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Crash Course Thesis

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Dr. Merula Stout
Dr. Anna C. Véron
Dr. Marco E. Weber

18. November 2026

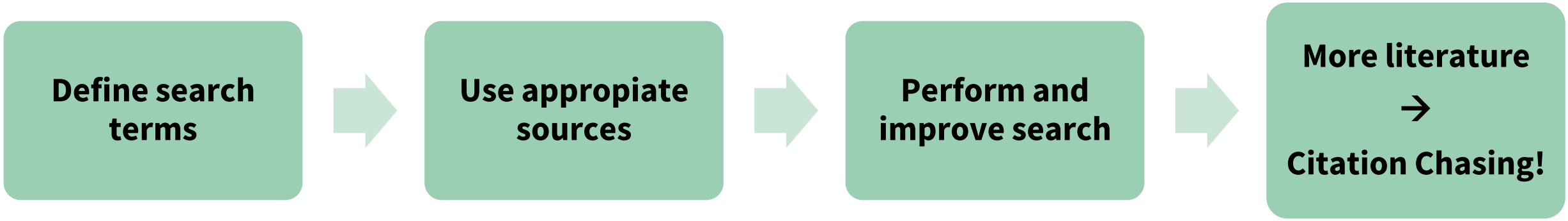
Content

Part 1: 12:10 – 12:50
- Search Strategies & Identification and Evaluation of Sources (Christine Verhoustraeten)
- Reference Management (Merula Stout)

Part 2: 13:00 – 13:45
- Citing (Merula Stout)
- Writing Tips (Anna C. Véron)
- Use of AI (Marco E. Weber)

1 Search Strategies & Identification and Evaluation of Sources

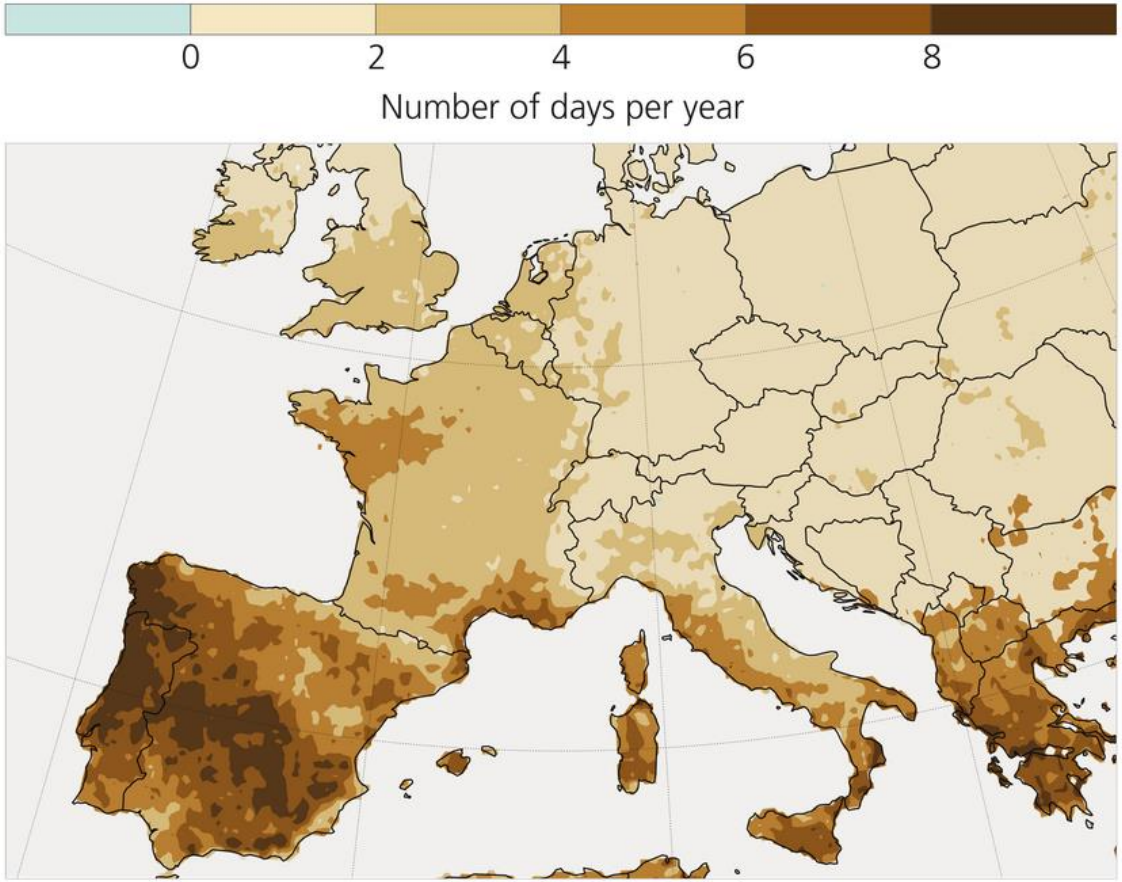
Finding Literature in 4 Steps



Example topic: The impact of climate change on dry periods in Switzerland

Change in the longest dry period in summer

Expected change around 2060 without climate change mitigation, in comparison to 1981–2010 (30-year averages).



Longer dry periods

Our country is situated at the edge of a zone around the Mediterranean that is experiencing more extensive dry periods. By the middle of this century, the longest dry period in summer is expected to increase by about two days. However, depending on how far the dry belt extends, it could be up to nine days longer.

National Centre for Climate Services. (2018). *CH2018—Klimaszenarien für die Schweiz*.

Define Search Terms for your Search

Sources for finding synonyms/related terms:
- key papers, relevant papers
- AI Chatbots
- Wikipedia

The impact of **climate change** on **dry periods** in **Switzerland**

Climate Change	Dry Periods	Switzerland
Climate change Climatic change Global warming	Dry periods Dry spells Rain-free periods Droughts Dry phases Percipitation deficits	Switzerland Swiss Alpine state
Klimaänderung Klimaveränderung Klimawechsel Globale Erwärmung	Dürre Dürreperioden Trockenheit Trockenphasen Trockenzeiten Hitzephasen	Schweizerisch Eidgenossenschaft Confoederatio Helvetica Alpenland

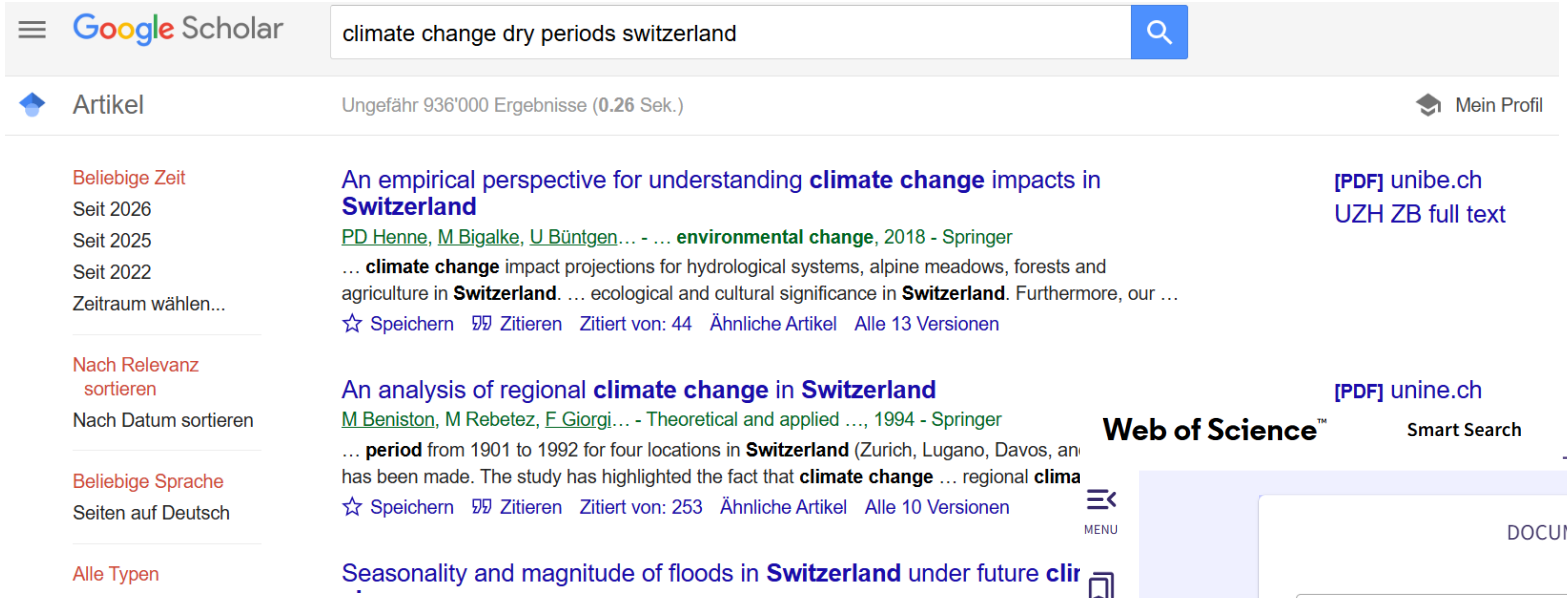
Sources in the Natural Sciences

Multi-disciplinary literature databases	Subject-specific literature databases	Library catalogues	Search engines	Patent databases	Newspaper archives	AI Tools
Web of Science Scopus Open Alex	By subject	swisscovery KVK	Google Scholar Base	Espacenet Google Patents	Factiva Nexis Uni	Consensus Scite.ai

