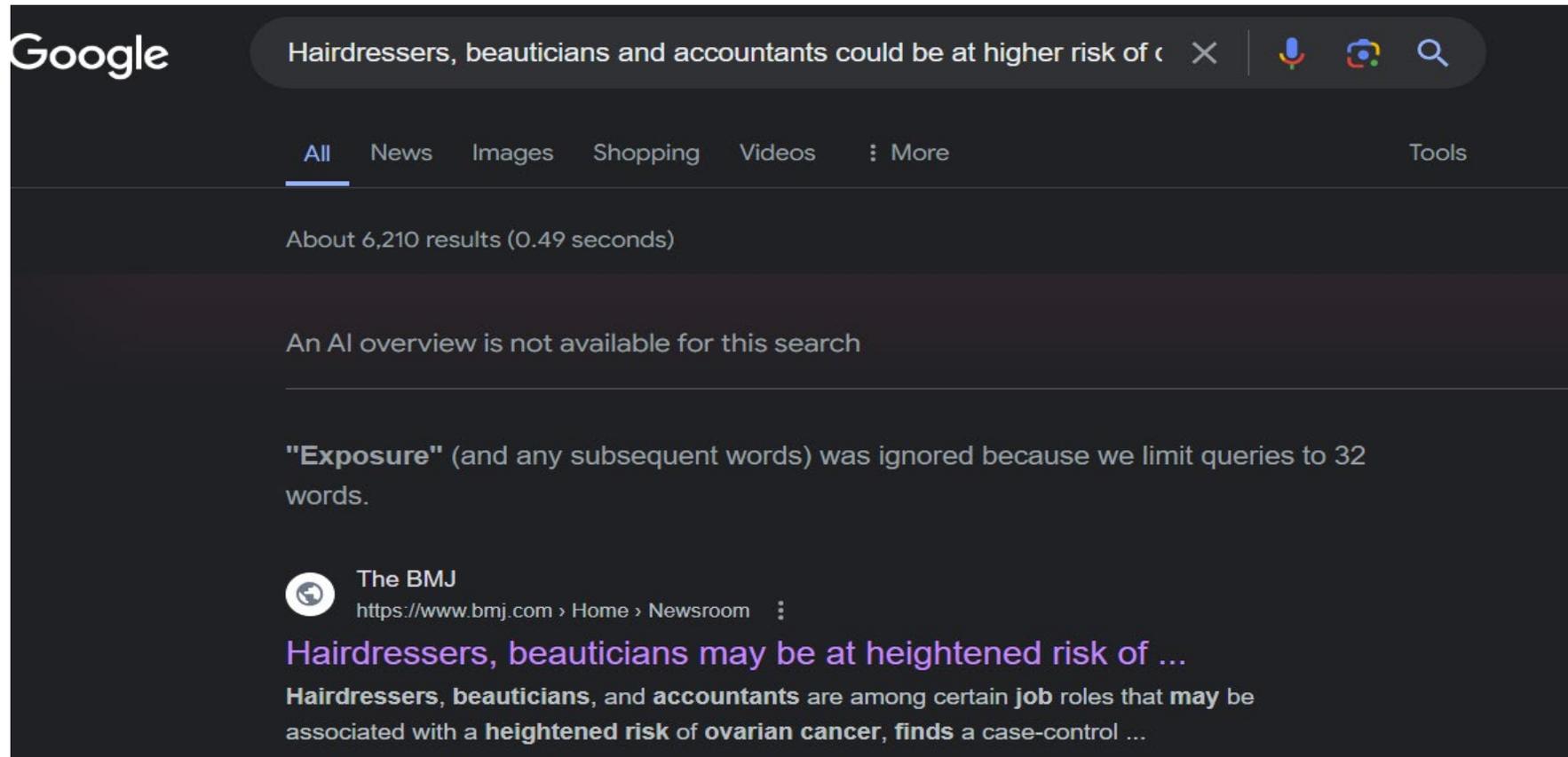


Download

Save

Cite

Google works too



The screenshot shows a Google search interface with a dark theme. The search bar contains the text "Hairdressers, beauticians and accountants could be at higher risk of c". Below the search bar, the "All" tab is selected. The search results show "About 6,210 results (0.49 seconds)". A message states "An AI overview is not available for this search". Below this, a note explains: "'Exposure' (and any subsequent words) was ignored because we limit queries to 32 words." The first search result is from "The BMJ" with the URL "https://www.bmj.com > Home > Newsroom". The title of the result is "Hairdressers, beauticians may be at heightened risk of ..." and the snippet reads: "Hairdressers, beauticians, and accountants are among certain job roles that may be associated with a heightened risk of ovarian cancer, finds a case-control ...".

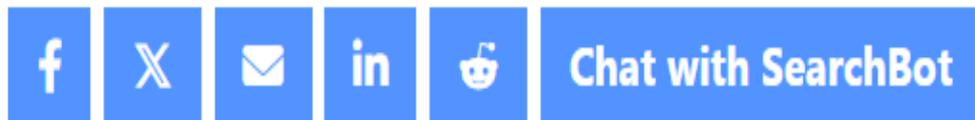
[Google search](#)

BERT models applied to Bing/Google in 2019

Bing says it has been applying BERT since April

The natural language processing capabilities are now applied to all Bing queries globally.

George Nguyen on November 19, 2019 at 1:38 pm | Reading time: 2 minutes



Bing has been using BERT to improve the quality of search results since April, Microsoft has [stated](#).

The transformer models are now applied to every Bing query globally.

<https://blog.google/products/search/search-language-understanding-bert/>

But Google scholar fails

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface. At the top left is the Google Scholar logo. The search bar contains the text "Hairdressers, beauticians and accountants could be at higher risk of developi". To the right of the search bar is a magnifying glass icon and a user profile picture. Below the search bar, the word "Articles" is displayed on the left, and "My profile" and "My library" are on the right. On the left side, there are filters for "Any time" (with sub-options: "Since 2024", "Since 2023", "Since 2020", "Custom range...") and "Sort by relevance" (with sub-option: "Sort by date"). The main content area displays the search results: "Your search - **Hairdressers, beauticians and accountants could be at higher risk of developing ovarian cancer, a new study has found. Women working in sales, retail, clothing and construction industries may also have a heightened risk, according to research published in the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Exposure to agents, including talcum powder, ammonia, propellant gases, petrol and bleaches may also have an important role, the findings suggest. But the study authors said that "inferences from the results are limited" and more research is needed to examine the links between ovarian cancer risk and different occupations. Researchers led by academics at the University of Montreal in Canada examined data on 491 Canadian women with ovarian cancer and compared it with 987 women without the disease.** - did not match any articles."

So how does "Semantic Search"
vs Lexical search work?

Boolean Retrieval Model

- **Queries:** Users express queries as a *Boolean expression*
 - AND, OR, NOT
 - Can be arbitrarily nested
- Ex. query: ***Qatar AND University AND NOT Street***

Boolean represented as Term-Document matrix

Build a **Term-Document Incidence Matrix**

- Which term appears in which document
- Rows are terms
- Columns are documents

Given example collection:

d_1 : He likes to wink, he likes to drink

d_2 : He likes to drink, and drink, and drink

d_3 : The thing he likes to drink is ink

d_4 : The ink he likes to drink is pink

d_5 : He likes to wink, and drink pink ink

	d_1	d_2	d_3	d_4	d_5
<i>he</i>	1	1	1	1	1
<i>likes</i>	1	1	1	1	1
<i>to</i>	1	1	1	1	1
<i>wink</i>	1	0	0	0	1
<i>drink</i>	1	1	1	1	1
<i>and</i>	0	1	0	0	1
<i>the</i>	0	0	1	1	0
<i>thing</i>	0	0	1	0	0
<i>ink</i>	0	0	1	1	1
<i>is</i>	0	0	1	1	0
<i>pink</i>	0	0	0	1	1

TF-IDF = TF*IDF

where

TF = number of times the TERM appears
in the DOCUMENT

IDF = \log (number of DOCUMENTS in the
corpus) / number of DOCUMENTS in the
corpus contain the TERM

$$w_{i,j} = tf_{i,j} \times \log \left(\frac{N}{df_i} \right)$$

$tf_{i,j}$ = number of occurrences of i in j

df_i = number of documents containing i

N = total numbers of document

TF= Term frequency (raw) => If Query Term appears in document, N times, TF = N

DF= Document frequency (raw) => If query term appears in N documents, DF = N

The more common a term is in documents, the less important it is, therefore we want to multiply Term frequency
by INVERSE Document frequency

Example of TF-IDF

- Query term = Singapore University
- N = 1000 document,
 - 30 Documents have the word Singapore so $DF(\text{Singapore}) = 30$
 - 500 documents have the word University so $DF(\text{University}) = 500$
- Matching Singapore is more important because it is rarer than University

Document	D1	D2
TF (Singapore)	2	1
TF (University)	10	15
TF-IDF score	$= 2 * \text{Log} (1000/30) + 10 * \text{Log} (1000/500)$ $= 10.12 + 10$ $= \mathbf{20.12}$	$= 1 * \text{Log}(1000/30) + 15 * \text{Log} (1000/500)$ $= 5.06 + 15$ $= 20.06$

Note: I am using log base 2, but the base will not affect ordering of docs (natural log and base 10 are also used commonly)

TF-IDF alone does not imply Boolean!

Singapore University implies Singapore AND University?

Document	D1	D3
TF (Singapore)	2	50
TF (University)	10	0
TF-IDF score	$= 2 * \text{Log} (1000/30) + 10 * \text{Log} (1000/500)$ $= 10.12 + 10$ $= 20.12$	$= 50 * \text{Log}(1000/30) + 0 * \text{Log} (1000/500)$ $= 76.1 + 0$ $= \underline{50.59}$

D3 has higher TF-IDF score than D1 , even though TF (University) = 0

Boolean + BM25 – in Elastic search

How documents are ranked in Elasticsearch

In order to understand the remainder of this blog, it is helpful to have a basic understanding of how Elasticsearch calculates a score that is used to order the documents returned by a query.

Before scoring documents, Elasticsearch first reduces the set of candidate documents by applying a boolean test that only includes documents that match the query. A score is then calculated for each document in this set, and this score determines how the documents are ordered. The score represents how relevant a given document is for a specific query. The default scoring algorithm used by Elasticsearch is [BM25](#). There are three main factors that determine a document's score:

1. **Term frequency (TF)** — The more times that a search term appears in the field we are searching in a document, the more relevant that document is.
2. **Inverse document frequency (IDF)** — The more documents that contain a search term in the field that we are searching, the less important that term is.
3. **Field length** — If a document contains a search term in a field that is very short (i.e. has few words), it is more likely relevant than a document that contains a search term in a field that is very long (i.e. has many words).

<https://www.elastic.co/blog/how-to-improve-elasticsearch-search-relevance-with-boolean-queries>

BM25 - Evolution of TF-IDF – corrects for

- **Term saturation** – Compare Term frequency 1 vs 10 vs 100 vs 1000, does it make sense the relevancy score should scale linearly? – **Control this with K factor in formula**
- **Length of document** – Longer documents have more words = more chance of matching query terms, we should adjust for it! **Control this with b factor in formula**

Lexical search – Boolean/TF-IDF/BM25 main issue

- **Documents:** Views each document as a *“bag” of words*
- **Main idea:** Re-ordering doesn't destroy the topic
 - individual words are “building blocks”
 - “bag” of words: a “composition” of “meanings”

Almost all Lexical or Keyword based methods are “bag of word” methods – ie does not take into account order of words or context of words