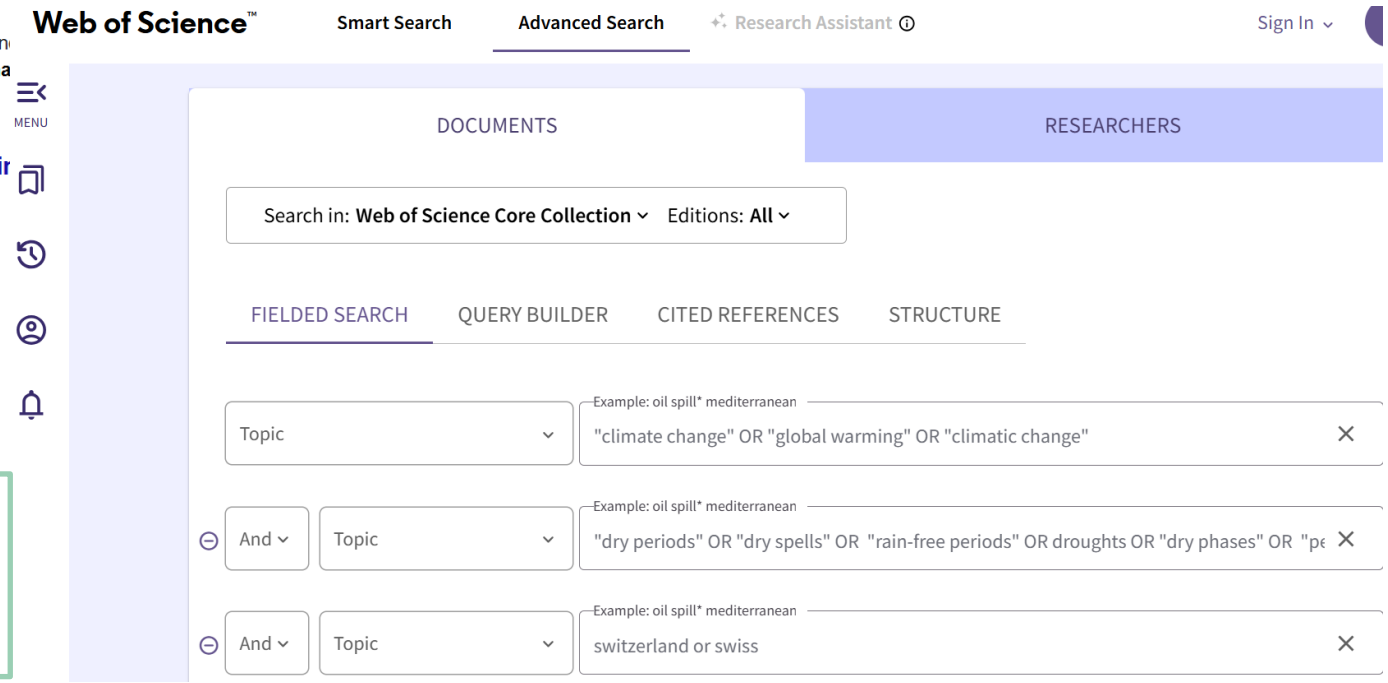
Link to subject-specific sources

https://www.ub.uzh.ch/en/unterstuetzung-erhalten/fachliche-unterstuetzung.html

Appropriate sources for the example topic: Google Scholar & Web of Science

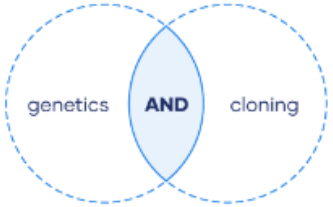


Google Scholar
- Good for an initial overview
  Few or no hits in subject-specific literature databases
- Full-text search in paper possible

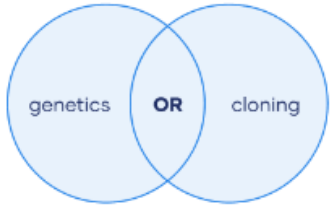


Web of Science
- Good for comprehensive searches
- Allows complex search strings
- Specific title,abstract search possible

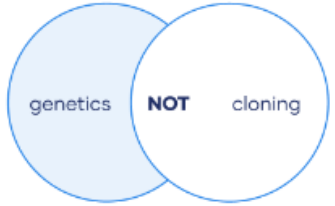
Search Techniques I



Both terms appear in the search results
→ Blank space = AND



Minimum one or both terms appear in the search results
→ Use it for the synonym search



Only the first term apppear in the search results
→ Publications with both terms don't appear
→ Use it to exclude f. ex. specific publication years or publication types

When searching with two different operators, use parentheses!

"climate change" **AND** **(**"dry periods" **OR** droughts**)**

Search Techniques II

Technique	Explanation	Example (for Web of Science)
Truncation	Extending search term by using truncation mark for one or more letters	dry* = dry, drying, dryer
Phrase Search	Search the terms in a specific order	"climate change"
Field Search **Not possible in all search engines, AI tools** **Commonly found in the advanced search of literature databases**	Search the term/s in a specific field like title, abstract, author, source etc.	TI=(dry)
Proximity Searching **Not possible in search engines, AI Tools**	Search terms are one or more words apart	climate NEAR/3 change

Each information source has it’s own search techniques!

Check out the help pages!

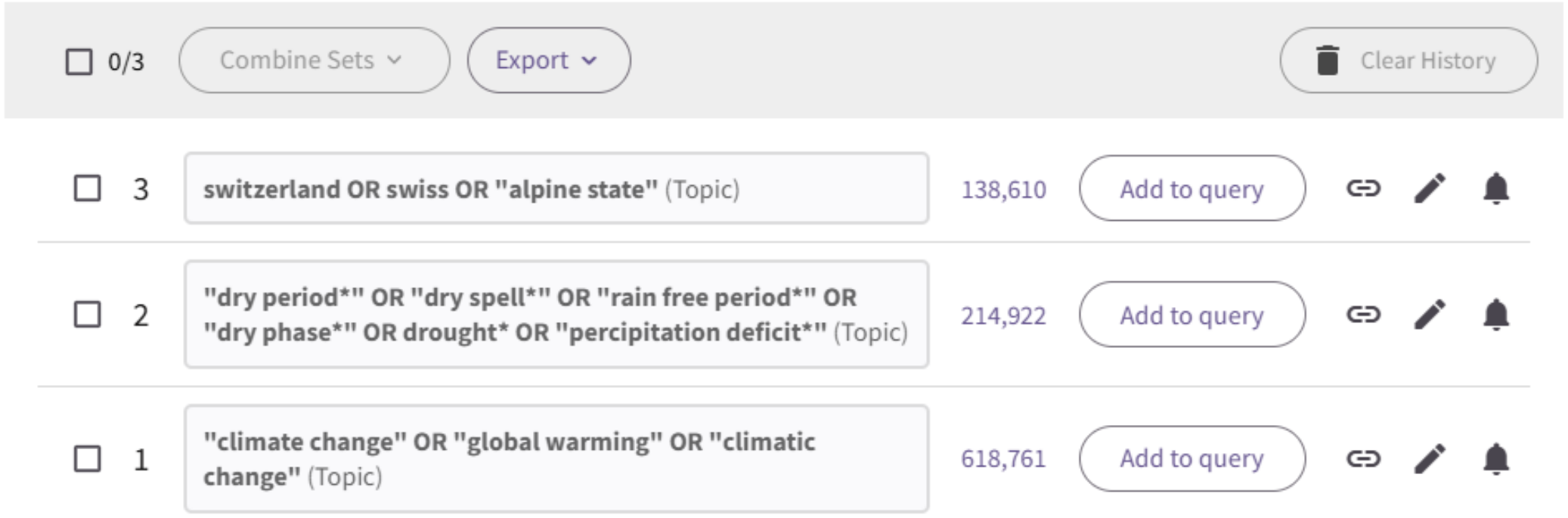
Perform Search → Build search strings with the search terms

The impact of **climate change** on **dry periods** in **Switzerland**

Search Concept	Search Strings
Climate Change	"climate change" OR "global warming" OR "climatic change"
Dry Periods	"dry period*" OR "dry spell*" OR "rain free period*" OR "dry phase*" OR drought* OR "percipitation deficit*"
Switzerland	switzerland OR swiss OR "alpine state"

Perform Search → Run search concepts separately

(Applies only to information sources with an Advanced Search)