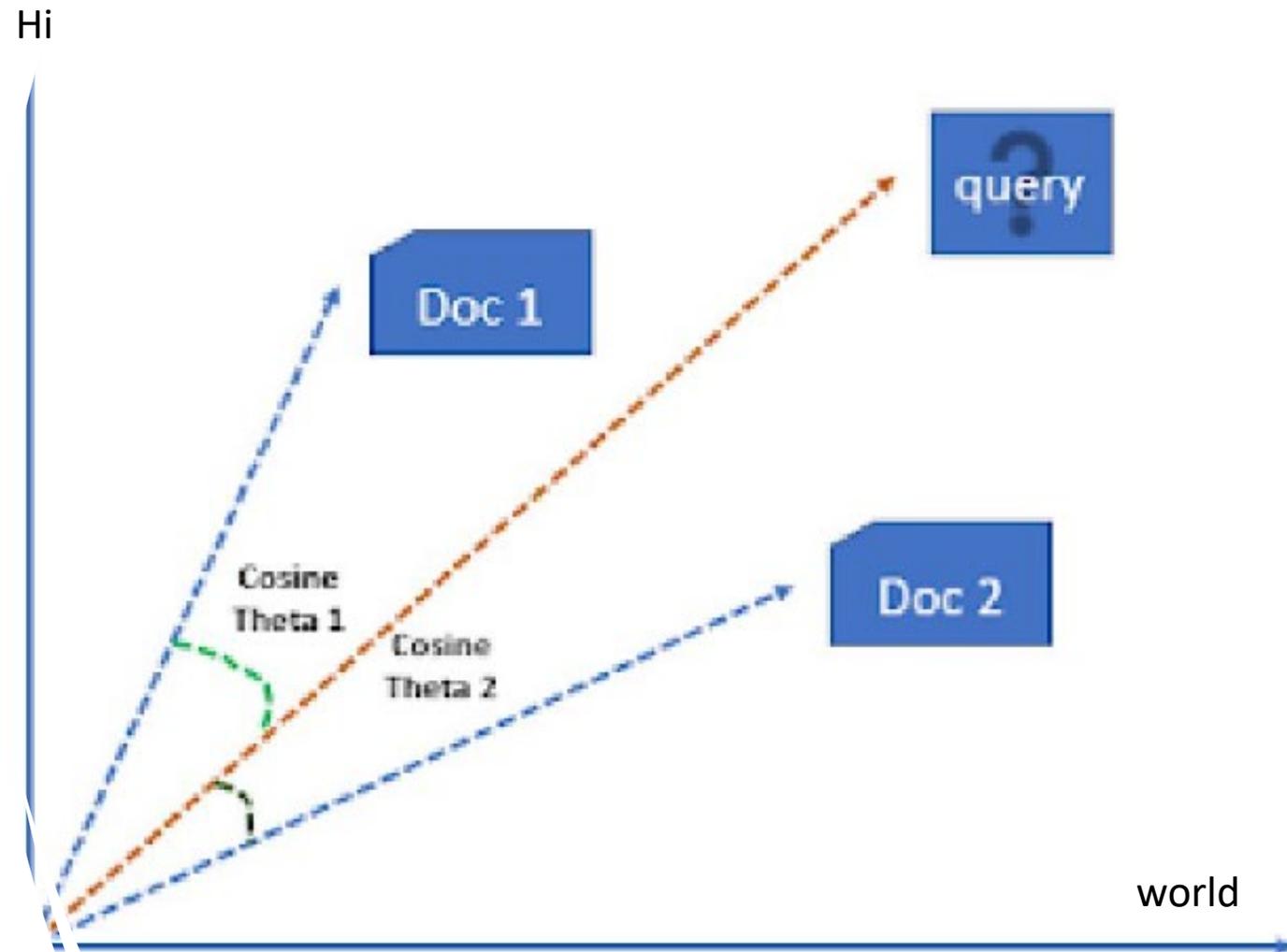
Words are tricky – Technical term = **Vocabulary mismatch problem**

- Polysemy (same word can have many diff word senses, e.g river “bank” vs financial “bank”)
- Synonymy (diff word can have same meaning, e.g. “car” vs “automobile”)
- Jargon
- Spelling variations (UK vs US) - Morphological

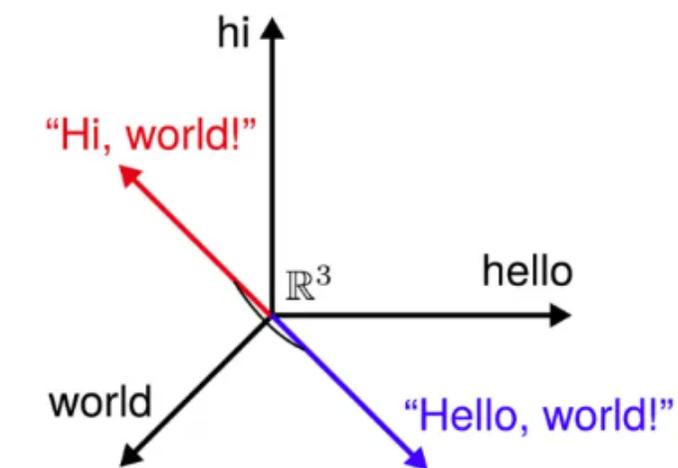
Bag of words approach - doesn't take into account order of words, that's why we remove stopwords_s

Idea of vector space model

- Represent document as a vector (series of numbers)
- Represent query as a vector (series of numbers)
- Axis represent – Term frequency
- Measure similarity of vector by angle size between vector



What if there are 3 terms?



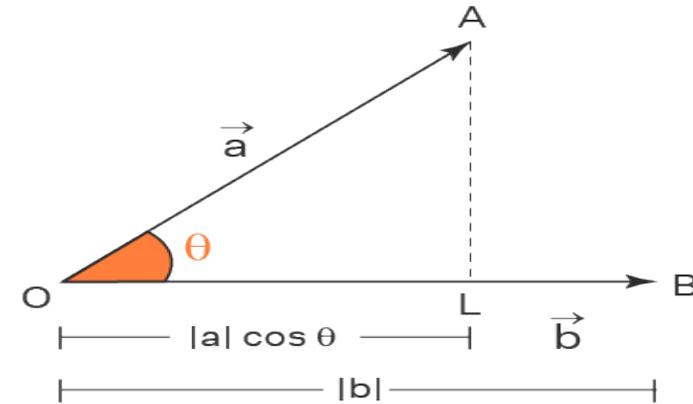
 Cosine Similarity

	D1	D2
Hi	2	2
Hello	6	3
World	2	0

$$\begin{matrix} \left. \begin{matrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \right\} & \left. \begin{matrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{matrix} \right\} \end{matrix}$$

What if there
are >3 terms?

Geometrical meaning of Dot Product



$$a \cdot b = |a| \cdot |b| \cos \theta$$

Dot product

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\| \cos \theta$$

What if there
are >3 terms?

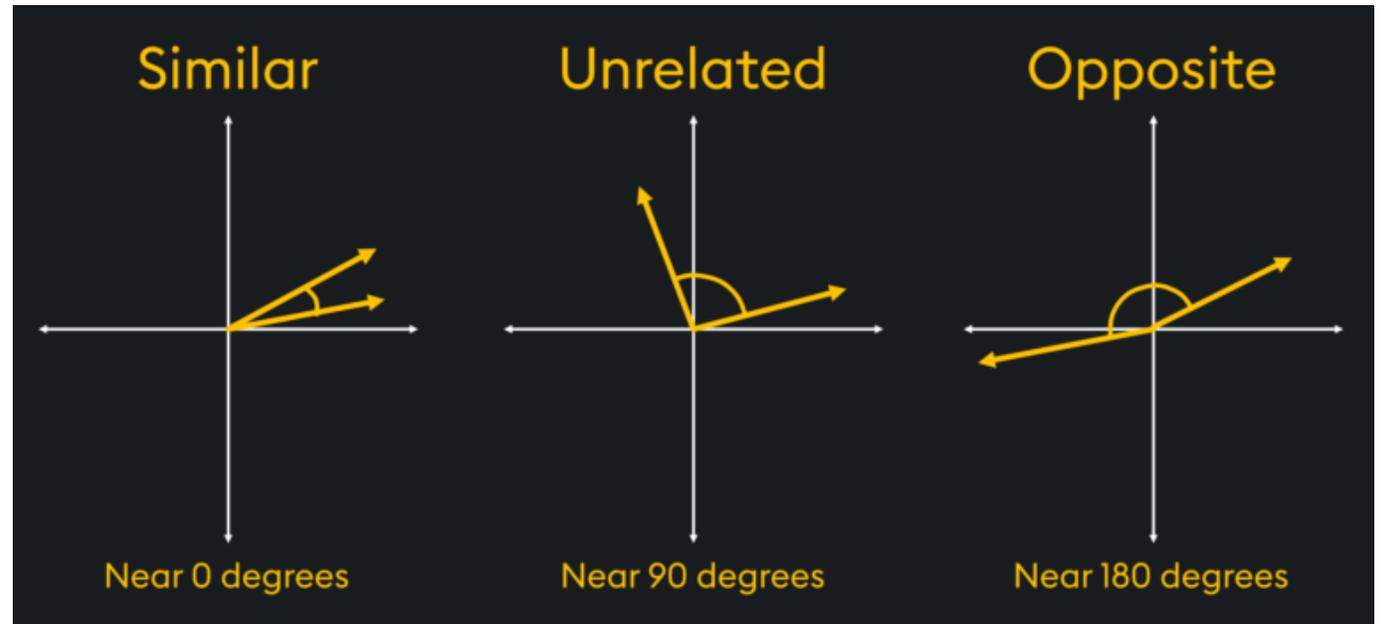
Cosine similarity

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{\|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\|}$$

Cosine similarity range

Cosine similarity calculates the cosine of the angle between these two vectors to determine how similar they are.

- When two vectors overlap, $\cos(0) = 1 \Rightarrow$ Maximum Similarity
- When two vectors are at 90 degree, $\cos(90) = 0 \Rightarrow$ Minimum Similarity
- Term frequencies and document-specific weights, cannot be negative. Thus, in practice, for document similarity calculations using TF-IDF, the cosine similarity values you'll encounter will range from 0 to 1.



Boolean Term-document matrix = "Sparse"

Term-Document Incidence Matrix

	documents				
	d_1	d_2	d_3	d_4	d_5
he	1	1	1	1	1
likes	1	1	1	1	1
to	1	1	1	1	1
wink	1	0	0	0	1
drink	1	1	1	1	1
and	0	1	0	0	1
the	0	0	1	1	0
thing	0	0	1	0	0
ink	0	0	1	1	1
is	0	0	1	1	0
pink	0	0	0	1	1

1 if **document** contains **term**, 0 otherwise

- Lexical/Keyword techniques are also known as "Sparse" representations or embedding (explain later).
- "Sparse" because most cells in the table are zero.

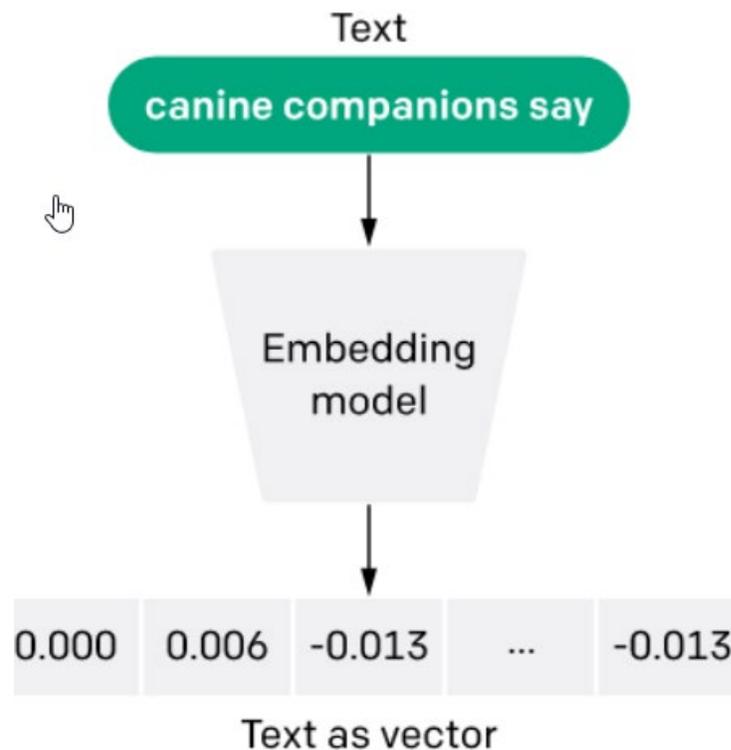
Values in cells can be binary (1 or 0), word count (e.g Term frequency) or any type of weights (e.g. TF-IDF)

	Antony and Cleopatra	Julius Caesar	The Tempest	Hamlet	Othello	Macbeth
Antony	5.25	3.18	0	0	0	0.35
Brutus	1.21	6.1	0	1	0	0
Caesar	8.59	2.54	0	1.51	0.25	0
Calpurnia	0	1.54	0	0	0	0
Cleopatra	2.85	0	0	0	0	0
mercy	1.51	0	1.9	0.12	5.25	0.88
worser	1.37	0	0.11	4.15	0.25	1.95

Each document is now represented by a real-valued vector of tf-idf weights $\in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$

Do you understand why these are called "Sparse" embeddings/representations?