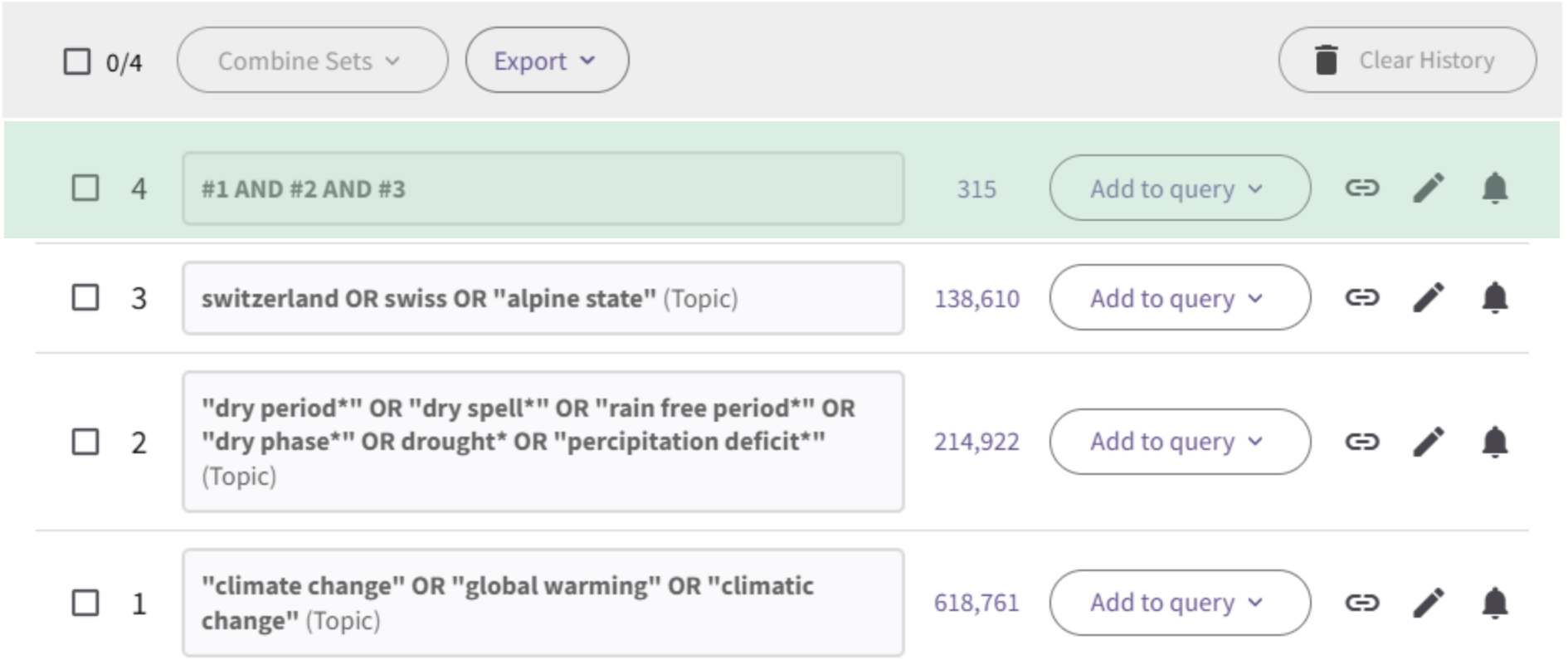
Combine search concepts

No. hits per search concept
→ no. realistic?

Possibility to edit search

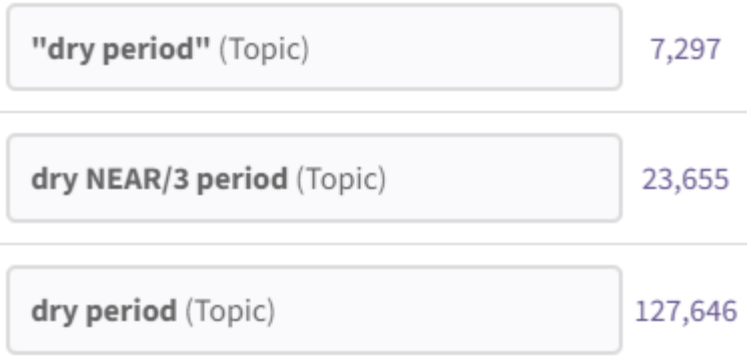
Perform Search → Combine search concepts

(Applies only to information sources with an Advanced Search)



Improve Search

Too many hits	• Use filters (specific publication type, publication year, etc.) • Use other search techniques → Proximity Search / Phrase Search
Not enough hits	• Check no. search concepts • Edit search string → Use additional search terms (expand synonym search) • Use other search techniques → truncation • Citation Chasing
Results not relevant	• Adjust/Refine search terms • Check search techniques

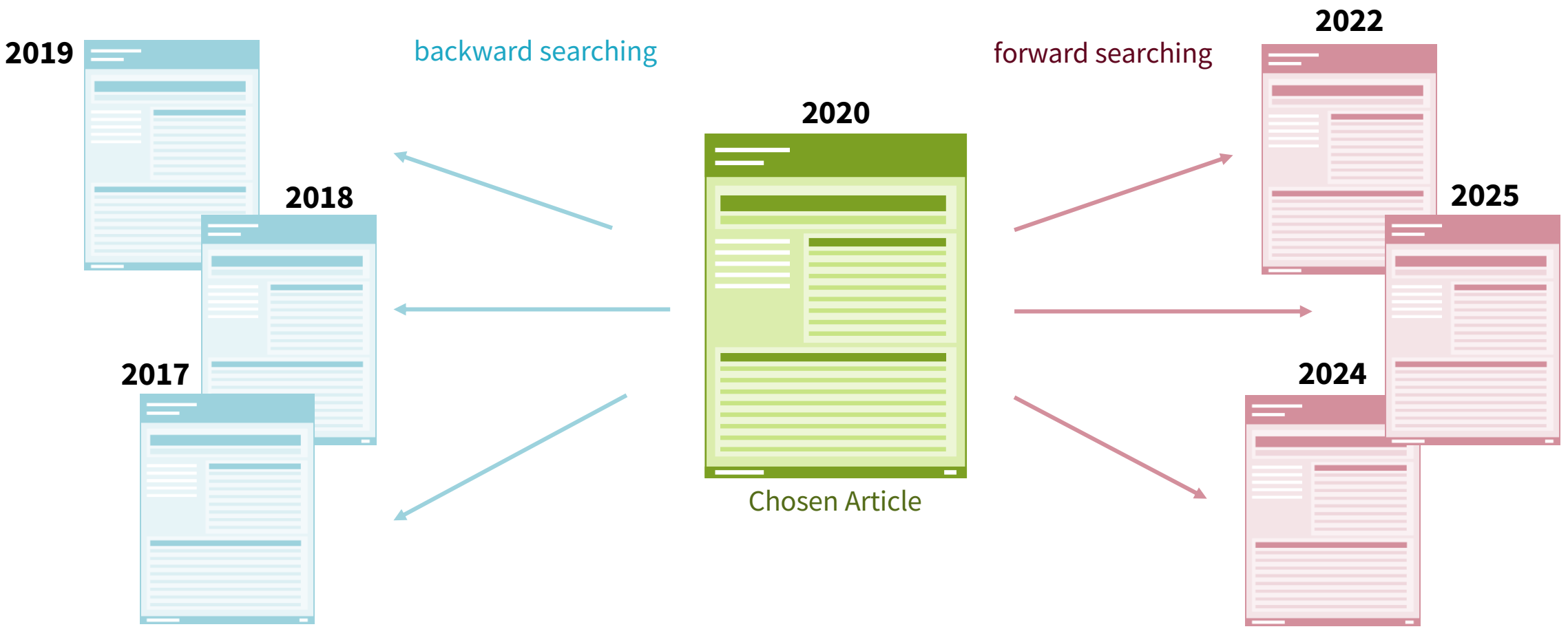


Citation Chaining

Appropriate information sources: Google Scholar, Web of Science or Scite.ai

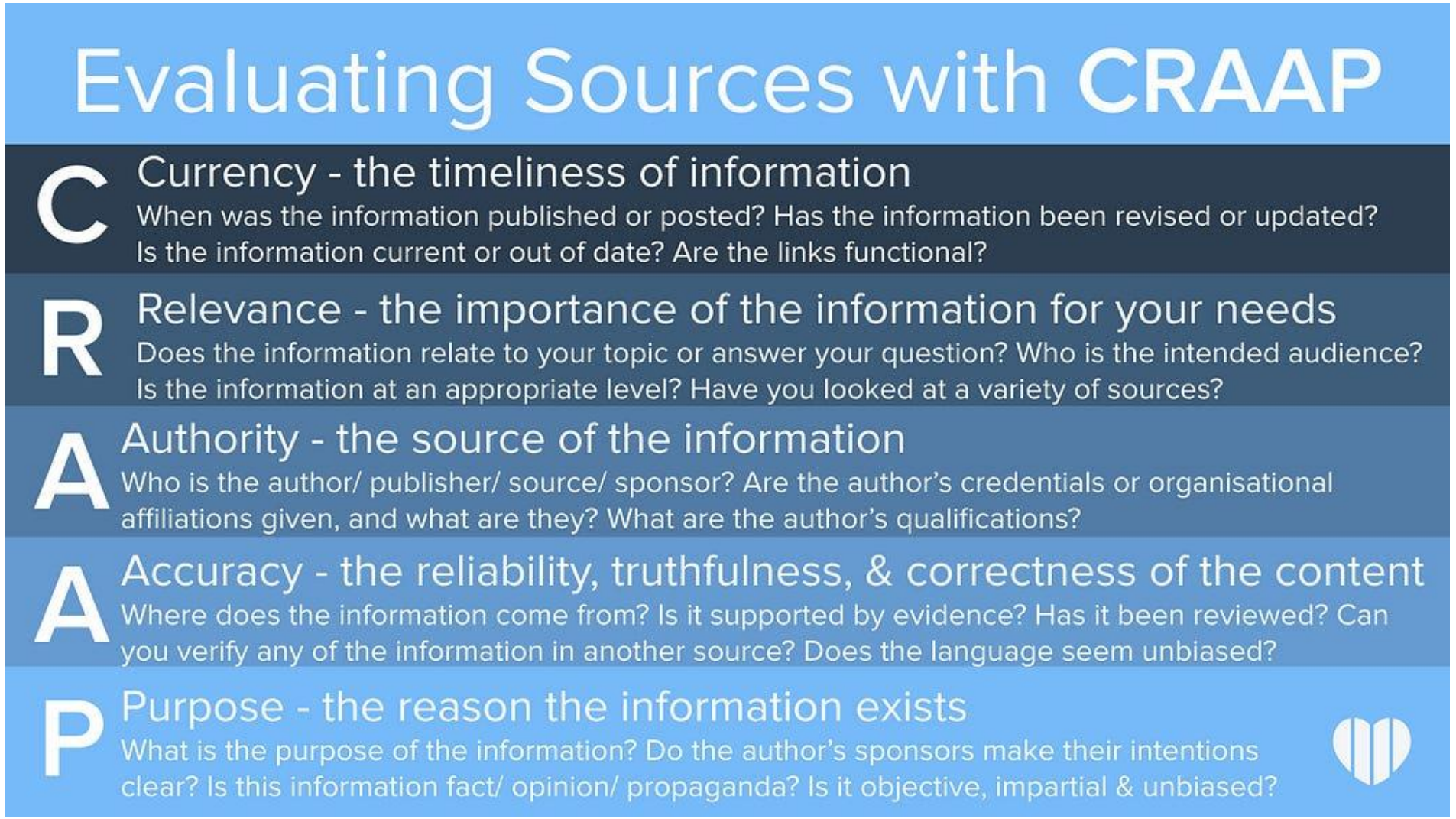
Articles cited in the selected article (→ in the reference list of the «chosen article»)

Articles that cite the selected article



→ This way, I can find even more relevant literature

Identification / Evaluation of Sources



Perkins, K. (2016, April 25). The CRAAP Test: An Easy & Fun Way to Evaluate Research Sources. *Medium*. https://medium.com/@RefME/the-craap-test-an-easy-fun-way-to-evaluate-research-sources-a2755126b6b2

What is a credible source?

- Peer Review?
- Authors incl. institution?
- Journal?
- Publisher?
- Reference list?
- Conflict of interest? e.g. selling a product
- Who funded the study?



Regional Environmental Change (2026) 26:59
https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-026-02538-6

RESEARCH

Check for updates

Future climate change impacts on forests in the Canton of Bern, Switzerland

Christoph Schwörer[1] · Nadine Kunz[1] · Willy Tinner[1]

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Abstract
Rapid anthropogenic climate change is projected to change forest composition and productivity in the coming decades to centuries. Forest managers and decision-makers therefore need regional-scale forest projections to assess climate change impacts and mitigate adverse effects by anticipatory forest management. Here, we simulate future forest composition in the Canton of Bern (Switzerland) under different climate and management scenarios, using the dynamic vegetation model LandClim. Our aim is to identify climate-change sensitive areas and tree species affected by increasing summer drought, in order to assess the potential of adaptive forest management to maintain current ecosystem services in today's forests. Our results consistently show a decline of *Picea abies* under future climatic changes, either due to drought-induced mortality in lowland plantations or competitive replacement by temperate trees in its natural habitat. Our results also suggest that *Fagus sylvatica* can persist in favorable sites at low elevations, contradicting recent projections of a total disappearance on the Swiss Plateau. Additionally, our results support palaeoecological findings suggesting that *Abies alba* is well adapted to global warming conditions under low browsing intensity. Other trees that will thrive under higher temperatures and drier summers are *Tilia cordata*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus pubescens* and *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Warmer temperatures will also allow Mediterranean evergreen and deciduous species to establish first populations on the warmest and driest sites. Our results demonstrate that overall, Swiss forests might increase in biomass, suggesting that they can act as a net carbon sink. However, special attention must be given to southern exposed slopes and areas with shallow soils. There, climate change will have the most drastic and immediate effects with dieback of *Fagus sylvatica* and a shift to more drought-tolerant species.

Keywords Dynamic vegetation model · *Picea abies* · *Fagus sylvatica* · *Abies alba* · LandClim · Forest management

Introduction

Global emission scenarios project a surface temperature increase of 1.4–4.4 °C by the end of this century (Lee et al. 2021). While global warming can promote tree growth by prolonging the growing season and expanding their range, it can also negatively affect forests by increasing evapotranspiration and causing more extreme events such as droughts, fires, and floods (Seneviratne et al. 2021; Vitasse et al. 2021). Hence, anthropogenic climate change is regarded as one of the leading causes of forest compositional change, jeopardizing future provision of various ecosystem functions and services (Jia et al. 2022). Since humans rely on the benefits and services forests provide, gaining knowledge on future forest compositional changes is crucial for human well-being (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005; Mina et al. 2017). Simulating future forest composition by using vegetation models represents a valuable option to project changes and implement early mitigation strategies. While these projections mainly exist on a local or global scale (e.g., Pretzsch et al. 2008; Elkin et al. 2013; Zimmermann et al. 2014; Buras and Menzel 2019), it is important to gain knowledge on the upcoming changes on a regional scale to facilitate the implementation of mitigation and adaptation management strategies.

In Switzerland, temperatures have increased by around 2.1 °C since pre-industrial times, which is twice the rise in the average global temperature of 1.1 °C (CH 2018 2018). With continuously rising greenhouse gas emissions and no implementation of mitigation strategies, Switzerland is

Communicated by José Valentin Roces-Diaz

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Springer

Checklist for unserious papers / journals

Questions to ask yourself

- Where do your group members / other researchers in your field publish?
- From which journals are the papers cited?
- How does the layout of the paper look like? Is it professional?
- How is the peer review process? Is the timeline realistic?

The journal

- Title is very generic and often includes words such as International, Global, World, American, European, Advanced Journal of...
- ISSN does not exist (existing ISSNs can be found at portal.issn.org), for Open Access journal is it list in DOAJ
- Very wide range of topics from A to Z
- Editorial board members are from fields that don't match the journal

Website

- Poor grammar and layout
- Written to appeal to authors, not readers
- Suspicious contact information (postal address does not exist; email addresses from free providers)
- Texts and downloadable material often copied from reputable journals

→ A single feature is not necessarily a clear indication of a fake journal.

Adapted from: University Library Graz. (n.d.). *Checklist for Recognizing Fake Journals (Predatory Journals)*. Retrieved 6 May 2026, from https://ub.uni-graz.at/en/research-publish/fake-journals-predatory-publishing/checklist-for-recognizing-fake-journals-predatory-journals/

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The journal will cover topics related to Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmaceuti development, nutraceutical product development, cosmetic product developm Biotechnology of Pharmaceutical Interest, quality assurance, herbal technology,

Our International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences Review and Research

Elsevier-Scopus SCImago Impact factor 2016 = 0.65

Scopus SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) 2018: 0.18

Index copernicus value: ICV 2016: 92.89, ICV 2017: 71.72

SJIF 2018 = 6.857 (Scientific Journal Impact Factor Value for 2018)

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CURRENT ISSUE

Vol. 10 No. 1 (2025): In Progress

PUBLISHED: 2025-01-01

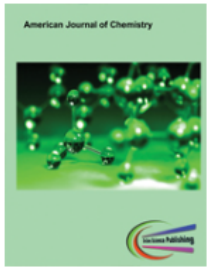
ARTICLES

Isoeugenol's biotransformation to vanillin using microorganisms
Rupa Verma, Abhijit Dutta 1-11
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Preparation of carbon quantum dots biofilm and adsorption of heavy metal Cu2+
Jianting WEI 12-21
PDF