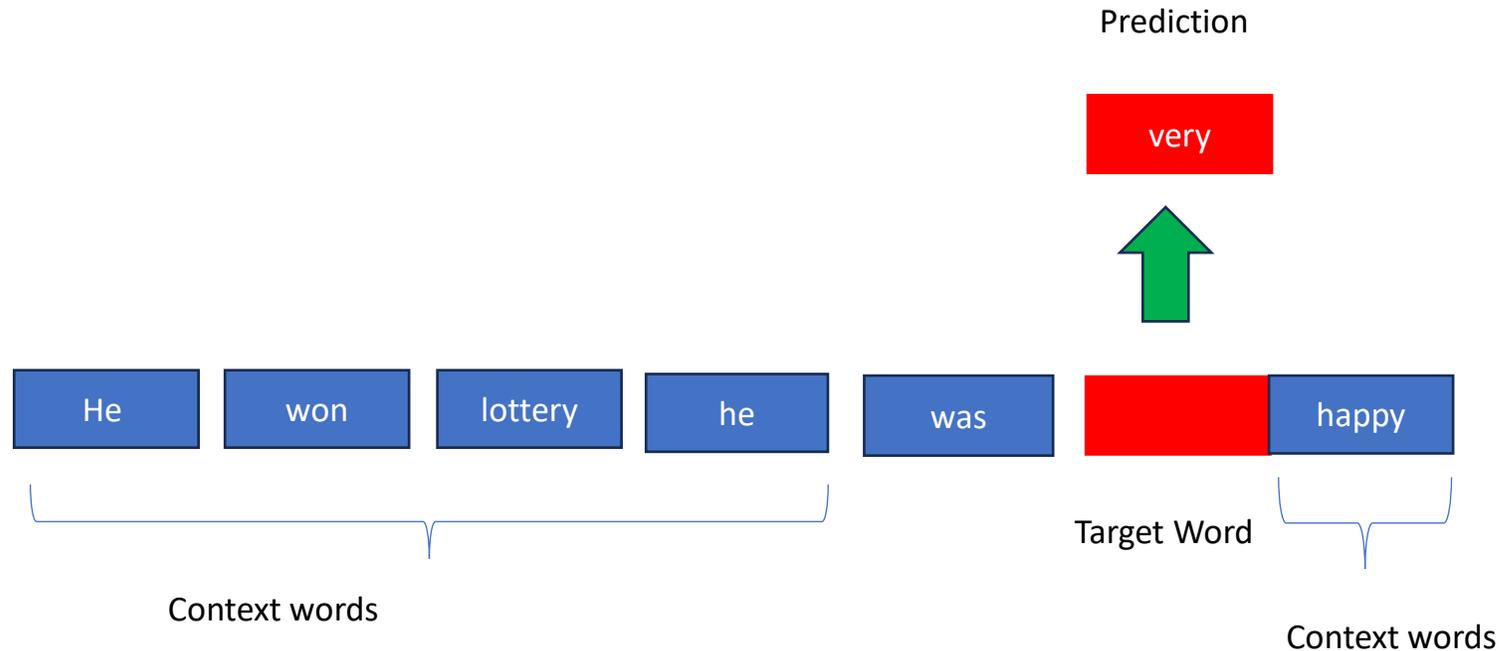
Neural search/Vector search/Semantic Search uses embeddings....



IDEA: Use neural networks to learn to represent words with string of numbers

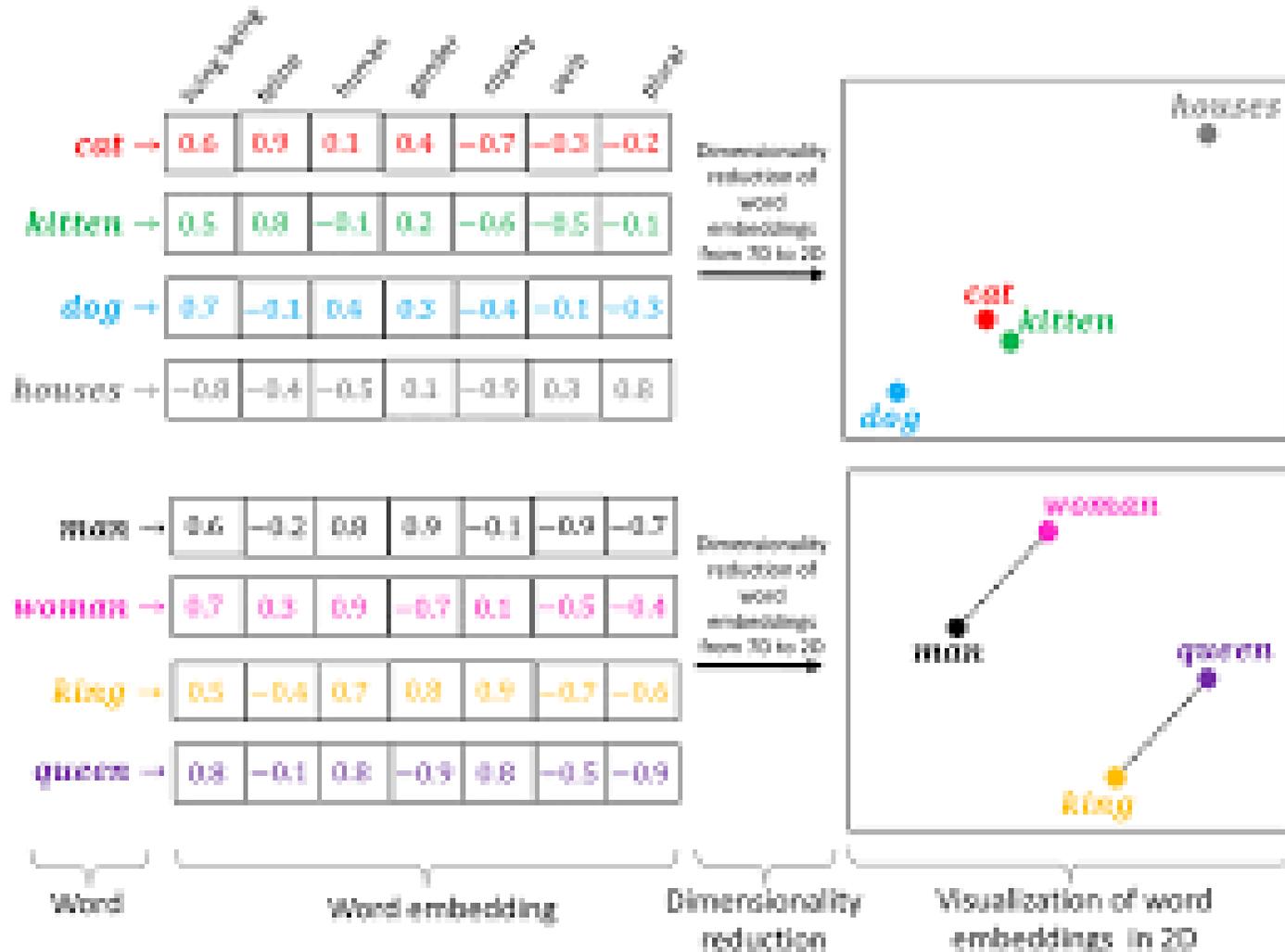
You can specify the embedding to be fixed length of n numbers.

Rough idea of training



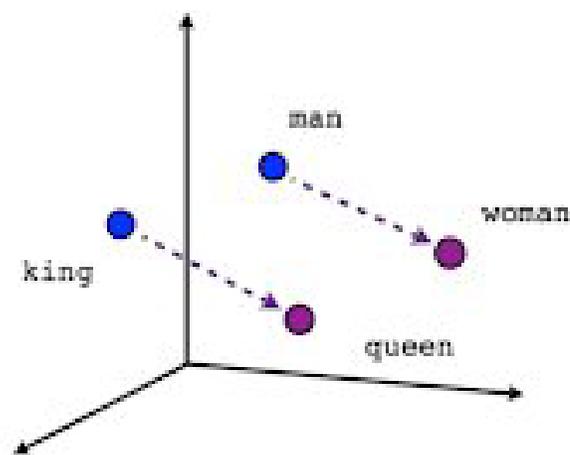
"a word is characterized by the company it keeps" (Firth)

Word2Vec (2013) - earlier embedding

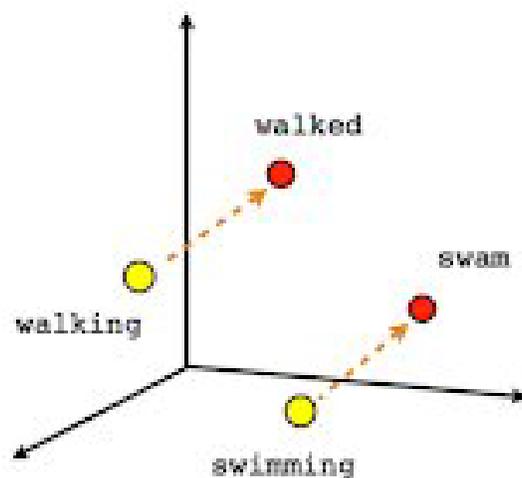


- Represent docs and queries as embedding vectors (series of numbers)
- The values in the embeddings are learnt from neural nets instead of using statistical models like TF-IDF, BM25
- Otherwise similar concept, find similarity using cosine similarity

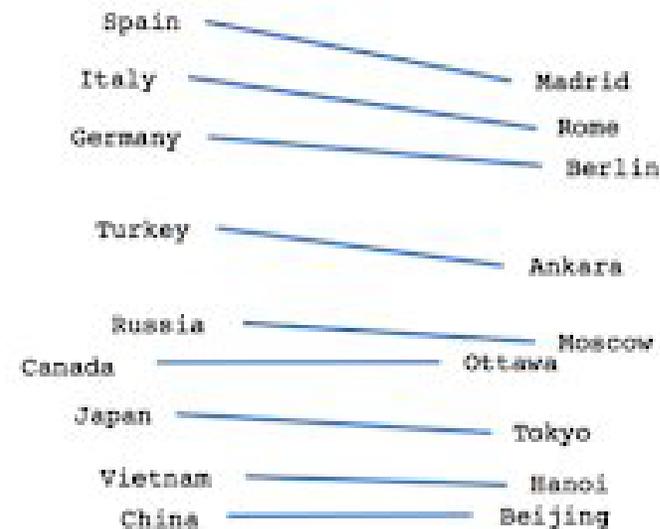
Word embedding in Word2vec make "sense"



Male-Female



Verb tense



Country-Capital

MAN-KING+WOMAN = QUEEN

Word2vec and other static Embedding (2015s).e.g GLOVE, Fasttext

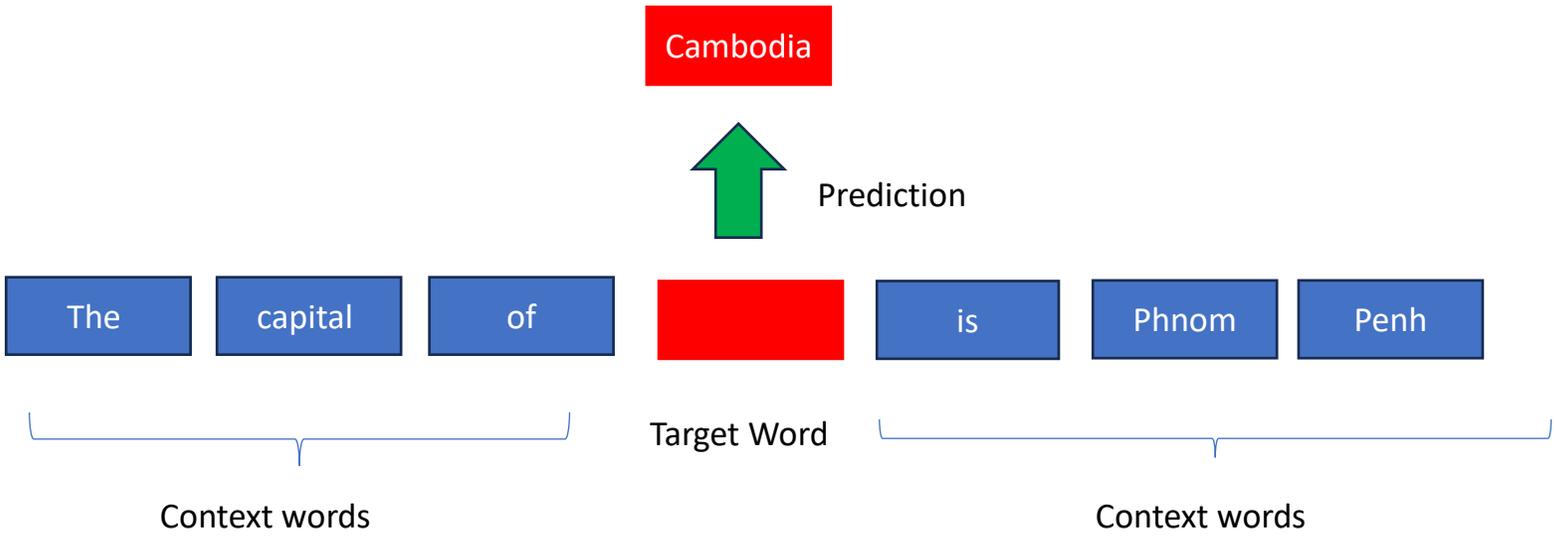


Main weakness – static embedding – the embedding for “bank” is the same when used in two diff sentences

Attention mechanism from transformers (2017)...