Spectroscopic determination of neodymium (III), praseodymium (III), samarium (III) and Terbium (III) in aqueous and micelle media using 2,2'- ((1E,1'E) - (1,4 phenylenebis (Azanylylidene)) Bis (Methanylylidene)) diphenol (BSPPD) as ligand
Uwanta, Emaime Jimmy, Nicholas, Eno-obong Sunday, Ikpe, Edidiong Emmanuel, Ukoha, Pius Onyeoziri 22-33
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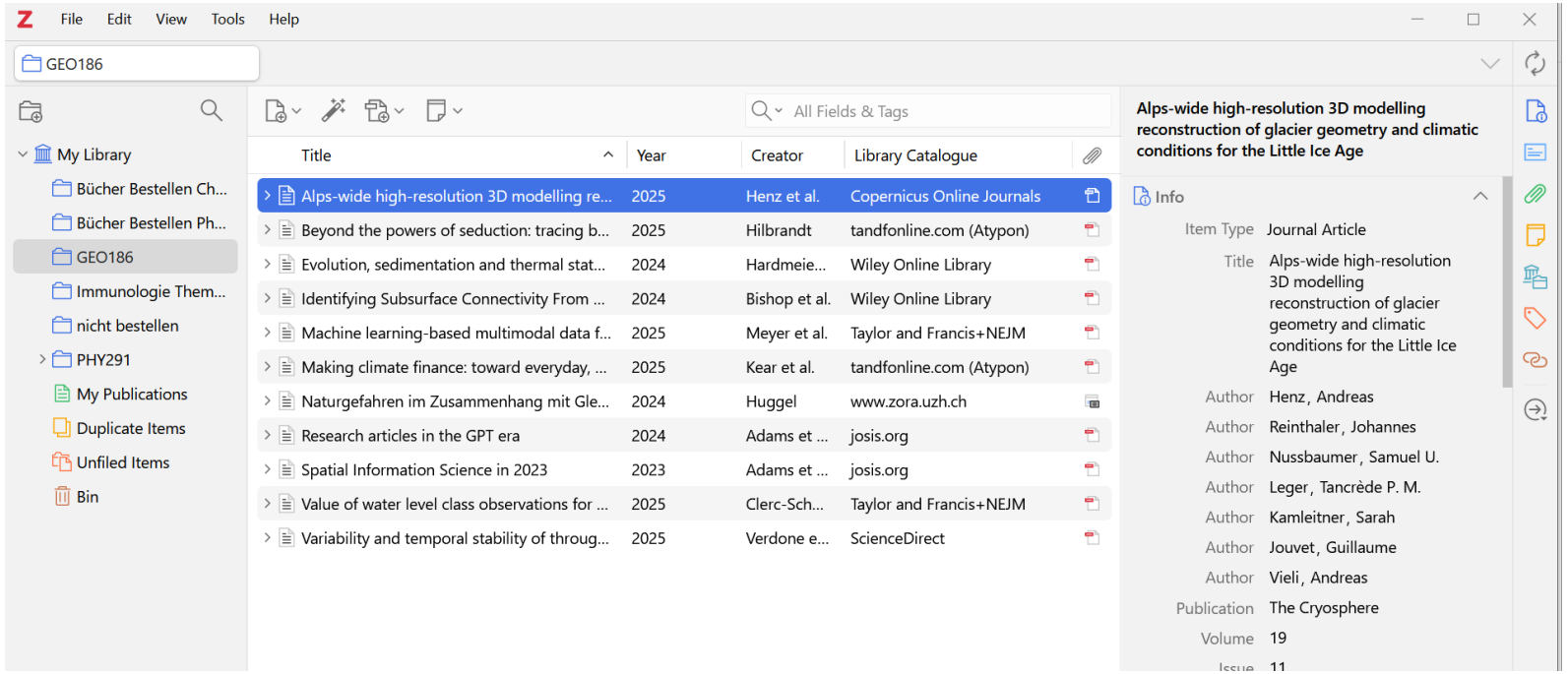
Spectroscopic determination of neodymium (III), praseodymium (III)

2 Reference Management

Reference Management Software

- Systematically organize literature and sources
- Clearly structure notes and excerpts
- Easily integrate citations into texts
- Generate a bibliography with a single click
- Cognitive aid: establish cross-references more quickly through overview

Easy searching, organizing and using my literature references





Literaturverwaltungsprogramme, UB Zürich https://www.ub.uzh.ch/de/literatur-suchen-nutzen/mit-literatur-arbeiten/Literaturverwaltungsprogramme.html.

Reference Management Software: Zotero

Operating System: Windows, Mac, Linux

Advantages



- Intuitive
- Good import quality from library catalogues/data bases
- Open Source
- Plugins for Word

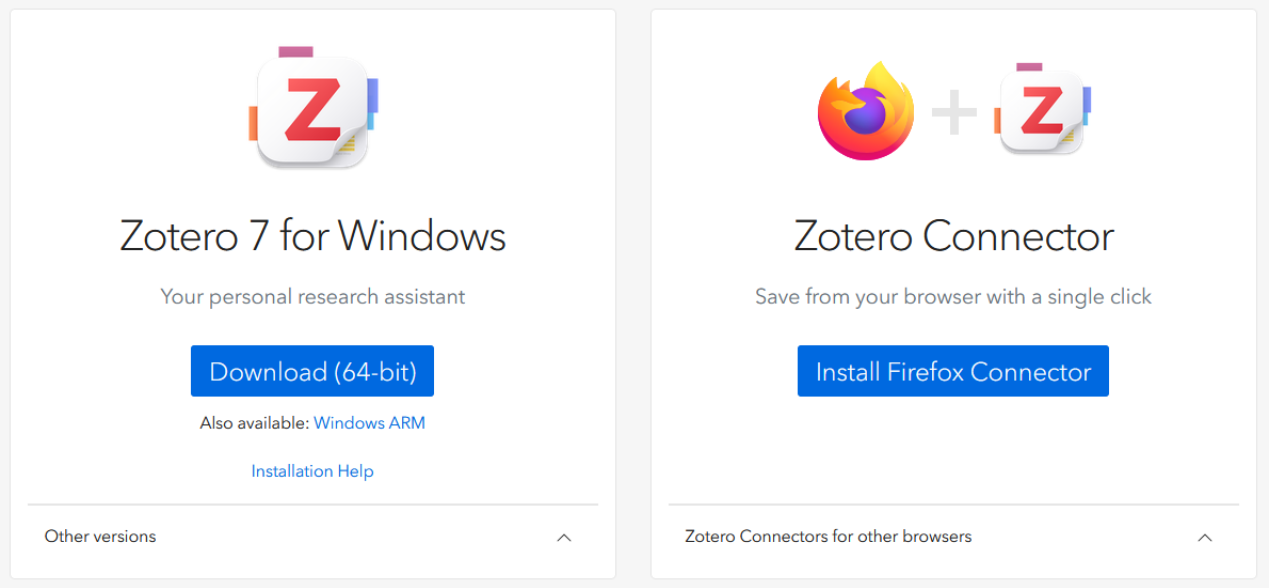
Disadvantages



- Low free online storage space (300 MB)

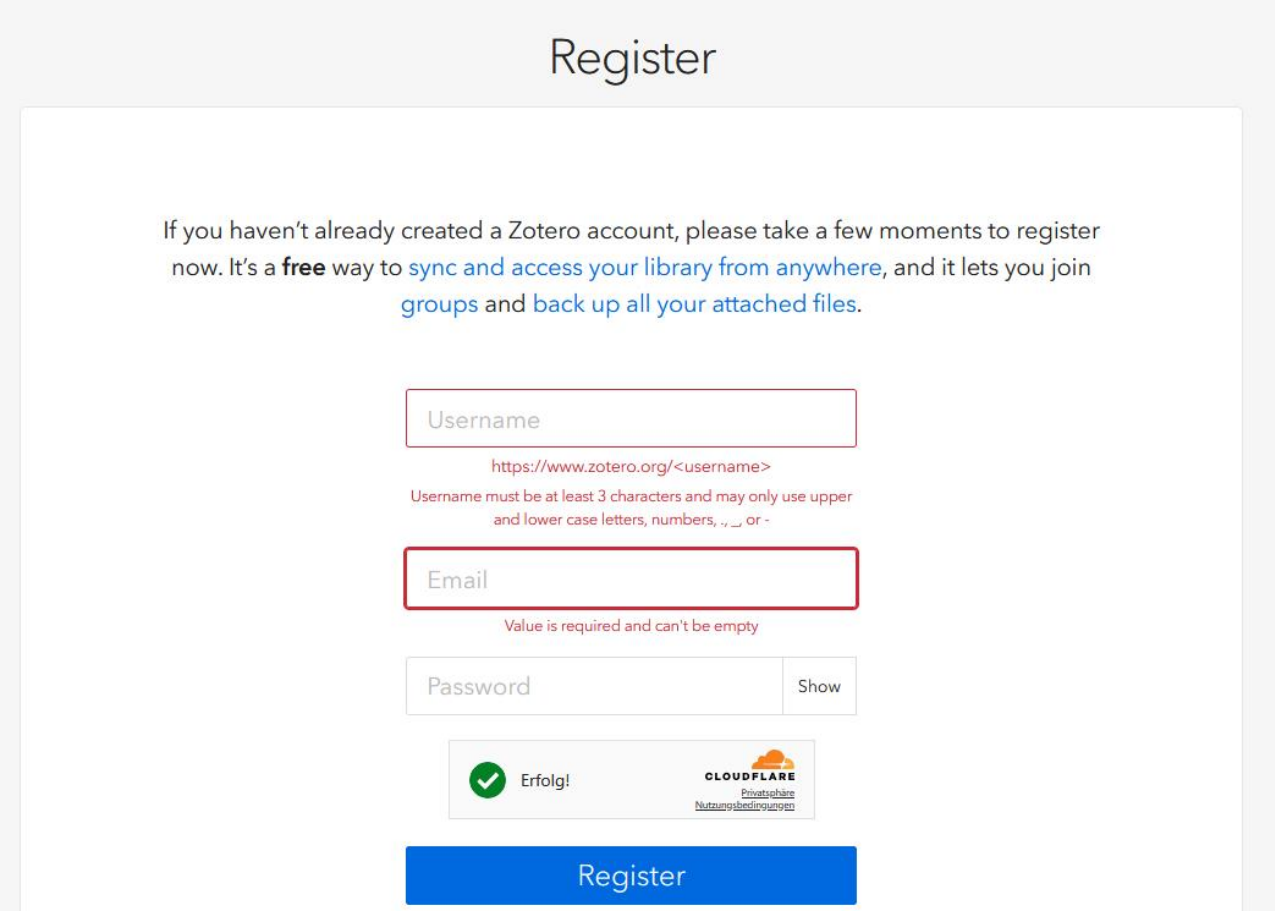
Zotero: Download and Installation

- **Download Zotero** and **Browser Extension (Zotero Connector)**: https://www.zotero.org/download/

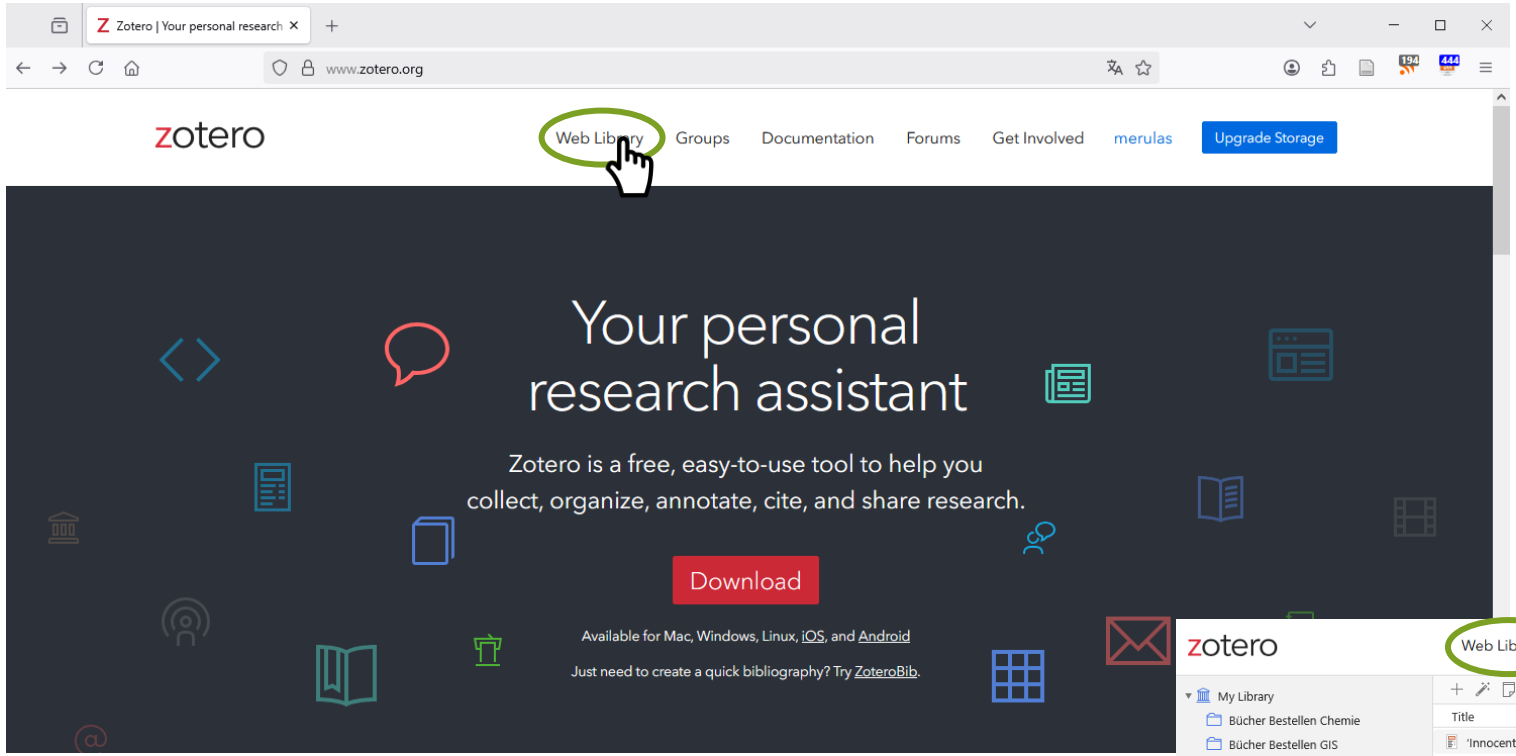


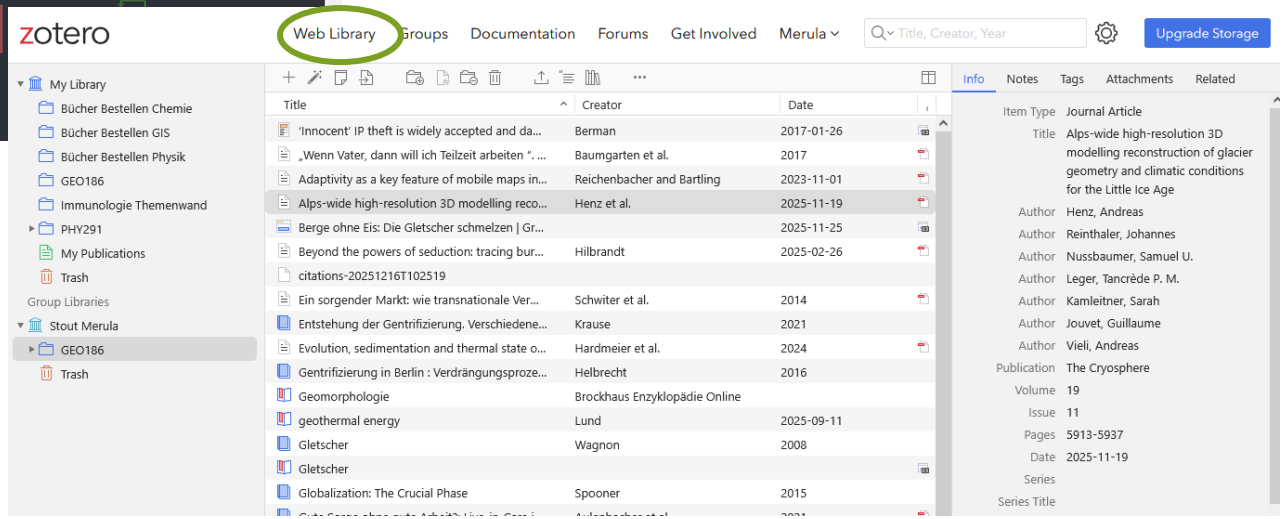
Zotero Registration

https://www.zotero.org/user/register



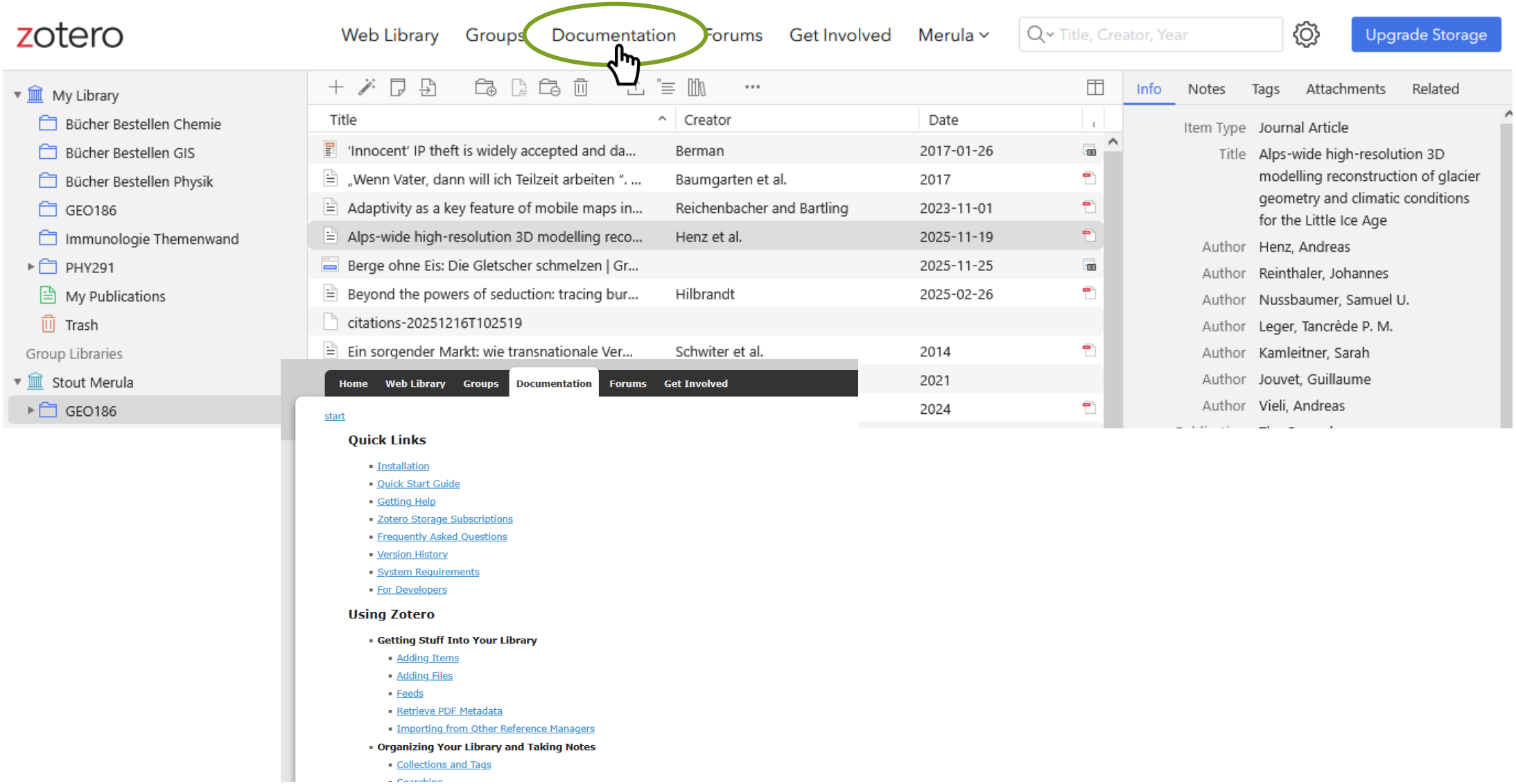
Web-based user interface (Zotero web client)





- It is possible to add and/or edit data via the website (Web Library), but this is better done using the desktop version.
- The personalised Zotero website contains all data stored in the Zotero desktop client, provided that the data are automatically synchronized.