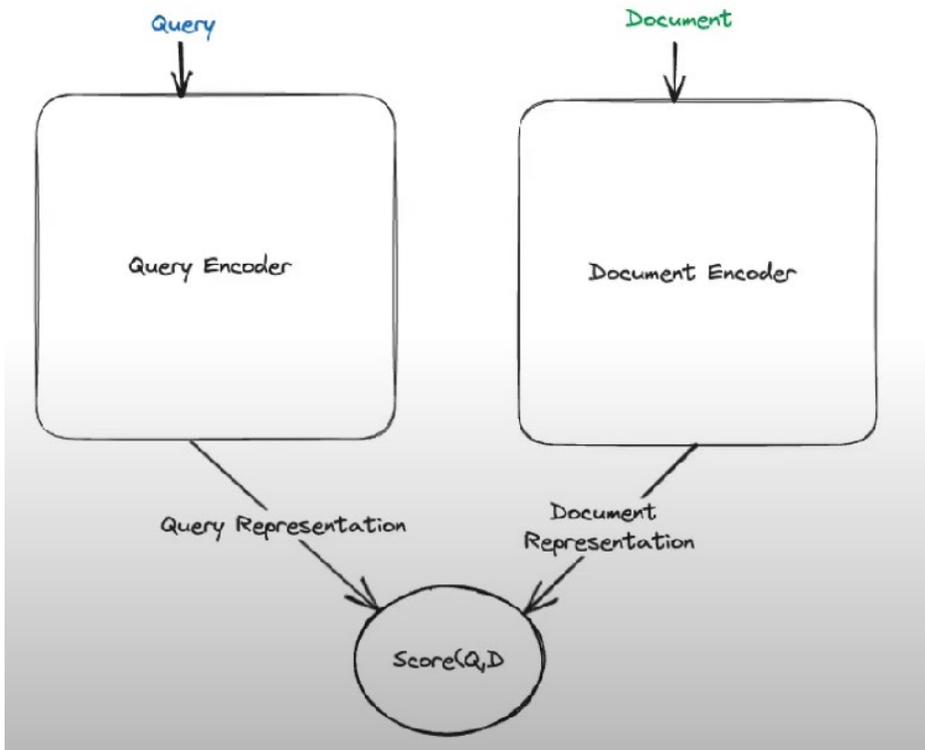
Similarities	New words	Attention step	Normalization step																									
<p>The bank of the river</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>the</th> <th>bank</th> <th>of</th> <th>river</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>the</th> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>bank</th> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.11</td> </tr> <tr> <th>of</th> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>river</th> <td>0</td> <td>0.11</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		the	bank	of	river	the	1	0	0	0	bank	0	1	0	0.11	of	0	0	1	0	river	0	0.11	0	1	<p>the1 bank1 of1 river1</p>	<p>the bank +0.11 river of river +0.11 bank</p>	<p>the +0.9 bank +0.1 river of +0.9 river +0.1 bank</p>
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river	0	0.11	0	1																								
<p>Money in the bank</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>money</th> <th>in</th> <th>the</th> <th>bank</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>money</th> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <th>in</th> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>the</th> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>bank</th> <td>0.25</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		money	in	the	bank	money	1	0	0	0.25	in	0	1	0	0	the	0	0	1	0	bank	0.25	0	0	1	<p>money2 in2 the2 bank2</p>	<p>money +0.25 bank in the bank +0.25 money</p>	<p>+0.8 money +0.2 bank in the +0.8 bank +0.2 money</p>
	money	in	the	bank																								
money	1	0	0	0.25																								
in	0	1	0	0																								
the	0	0	1	0																								
bank	0.25	0	0	1																								

Masked language model (simplified)



Bi-encoder

Bi-Encoder Architecture



Bi-Encoder

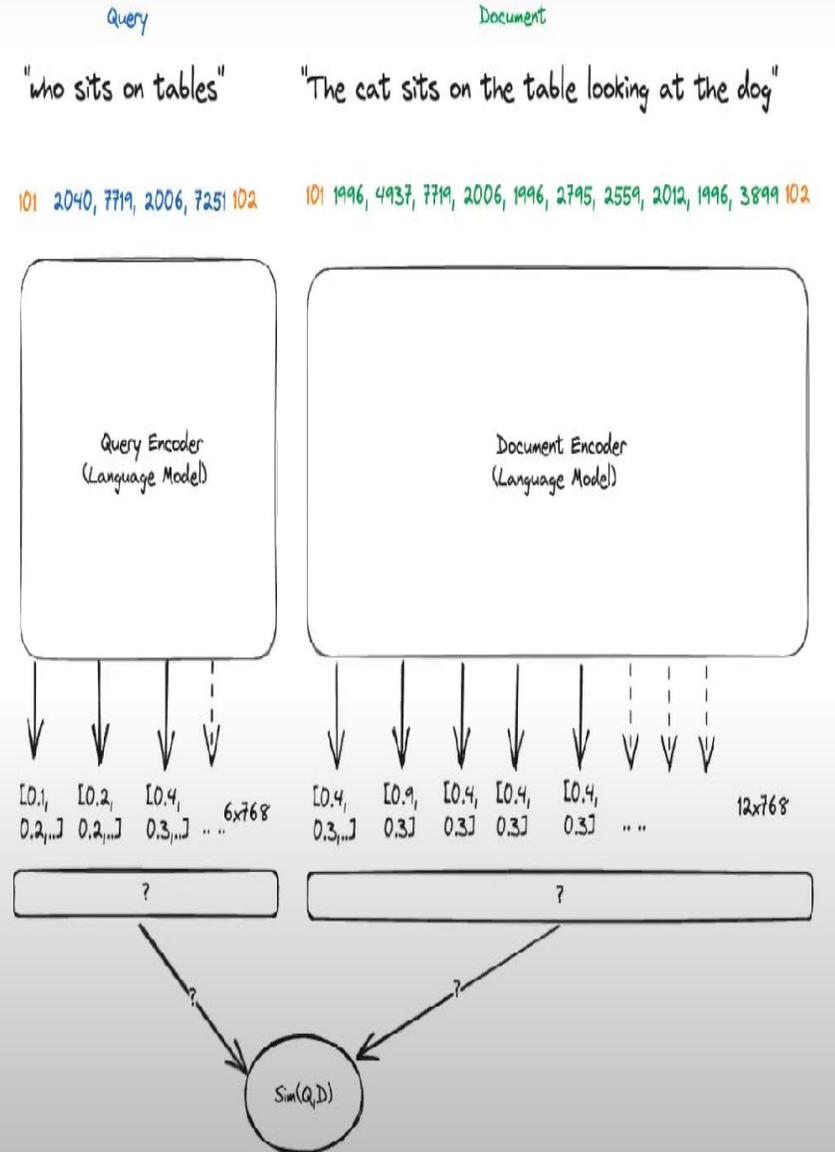
Encode queries and documents independently

No token level attention between query and document (no cross)

Enables indexing documents offline

Sim(Q,D):

- Dot product (sparse or dense)
- Cosine/Euclidean/Hamming/Many



Find cosine similarity of query embedding vector and doc embedding vector

Some “Evidence” it works – simple embedding example

```
✓ [13] matryoshka_dim = 64
0s texts = [
    | "It is not raining",
    | "It is sunny",
    | "It is raining",
    ]

embeddings = model.encode(texts)
embeddings = embeddings[..., :matryoshka_dim] # Shrink the embedding dimensions
print(embeddings.shape)

(3, 64)

✓ # Similarity of the first sentence to the other two:
0s similarities = cos_sim(embeddings[0], embeddings[1:])
print(similarities)

tensor([[0.8151, 0.6417]])
```

Similarity of “It is not raining” and “It is sunny” is 0.8151

Similarity of “It is not raining” and “It is raining” is 0.6417, which is lower despite matching more keywords

This embedding search “understands” the meaning of “not raining”!

Cross-Encoder

Encodes both query and document at the same time (cross)

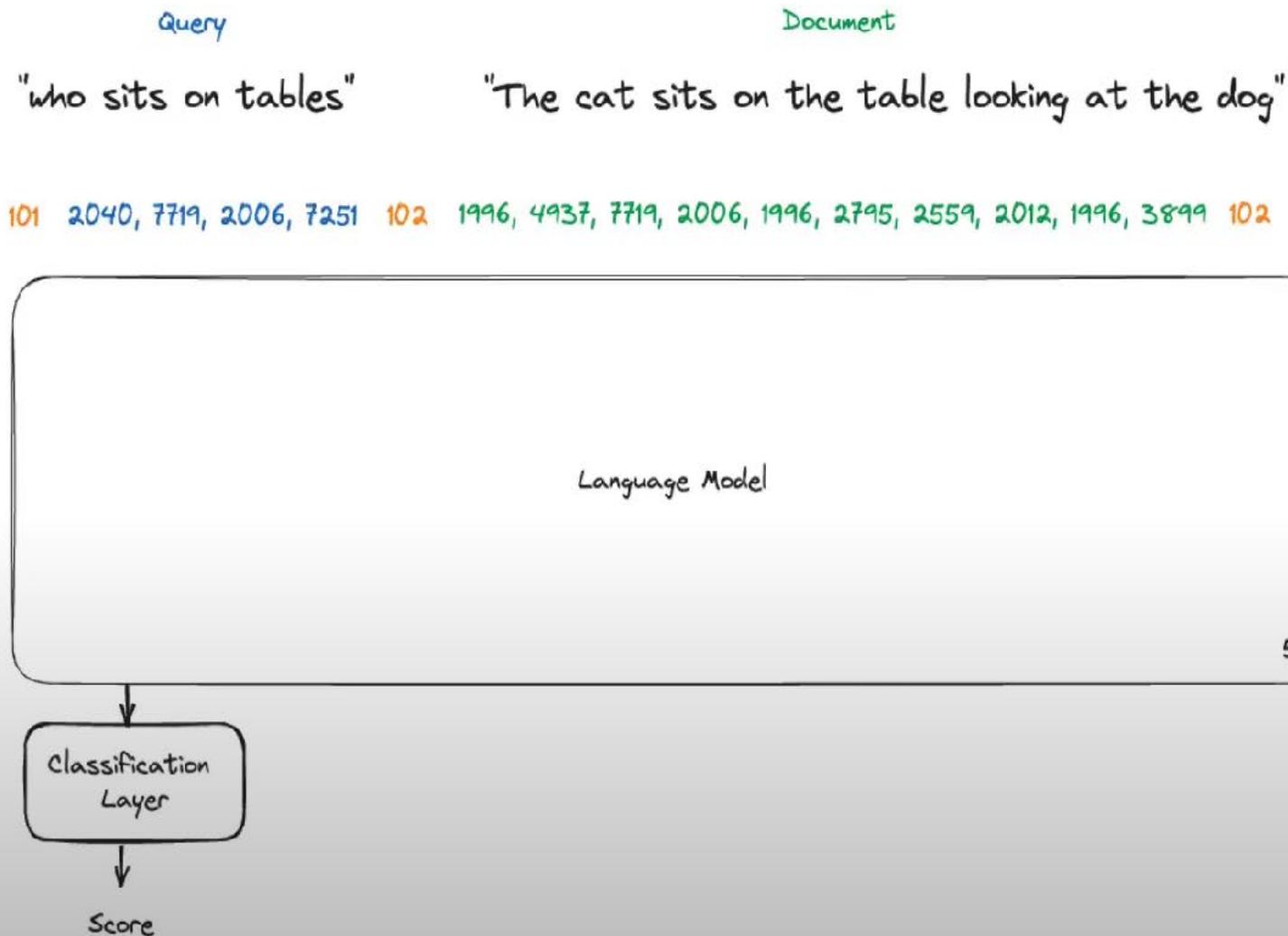
all-to-all attention between all tokens in query and document

Most effective on IR benchmarks (nDCG)

High compute complexity (n^2)

No efficient way to “index”

Distillation can be used, where cross-encoder “teaches” bi-encoder



First stage retriever
BM25 or DPR (Bi-
encoder)

First 10k results

Reranker
Cross-encoder

Reranked 1000 results

Questions about semantic search

- Do results work better in natural language ?
- Are the results interpretable and predictable?
- Do we need to change the way we search??



Aaron Tay @aarontay · Jan 6

Promote ...

Latest advice from [@elicitorg](#) . I think this suggests we should make queries in natural language vs keyword (drop stop words)? Not quite clear. Also are there studies to show for these types of search engines the results are better if you query in natural language?

Make sure to ask a clear question

Elicit can find better papers and answer your query better if you ask a question that is clear and unambiguous.

For example, instead of "language model long context", ask, "What techniques work best to allow a language model to accept longer context?"

5

2

5

899

...



Ben Rachbach
@BenRachbach

...

ML engineer said that asking the query in the form of a question probably does help the model, both for paper search and for "Summary of top 4/8 papers"!