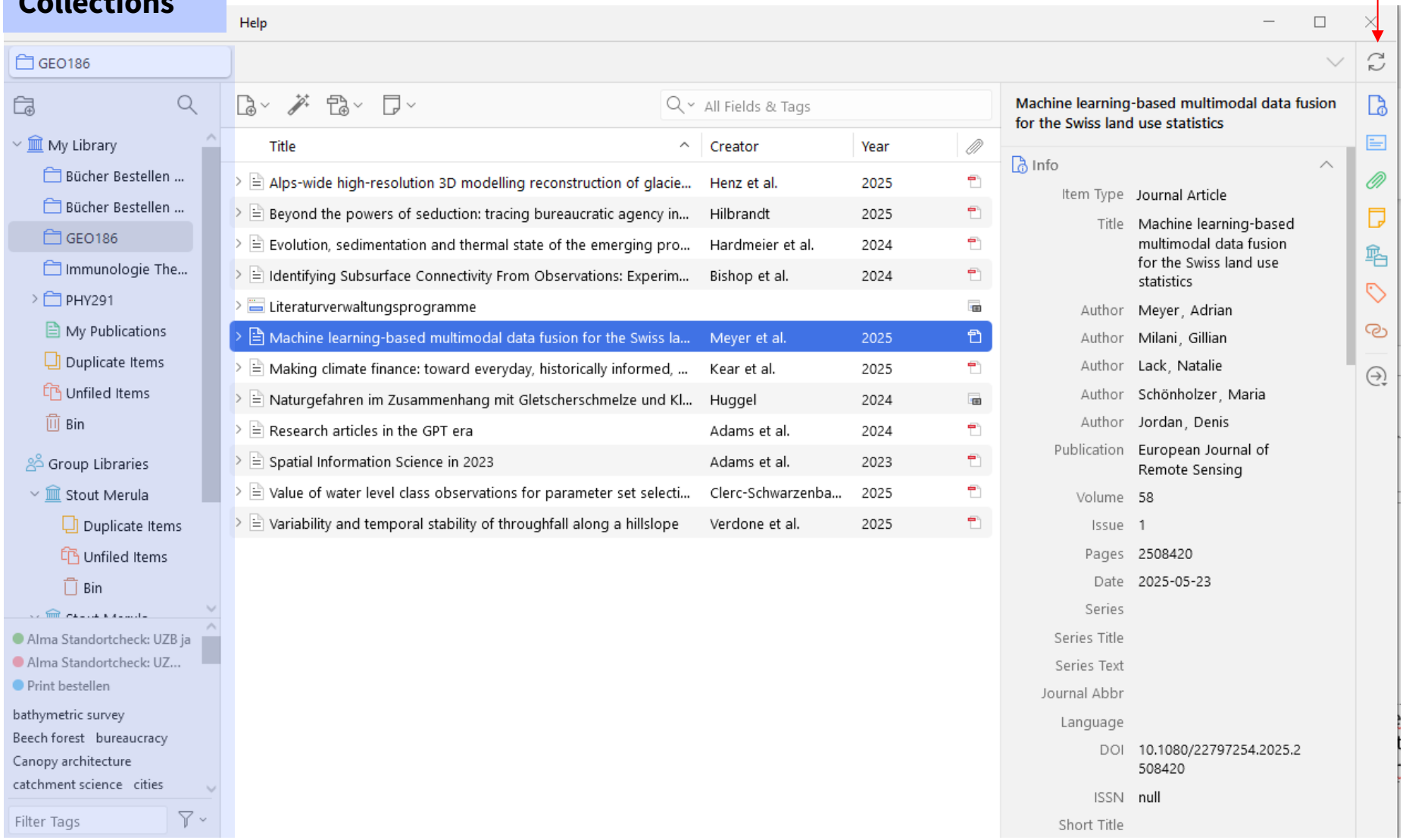
Web-based user interface: Documentation



User interface Zotero desktop app

Collections

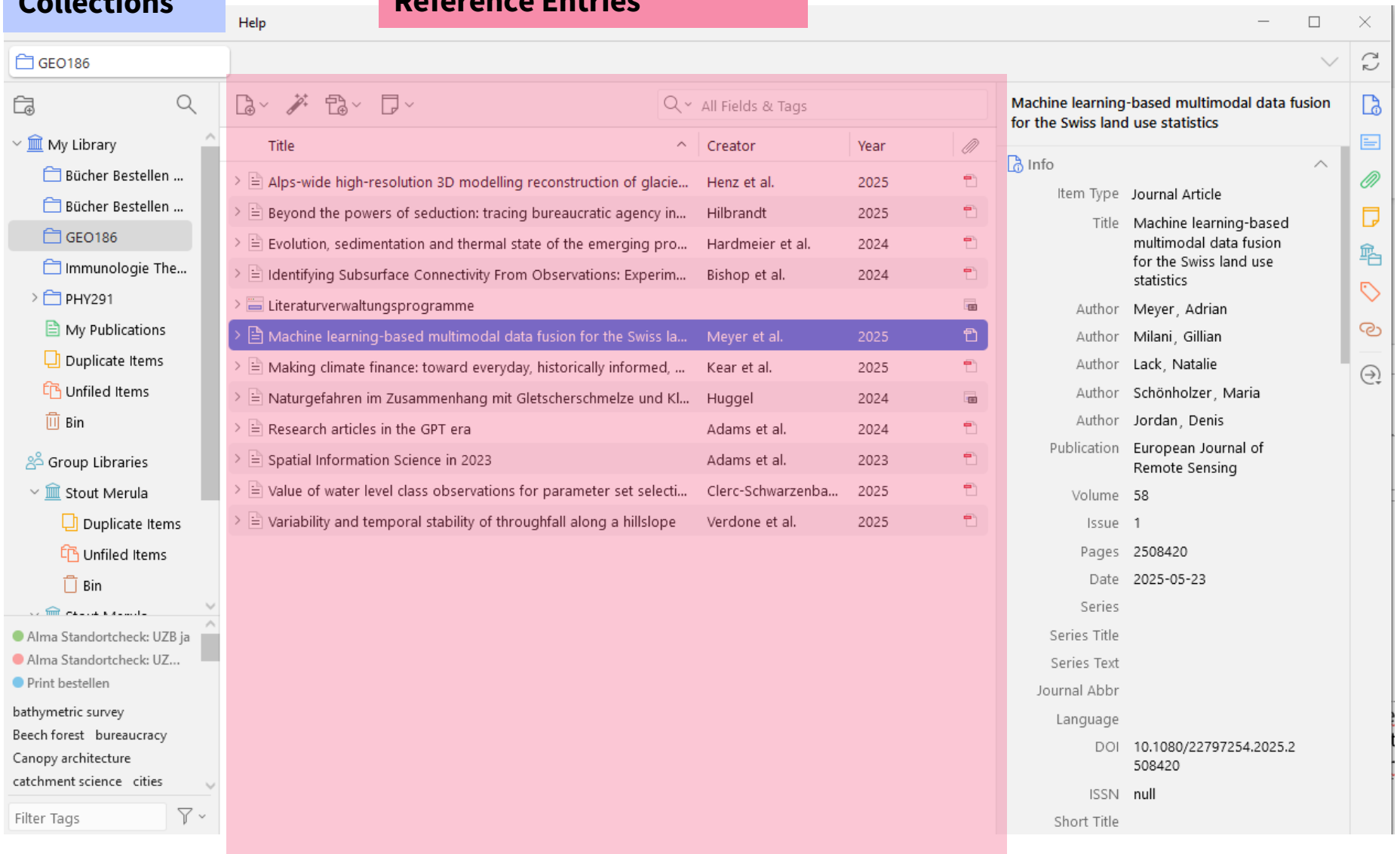
Synchronisation with Online Version



User interface Zotero desktop app

Collections

Reference Entries

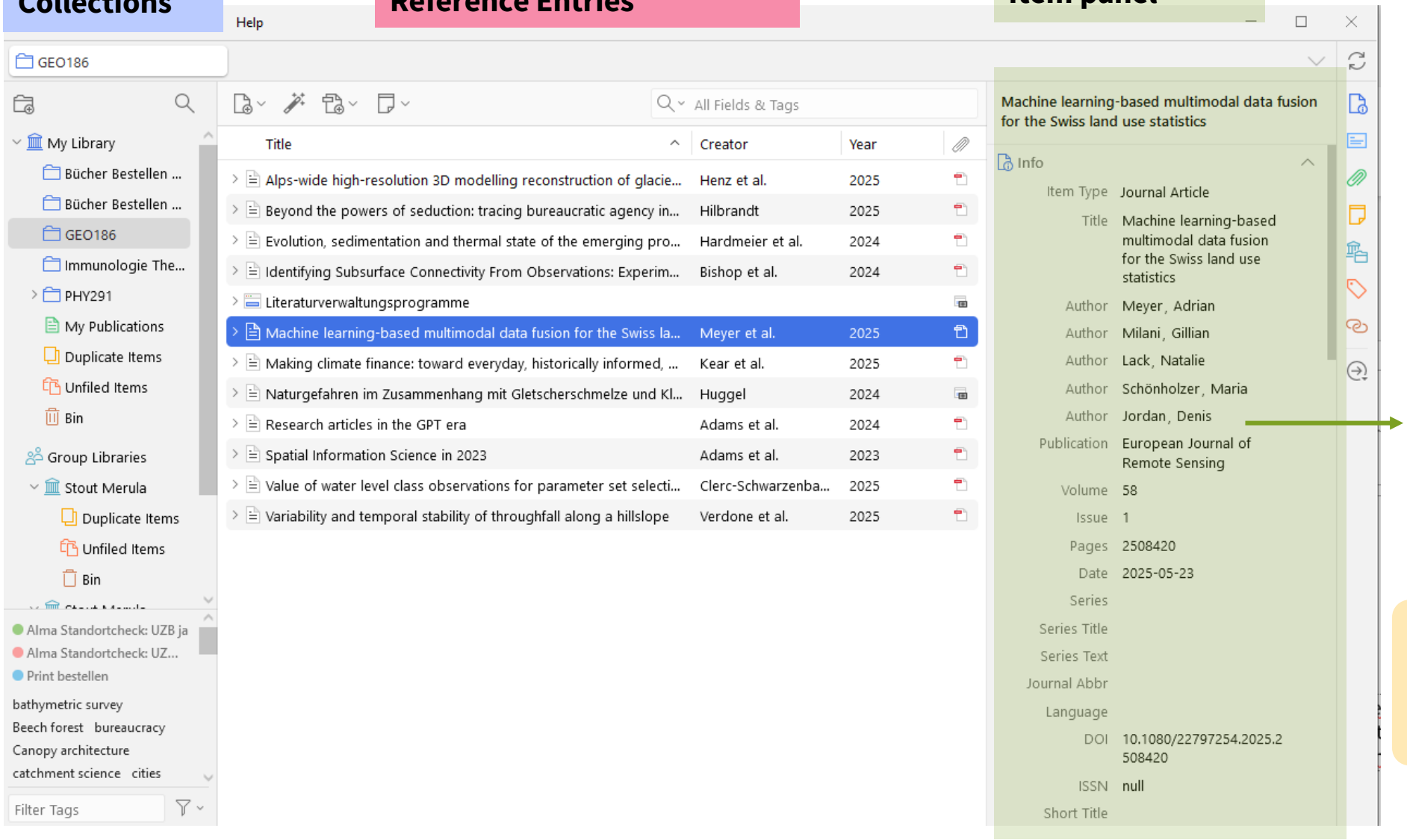


User interface Zotero desktop app

Collections

Reference Entries

Item panel



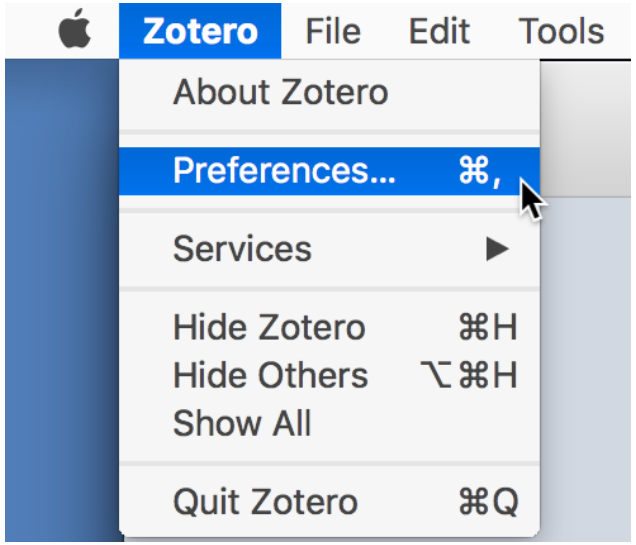