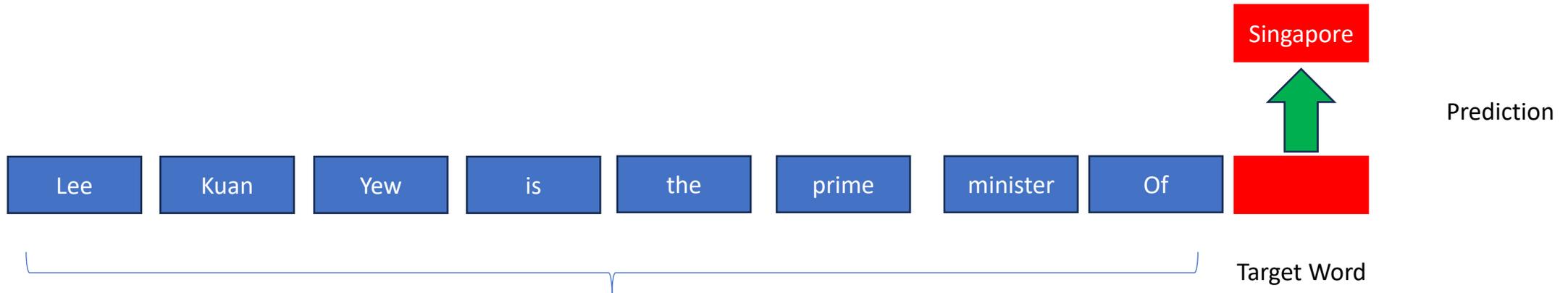
6:37 PM · Jan 7, 2024 · 335 Views

Can we just use semantic search
and throw away lexical search?

Can we throw away lexical search and just do biencoders+cross encoders?

- Probably not
- Bi-encoders are still slower than lexical search
- Lexical search are better at string and exact match search for out of domain (not trained strings)
- Semantic search work better for in-domain tasks

Reminder embedding depend on the text they are trained on.

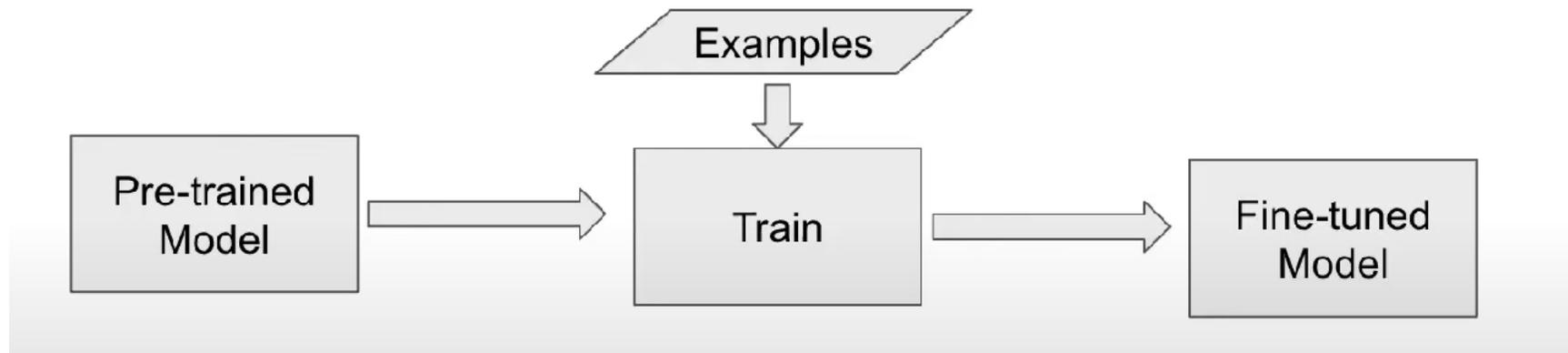


Embedding	Trained on
Word2Vec	Google News
bert-base-uncased	English Wikipedia
OpenAI's Ada-002	GPT based
Allen institute for AI's SPECTER2	Academic content

Important : Dense embeddings are further trained on specific labelled examples

All methods require - **Labeled examples** - usually triplets

<query, relevant document, irrelevant document>



A lot of different techniques to create such labelled examples, weakly supervised methods and different sampling strategies (e.g. selecting hard, very hard samples) – contrastive training

Up to recently, sparse embedding based on BM25 are not trained on labelled examples, this has changed in 2022-2023, with new “learned sparse representations” e.g. SPLADE, SparseEmbed etc

Dense embedding methods work well on one test but how well do they do across many?

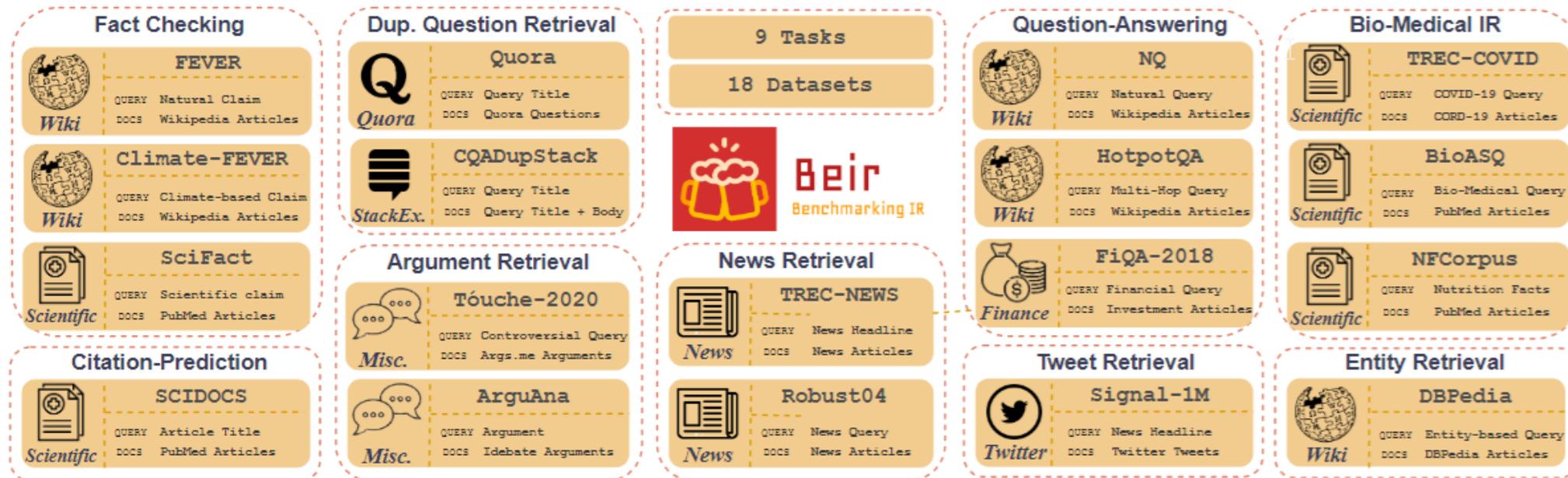


Figure 1: An overview of the diverse tasks and datasets in BEIR benchmark.

Now replaced by the even larger MTEB benchmark (see earlier)

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.08663>

BEIR – large benchmark, BM25 is hard to beat on average – only ColBERT wins on average

Model (→)	Lexical	Sparse			Dense				Late-Interaction	Re-ranking
Dataset (↓)	BM25	DeepCT	SPARTA	docT5query	DPR	ANCE	TAS-B	GenQ	ColBERT	BM25+CE
MS MARCO	0.228	0.296 [‡]	0.351 [‡]	0.338 [‡]	0.177	0.388 [‡]	0.408 [‡]	0.408 [‡]	<u>0.401[‡]</u>	0.413[‡]
TREC-COVID	0.656	0.406	0.538	<u>0.713</u>	0.332	0.654	0.481	0.619	0.677	0.757
BioASQ	0.465	0.407	0.351	0.431	0.127	0.306	0.383	0.398	<u>0.474</u>	0.523
NFCorpus	0.325	0.283	0.301	<u>0.328</u>	0.189	0.237	0.319	0.319	0.305	0.350
NQ	0.329	0.188	0.398	0.399	0.474 [‡]	0.446	0.463	0.358	<u>0.524</u>	0.533
HotpotQA	<u>0.603</u>	0.503	0.492	0.580	0.391	0.456	0.584	0.534	0.593	0.707
FiQA-2018	0.236	0.191	0.198	0.291	0.112	0.295	0.300	0.308	<u>0.317</u>	0.347
Signal-1M (RT)	<u>0.330</u>	0.269	0.252	0.307	0.155	0.249	0.289	0.281	0.274	0.338
TREC-NEWS	0.398	0.220	0.258	<u>0.420</u>	0.161	0.382	0.377	0.396	0.393	0.431
Robust04	0.408	0.287	0.276	<u>0.437</u>	0.252	0.392	0.427	0.362	0.391	0.475
ArguAna	0.315	0.309	0.279	0.349	0.175	0.415	<u>0.429</u>	0.493	0.233	0.311
Touché-2020	0.367	0.156	0.175	<u>0.347</u>	0.131	0.240	0.162	0.182	0.202	0.271
CQADupStack	0.299	0.268	0.257	0.325	0.153	0.296	0.314	0.347	<u>0.350</u>	0.370
Quora	0.789	0.691	0.630	0.802	0.248	<u>0.852</u>	0.835	0.830	0.854	0.825
DBPedia	0.313	0.177	0.314	0.331	0.263	0.281	0.384	0.328	<u>0.392</u>	0.409
SCIDOCS	0.158	0.124	0.126	<u>0.162</u>	0.077	0.122	0.149	0.143	0.145	0.166
FEVER	0.753	0.353	0.596	0.714	0.562	0.669	0.700	0.669	<u>0.771</u>	0.819
Climate-FEVER	0.213	0.066	0.082	0.201	0.148	0.198	<u>0.228</u>	0.175	0.184	0.253
SciFact	0.665	0.630	0.582	<u>0.675</u>	0.318	0.507	0.643	0.644	0.671	0.688
Avg. Performance vs. BM25		- 27.9%	- 20.3%	+ 1.6%	- 47.7%	- 7.4%	- 2.8%	- 3.6%	+ 2.5%	+ 11%

All dense embedding methods are poorer than BM25 on average across diverse tests. Only COLBERT and BM25+Cross encoder are better!

MTEB leaderboard

- Large benchmark of many test suites
- Allows you to know the performance of different embeddings for different NLP tasks.
- Some NLP tasks performances measured are
 - Retrieval – Finding relevant articles
 - Rerank – Reranking relevant articles
 - STS (Semantic Text Similarity) – Scoring similar sentences
 - Other NLP tasks- Summarization, Clustering, Translation, classification

E5 embedding chosen by Govtech for Hasnard search is one of the top5 embedding for retrieval!

Hybrid search is the way to go - example

Side-by-side comparison of a traditional keyword search (stemmed/unstemmed/phrase) with a blended keyword and k-NN search over Canberra Times news articles from 1994 using CLIP with the ViT-L-14::openai model(vector length 768) or openai-ada-002 (vector length 1536), SOLR 9.1/Lucene 9.3 (vector length patch) with HNSW vector searching and Stanford NLP for entity extraction

the fall of John Major Keyword boost Embedding: [ada-002] Keyword-found doc similarity boost Query similarity boost

Traditional 'Keyword only' phrase/stemmed/unstemmed search found 307 articles

[Compare Trove search for the fall of John Major]

1. 1994-12-03 Article 127258172, score 14.262051 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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INTERNATIONAL Bihać still under siege By [KURT SCHORK](#) SARAJEVO, Friday, Bosnian Serbs steadily whittled away at the defences of the embattled Bosnian town of Bihać as ministerial meetings were scheduled in Brussels today to amend a peace plan to end the 32-month war. After [SHOW ALL](#) ice deals, the latest of which the Serbs rejected, they appeared to

2. 1994-09-23 Article 118264432, score 14.222931 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT Regional banks shed value after rates increase By [MICHAEL YIANNAKIS](#) SYDNEY, Shares in Australia's major regional banks continued to fall sharply yesterday after last week's changes to the risk weight ing of housing loans and the rise in official interest rates. [SHOW ALL](#) ome regional banks fell 2 per cent, taking losses since last

3. 1994-11-26 Article 130540186, score 13.866995 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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INTERNATIONAL Major warns Tories: EU yes or a poll - By [RICHARD MEARES](#) LONDON, Friday, The British Prime Minister, John Major, has turned the thumbscrews on Euro-rebels in his ruling Conservative Party, saying that if they de fey him over a European Union budget vote next week, he will call elections. Political commentators said his threat was likely to ensure any [SHOW ALL](#) but they were carefully counting heads, Uncer tainty lingered as some rebels vowed

4. 1994-05-15 Article 118211725, score 13.662313 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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Jig is up for UK Conservatives [BILL MANDLE](#) THE BRITISH local-govern ment election results have been devastating for the Conservatives. Whether such elections ought to be taken as a national barome ter is nowadays a lost argument. The Conservatives themselves, and John Major in particular, de [SHOW ALL](#) at a national cam paign in the hope the national , opti on polls

Blended keyword and kNN search - ada-002 found 821 articles

1. Promoted from 4 to 1: 1994-05-15 Article 118211725, score 23.187675 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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Jig is up for UK Conservatives [BILL MANDLE](#) THE BRITISH local-govern ment election results have been devastating for the Conservatives. Whether such elections ought to be taken as a national barome ter is nowadays a lost argument. The Conservatives themselves, and John Major in particular, de [SHOW ALL](#) at a national cam paign in the hope the national , opti on polls

2. Promoted from 5 to 2: 1994-06-22 Article 118173252, score 23.031384 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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Major problems for unpopular PM There is not much point in spending money on a product that is unsaleable' LONDON: Big business and other financial supporters arc deserting Britain's ruling Con servative Party because of the unpopularity of the Prime Min ister, John Major, raising [SHOW ALL](#) at the leadership's confident claims that the party's financial crisis

3. Promoted from 9 to 3: 1994-02-16 Article 134302359, score 22.971605 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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Momentum against Major The administration of Britain's Prime Minister, John Major, has been deeply hurt by the continuing sex scandals which have seen the political and in one case physical demise of no fewer than six of his Conservative colleagues in the past five months. The damage has been exacerbated by the fact that the scandals have emerged during his back to [SHOW ALL](#) paign which is designed to asso ciate the Conservative Party with so-called family

4. Promoted from 13 to 4: 1994-12-27 Article 127262781, score 22.799828 [Similar docs] [Trove article] [Wikipedia Entities] [SIM MAP]

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The undoing of John Major Malcolm Booker THE CONSERVATIVE lead ers in Britain, as in Aus tralia, have withdrawn with relief into the Christmas holiday period. The Prime Minister, John Major, has had a bad ' year and his leadership has been repeatedly under threat. Like Al exander Downer, he may wonder how long he will survive in the new year. Not all his problems [SHOW ALL](#) his own fault. Ministers in his Government have been involved in bizarre sex

The proof-of-concept explores a blended keyword and semantic search. It does this by:

1. Issuing a "standard" keyword and phrase text search with standard keyword ranking.
2. For each of the top-10 keyword-ranked results, fetch that document's embedding and use this to issue a semantic search to find other documents with embeddings most similar to it. The intent is to "enrich" the result candidates by including documents very similar to those best keyword results but which may not contain all the keywords.
3. Creating an embedding of the original search query and issuing a semantic search to find documents with embedding most similar to it.

Each of these searches produces a ranked list of documents with a search score (in this case, generated by Lucene). The score for the first search (the "standard" keyword and phrase search) is calculated by Lucene based on its default BM25 [10] ranking using keyword repository and document frequencies with a boost applied if all keywords were found nearby (ie, a phrase-like boost). The scores for the second and third searches are also calculated by Lucene based on the distance in vector-space between the embeddings of the search embeddings and the document embeddings. The proof-of-concept then applies a separate weight to the scores produced by the three types of searches and adds the results across all three searches to generate a document result set for ranking.

<https://nla-overproof.projectcomputing.com/knnBlend?set=1994&embedding=ada-002&stxt=the%20fall%20of%20John%20Major>

6. **kNN only result:** 1994-01-30 Article 126925731, score 21.874786 [[Similar docs](#)] [[Trove article](#)] [[Wikipedia Entities](#)] [[SIM MAP](#)]

People [BARONESS THATCHER](#), [JOHN MAJOR](#), [NORMAN LAMONT](#)
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[Foreign Major's moral crusade nauseating: Lamont LONDON: A bitter attack by Norman Lamont, a former Chan cellor of the Exchequer, on a weak and hopeless Prime Minister on Friday night overshadowed John Major's latest attempt to resuscitate his beleaguered back to basics campaign. Mr Major signalled his determi

SHOW ALL stand by his-slogan defining the basics as the econo my, education and

7. **kNN only result:** 1994-04-01 Article 118110551, score 21.669888 [[Similar docs](#)] [[Trove article](#)] [[Wikipedia Entities](#)] [[SIM MAP](#)]

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Seeds sown for Conservative uprising Major facing mutiny after EU climb-down LONDON: British Minis ter John Major faced the growing threat of a mutiny against his lead ership yesterday after a Cabinet col league openly staked a claim to be his successor. Parliament has been rife with ru mours that Mr Major's

SHOW ALL climb-down in a row over European voting rights this week sowed the

8. **kNN only result:** 1994-12-08 Article 127259245, score 21.654587 [[Similar docs](#)] [[Trove article](#)] [[Wikipedia Entities](#)] [[SIM MAP](#)]

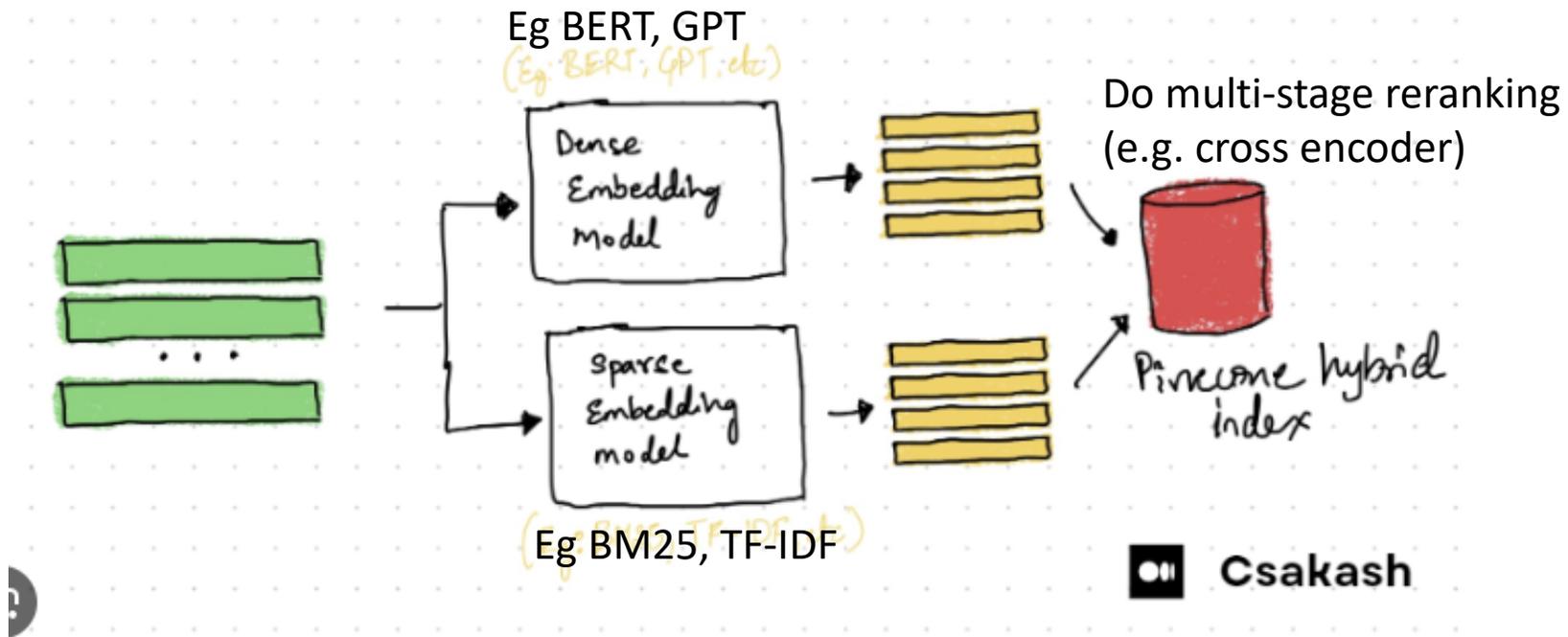
Lexical vs semantic

- Searching for a specific name like "John Major" favours lexical search as it involves direct word matches with little semantic complexity.
- A search for a single word like "kamikaze" also favors lexical search as it's likely the searcher wants documents containing that exact word.
- A query like "train crash" may involve broader semantic interpretations such as railway accidents or specific types of crashes, indicating the potential benefit of semantic search

Lexical vs semantic

- For longer queries, there is more “semantic intent” that is really hard to represent fairly with simple keywords, even when attempting to automatically expand the search with keywords.
- For example - "the fall of John Major", may need to match articles that talk about the ousting or downfall or undoing or unravelling or humiliation or collapse of support for John Major
- Allows you to find docs with newer jargon like "Cyber attack"

Hybrid search is the way to go to retrieve pool of documents to rank

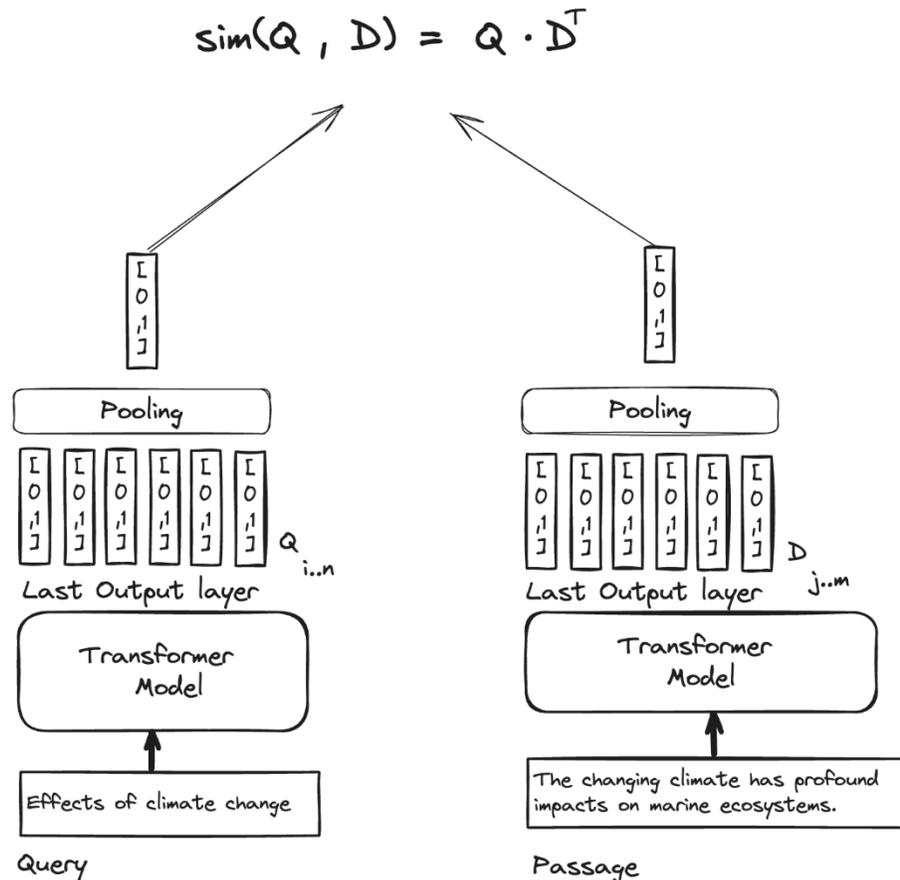


Empirically, first stage retrievers using BM25 and reranking top 10k results with cross encoders do well, but it is probably better to hedge bets by using lexical AND Semantic/dense embedding methods to retrieve documents

Can we have more transparent
search?

Bi-encoder = One embedding represent one doc is stored in index

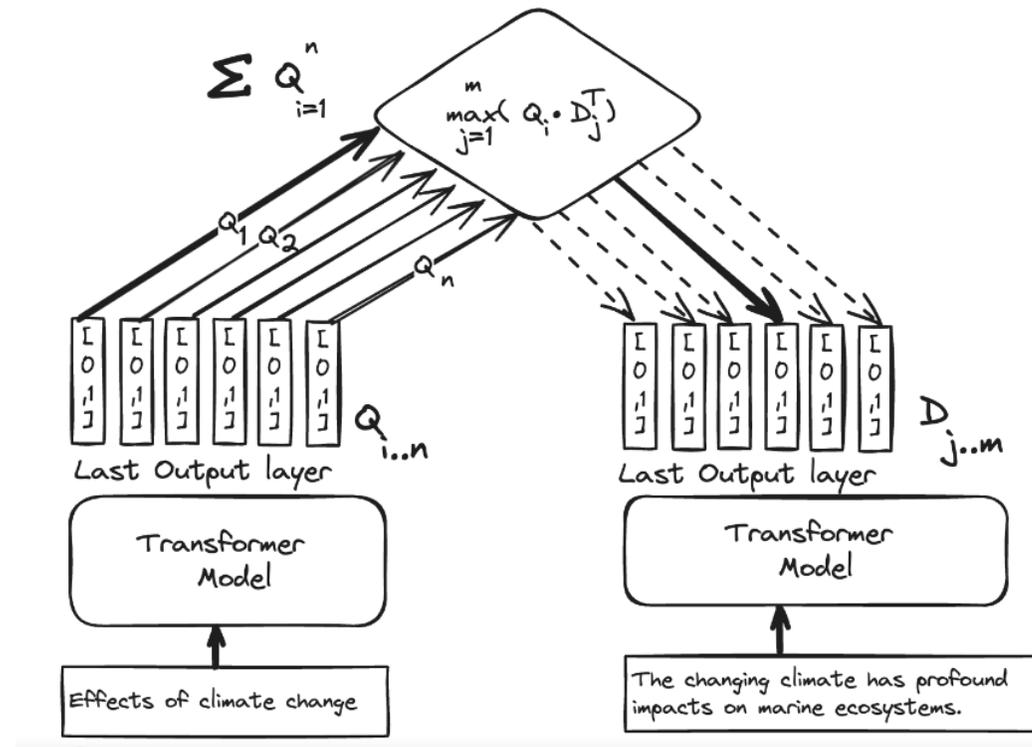
Pooling is a way to average out multiple embeddings into one (see [notebook for examples of different ways to pool](#))



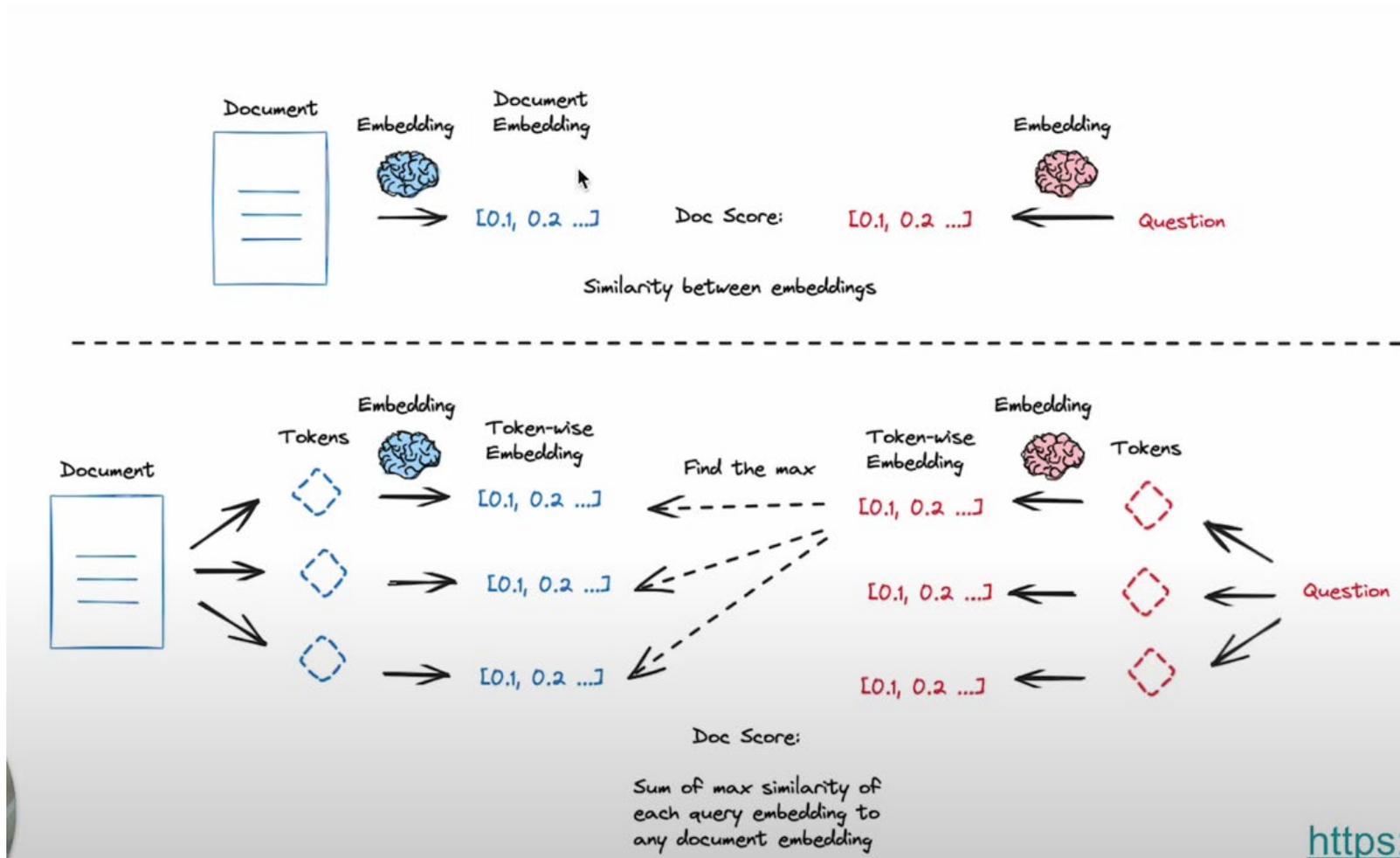
1. Can one embedding represent a doc well enough?
2. By representing the doc and query as individual embeddings and doing a similarity match, **we are unable to see WHY the system thinks query and doc are similar because there is no token level information**

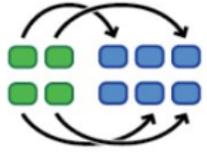
COLBERT – Each token in doc is stored as embedding in index

$$\text{COLBERT } \text{sim}(Q, D) = \sum_{i=1}^n \max_{j=1}^m (Q_i \cdot D_j)$$



COLBERT hybrid





ColBERT

ColBERT query-passage scoring interpretability

Query:

Effects of climate change on marine ecosystems

Passage:

The changing climate has profound impacts on marine ecosystems. Rising temperatures, ocean acidification, and altered precipitation patterns all contribute to shifts in the distribution and behavior of marine species, influencing the delicate balance of underwater ecosystems.

Run ColBERT scoring for query - passage

MaxSim Score: **27.71**

Estimated Relevance: **86.60%**

Contextualised Highlights

The **changing climate** has profound **impacts** on **marine ecosystems** . Rising temperatures , ocean acidification , and **altered** precipitation patterns all contribute to **shifts** in the distribution and behavior of **marine species** , **influencing** the delicate balance of **underwater ecosystems** .

<https://colbert.aiserv.cloud/>

COLBERT is interpretable because you can trace embedding into token level

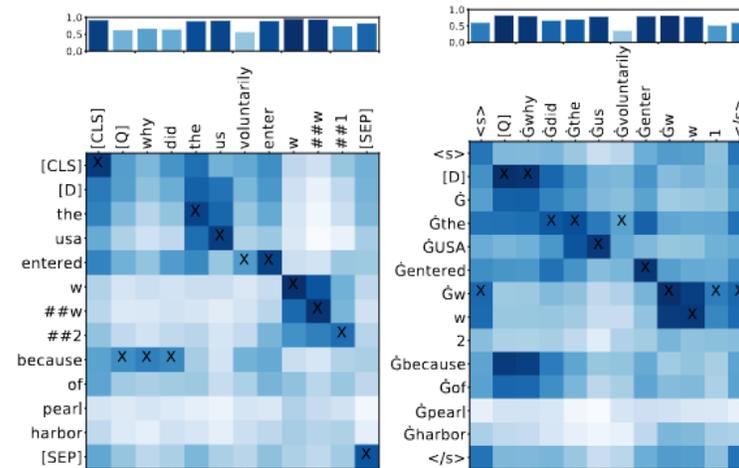
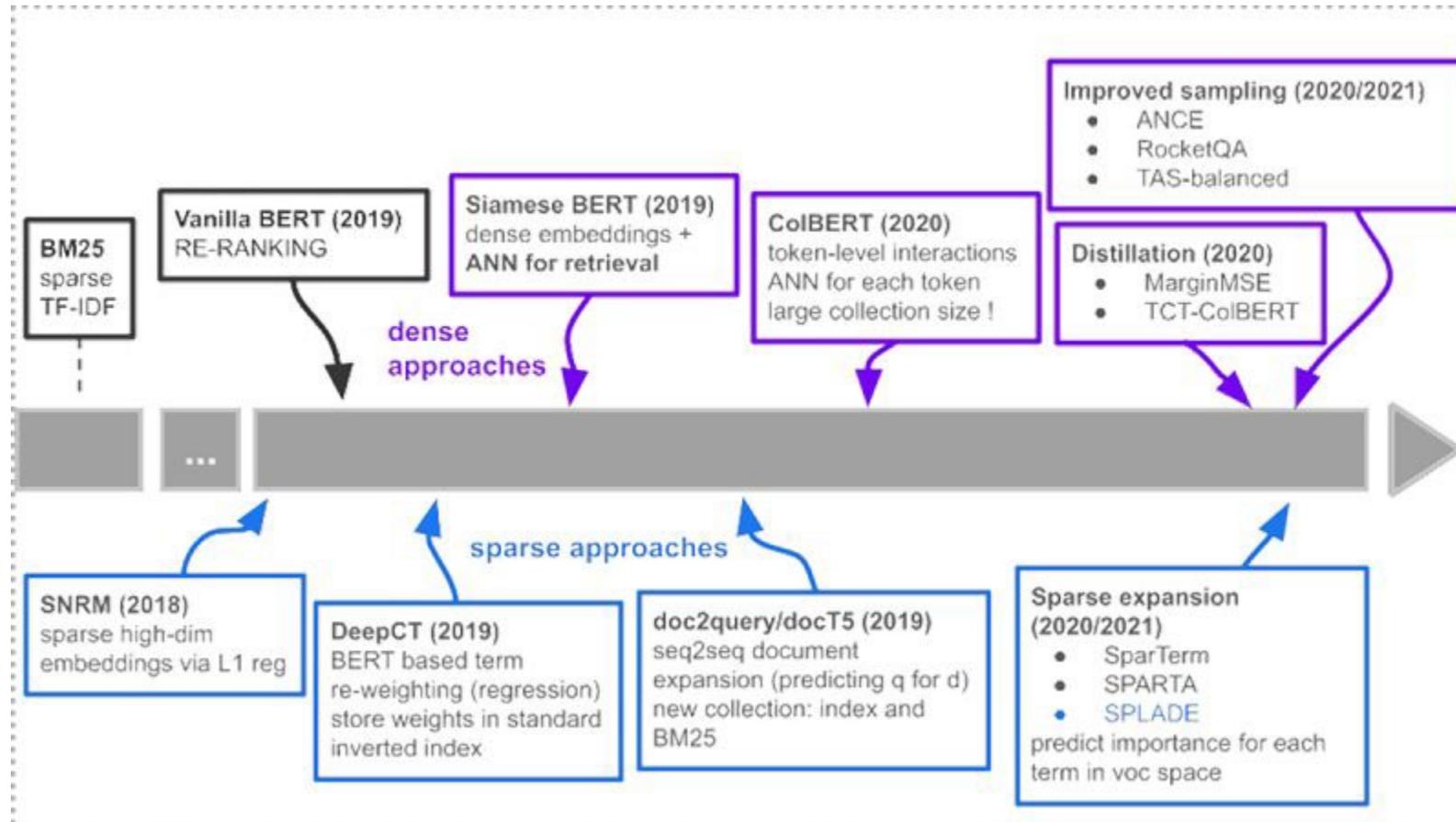


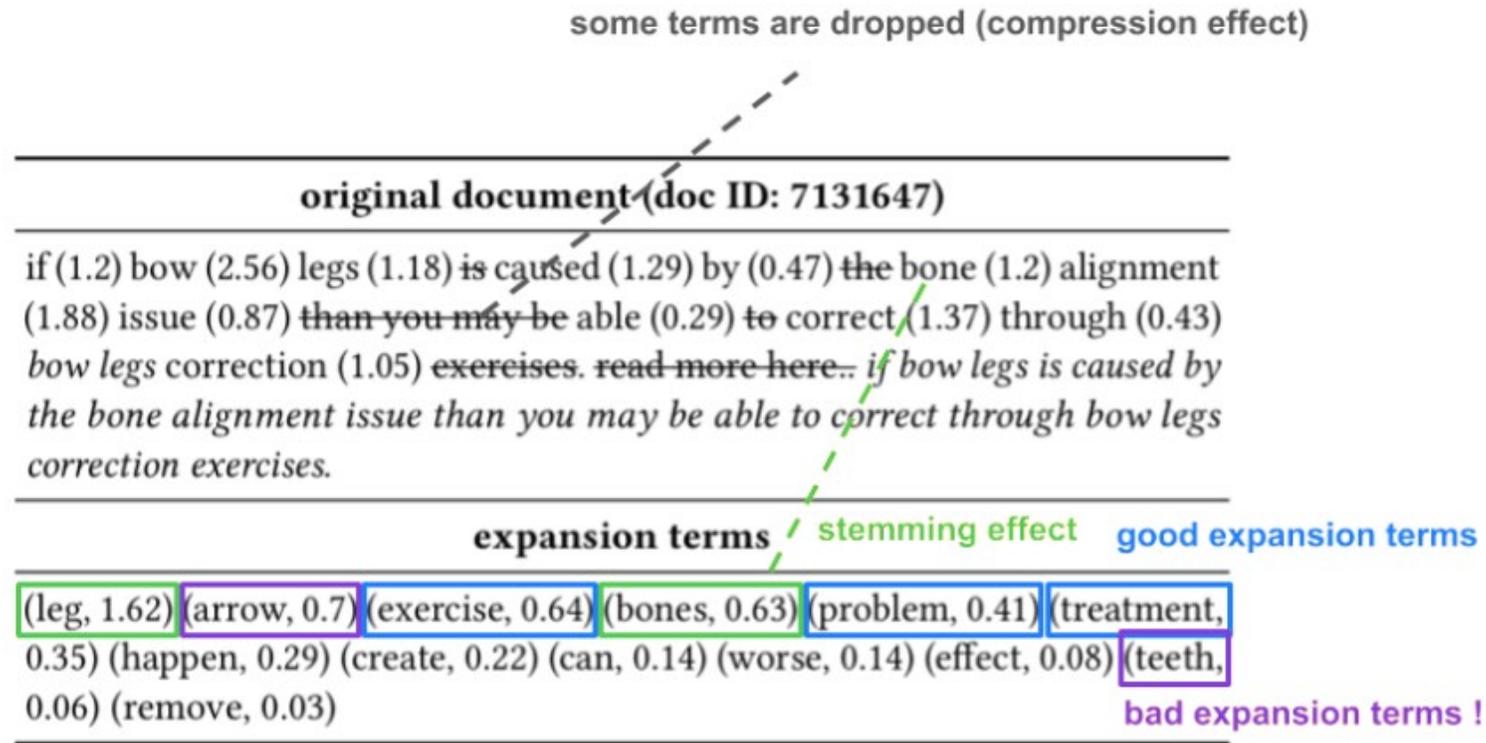
Figure 3: Late interaction diagrams for ColBERT and ColRoBERTa models between the query: *why did the us voluntarily enter ww1* and the document: *the usa entered ww2 because of pearl harbor*. For each column, the heatmap indicates the similarity scores among all the document embeddings for each query embedding, where the highest similarity score is highlighted with the symbol X. The top histogram depicts the magnitude of the contribution of the maximum similarity of each query embedding for the final relevance score between the query and document. The [MASK] tokens are omitted.

Improvements on sparse embedding using dense retrieval



SPLADE operates directly on sparse high-dimensional vectors (in the vocabulary space) in two ways:

- **adding new terms** (expansion) and/or **removing existing terms** (compression) from the document/query (in other words, SPLADE learns which terms are important and which ones are missing).
- **estimating a term importance** (term weighting) for such words, similarly to tf-idf.



SPLADE is interpretable!

Agent based search – Going
beyond single search

Is this truly possible?

Elicit results

1.4 hours

saved per user per week

On average, users say that Elicit saves them 1.4 hours per week. 10% of users say Elicit saves them 5 or more hours per week.

96% recall

screening papers

When screening papers for a systematic review, Elicit achieved 96%+ recall over 5,000 papers. Trained research assistants and staff only achieved 92%.

98% accuracy

for data extraction

In our testing, Elicit was 98% accurate when extracting data. Trained staff were only 72% accurate. When Elicit may not be accurate, we show a flag so that users can double check Elicit's work.

13-26% more accurate

than manual data extraction

Elicit's data extraction accuracy was 13-26% higher (in absolute percentage points) than manual extraction by trained staff.

Note: Accuracy statistics vary by task.

Elicit etc despite it's innovations is still following the Google Scholar paradigm

- Does one single, non-iterative search
- Not optimised for recall, but precision
- Assesses relevancy based on a score e.g. cosine similarity, BM25
- Must return results as fast as possible (less than 2s)

New agent based paradigm

- Does multiple, iterative searches
 - Does citation searching of papers
- Optimised for recall
 - Instead of using cosine similarity etc, using GPT4 level LLM to reason over papers - "Is paper X, relevant to the query?"
- Takes longer time to return results
 - >5 minutes

The tool is called undermind.ai = Semantic Scholar data + AI agent

APR
10

Undermind.ai - a different type of AI agent style search optimized for high recall?

In the [last blog post](#), I argued that despite the advancements in AI thanks to transformer based large language models, most academic search still are focused mostly in supporting exploratory searches and do not focus on optimizing recall and in fact trade off low latency for accuracy.

I argue that most academic search engines today even the state of art ones like [Elicit](#) (at least the find literature workflow), are designed still around this Google/Google Scholar like paradigm of search engines.

Firstly, don't get me wrong, the new "Semantic search" (typically based on dense retrieval techniques) that are increasingly being used (coupled with RAG style direct answers) do seem to give better relevancy (particularly when blended with traditional lexical search and reranked) than traditional techniques like BM25, but this superiority typically only can be seen for the top 10-20 or so results, as at the end of the day these searches are still not optimized for high degree of recall.

Moreover, realistically speaking as any evidence synthesis librarian will tell you, to have any hope of retrieving most relevant documents for your query, you cannot rely on any single search (even one enhanced with semantic search!) but need to run multiple searches and pool the results together.

*An evidence synthesis librarian reading this will probably think **what is needed is multiple searches over multiple databases**, not just over one but I think even they will agree, multiple iterative searches over Semantic Scholar (particularly if it "adapts" as claimed to iterative search) and combining the results is probably better than just one search over semantic Scholar, particularly if each search is relatively simple one as opposed fo a long constructed well tested nested Boolean strategy*

Can AI powered search do all this? This implies a different type of AI search, perhaps some agent based AI search or at least one that has a prompt template that can run multiple searches and learn from the results.... Such a search of course is going to take a while to run....

[My blog post explaining how Undermind.ai works](#)

Crafting your deep search

When you submit an Undermind search, it's like sending a colleague to go find papers for you. This is much more powerful than a keyword search engine, but you have to craft your prompt to clearly convey what you're looking for.

Here are a few basic tips to keep in mind:

Deep Search Topic

I am finding papers on whether individuals with clinically diagnosed dyslexia exhibit higher creativity? Include studies that meet all of the following criteria. 1. Studies involving developmental dyslexia is included as long as they reported using a clinical diagnosis, for example, diagnosis by educational or clinical psychologists, or by medical centres or specialists 2. Studies are included if creativity was explicitly studied through a creativity task, such as a divergent thinking task 3. Studies are included if information necessary to compute effect sizes were reported

1.1 How it works

There are four steps to Undermind’s algorithm:

1. **Basic search:** We identify promising candidate papers using a custom algorithm that combines semantic vector embeddings, citations, and language model reasoning.
2. **Relevance classification:** Given your search query, a high quality language model (GPT-4) accurately classifies each candidate paper based on its full text into 3 categories: highly relevant, closely related (meaning relevant, but slightly off-topic), or ignorable. See Appendix 3.2 for classification accuracy statistics.²
3. **Adaptation and exploration:** The algorithm adapts and searches again based on the relevant content it has discovered. This adaptation, which mimics a human’s discovery process, makes it possible to uncover every relevant result.
4. **Estimating comprehensiveness:** Undermind tracks how frequently it discovers relevant papers during each search. Undermind initially finds many relevant results, but over time diminishing returns set in, empirically leading to “discovery curves” which are exponential in form (see Fig. 1(b)). Modeling this process allows us to determine when Undermind has found nearly all the relevant works.

Searching...

Search successfully submitted! Results will appear here when finished (typically takes 3-6 minutes for a deep, systematic search).

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Deep search progress:



Interpreting your search and identifying criteria for relevance...

Searching for the most promising papers...

Reading and identifying the best candidate papers...

Reflecting on the results...

Identifying key information to help uncover more papers...

Adapting and searching again...

Adapting and searching again for comprehensiveness...

Identifying important categories of results...



Human Judgment	Undermind Classification Probability		
	Highly relevant	Closely related	Not relevant
Highly relevant	75.9% $\begin{smallmatrix} +9.8 \\ -6.4 \end{smallmatrix}$	22.0% $\begin{smallmatrix} +9.6 \\ -6.2 \end{smallmatrix}$	1.8% $\begin{smallmatrix} +4.7 \\ -1.0 \end{smallmatrix}$
Closely related	17.3% $\begin{smallmatrix} +9.7 \\ -5.8 \end{smallmatrix}$	73.0% $\begin{smallmatrix} +10.9 \\ -7.0 \end{smallmatrix}$	9.2% $\begin{smallmatrix} +8.0 \\ -4.1 \end{smallmatrix}$

Undermind Judgment	Human Classification Probability		
	Highly relevant	Closely related	Not relevant
Highly relevant	83.3% $\begin{smallmatrix} +9.4 \\ -5.6 \end{smallmatrix}$	16.7% $\begin{smallmatrix} +9.4 \\ -5.6 \end{smallmatrix}$	0.0% $\begin{smallmatrix} +3.8 \\ -0.0 \end{smallmatrix}$
Closely related	24.0% $\begin{smallmatrix} +10.2 \\ -6.5 \end{smallmatrix}$	69.0% $\begin{smallmatrix} +10.9 \\ -7.2 \end{smallmatrix}$	7.6% $\begin{smallmatrix} +7.2 \\ -3.6 \end{smallmatrix}$

Table 2: **Conditional classification rates.** Top: Undermind classification probabilities conditioned on human judgements. Associated upper and lower 95% confidence intervals are shown. Bottom: Human classification probabilities conditioned on Undermind judgement of a paper as highly relevant or closely related. For each table, note the far right column, which gives the probability that a truly relevant paper is missed (upper table) or the probability that a paper emphasized by Undermind is irrelevant (lower table).

References

Show/Hide All Abstracts

Show only: Last 5 Years Last 2 Years > 1 Citation Per Year > 5 Citation Per Year

Topic Match	Cit./Year	Year	Paper	Extracted Information
98.2%	4.1	2021	<p>[1] No Evidence of Creative Benefit Accompanying Dyslexia: A Meta-Analysis Florina Erbelli, ..., and Marianne Rice Journal of Learning Disabilities 2021 - 12 citations (4.1/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Provides a meta-analysis on dyslexia and creativity correlation. Shows no significant creativity difference between dyslexic and non-dyslexic groups. Includes 20 studies, allowing for effect size computation, meeting criteria.</p>
97.9%	4.1	2021	<p>[2] Developmental dyslexia and creativity: A meta-analysis. Nadyanna M. Majeed, ..., and J. Tan Dyslexia 2021 - 13 citations (4.1/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Provides a meta-analysis on dyslexia and creativity. Reviewed 14 studies comparing creativity in diagnosed dyslexic individuals and controls. Highlights age-related differences in creativity scores between groups.</p>
97.9%	3.3	2016	<p>[3] The alleged link between creativity and dyslexia: Identifying the specific process in which dyslexic students excel A. Cancer, ..., and A. Antonietti Cogent Psychology 2016 - 26 citations (3.3/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Demonstrates dyslexic students' superior performance in creativity tasks. Specifically, dyslexic individuals excelled in connecting concepts creatively on the WCR Test. Includes quantitative data supporting the link between dyslexia and enhanced creativity, allowing for effect size computation.</p>
97.8%	1.0	2004	<p>[4] Focusing on the abilities in learning disabilities : dyslexia and creativity K. Cockcroft and Melanie Hartgill Education As Change 2004 - 19 citations (1.0/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Provides findings on dyslexia and enhanced creativity. Uses Torrance's Tests of Creative Thinking on 36 clinically diagnosed dyslexic children. Shows dyslexic children outperformed non-disabled peers in idea generation and originality.</p>
96.2%	0.9	2016	<p>[5] Divergent Thinking in Italian Students with and Without Reading Impairments L. Bigozzi, ..., and R. Donfrancesco International Journal of Disability, Development and Education 2016 - 7 citations (0.9/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Shows Italian dyslexic children's creativity vs. peers. Dyslexic students scored higher in total creativity and specific sub-scores. Involved 190 children, allowing for potential effect size computation.</p>
90.5%	3.9	2009	<p>[6] Dyslexia, a deficit or a difference: Comparing the creativity and memory skills of dyslexic and nondyslexic students in Iran M. A. Tafti, ..., and Nahid Mohammadi Darvish Baghal Social Behavior and Personality 2009 - 59 citations (3.9/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Compares creativity in dyslexic and nondyslexic Iranian students. Utilizes the Torrance Creativity Test to assess original thinking and overall creativity. Shows dyslexic students excelled in original thinking and matched nondyslexic peers in overall creativity.</p>
89.3%	0.0	2021	<p>[7] Dyslexia: the relationship between the learning disorder and increased creativity Leticia Giancoli Jabour, ..., and Ana L.M. Almeida São Paulo Medical Journal 2021 - 0 citations (0.0/year) - Show abstract</p>	<p>Reviews recent studies on dyslexia and creativity. Analyzed 33 articles, focusing on clinical trials and cohorts linking dyslexia to increased creativity. Excluded articles that evaded the topic or didn't meet research purposes, ensuring focused relevance to the inquiry.</p>
87.9%	0.0	2008	<p>[8] The academic Experiences of student Nurses who are dyslexic. A small scale phenomenological, explorative study. K. Currell</p>	<p>Shows creativity in dyslexic student nurses. Identified exceptional creativity and innovative coping strategies among participants. Lacks specificity on clinical diagnosis and standardized creativity task assessment.</p>

How can information specialist adapt

- Study information retrieval formally
- Advocate for features and interface changes for users
- Test formally and with rigor new tools like Elicit and Undermind.ai

Questions??