Metadata of reference (title, author, journal, year, page numbers, DOI)

DOI = digital object identifier
Always remains the same (as opposed to URLs, which sometimes don't work anymore)

Settings in Zotero Desktop App

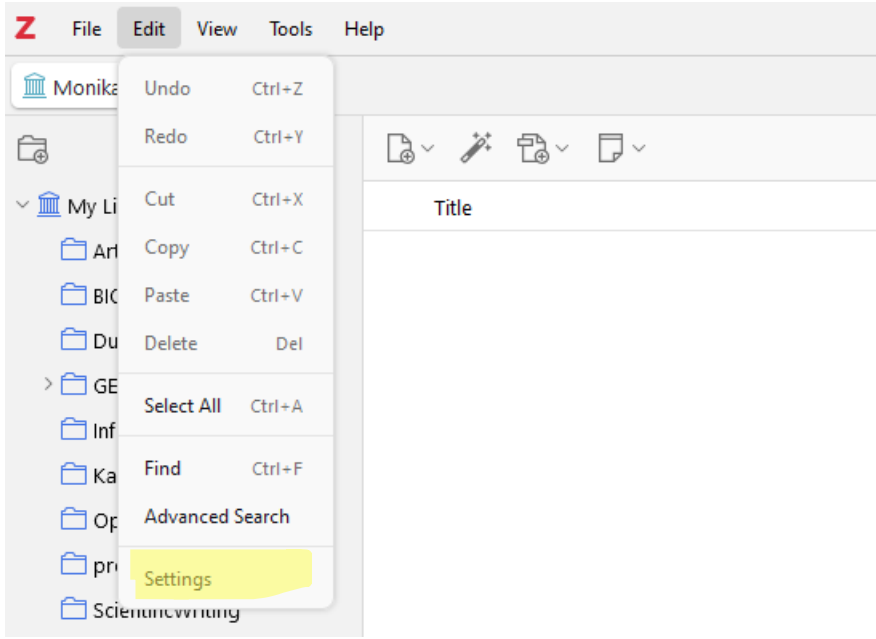
Mac OS

→ Über «Zotero» auf «**Preferences**»

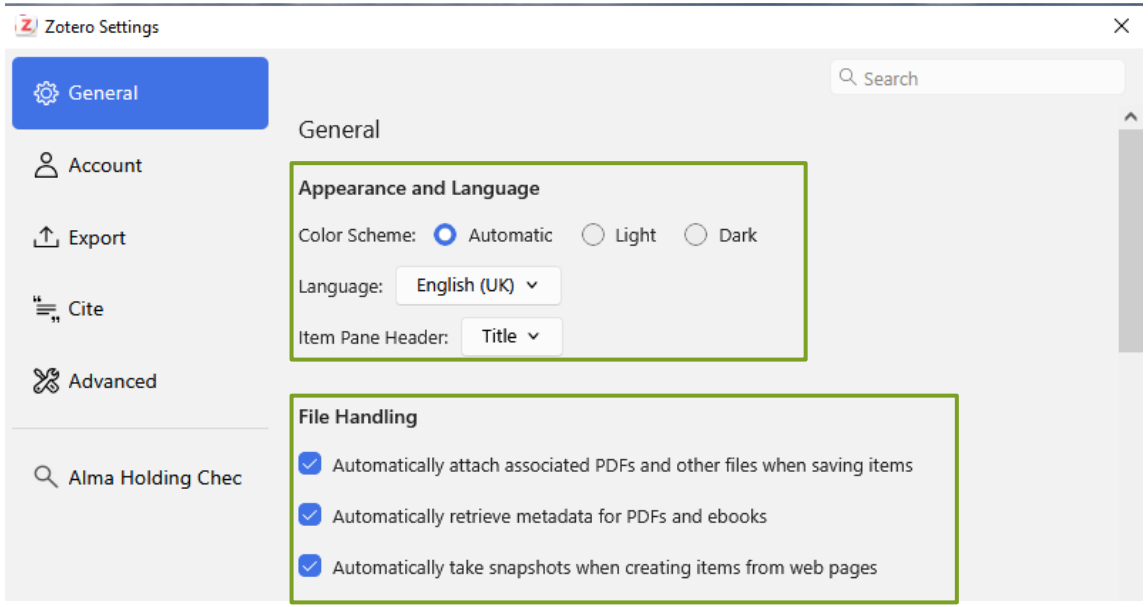


Windows

→ Über «Edit» auf «Settings»

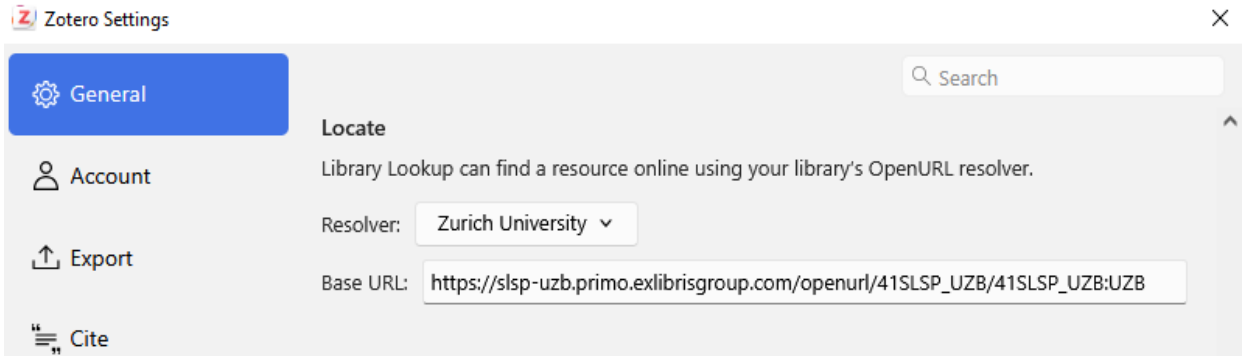


Settings: Appearance, Language, File Handling, Resolver…

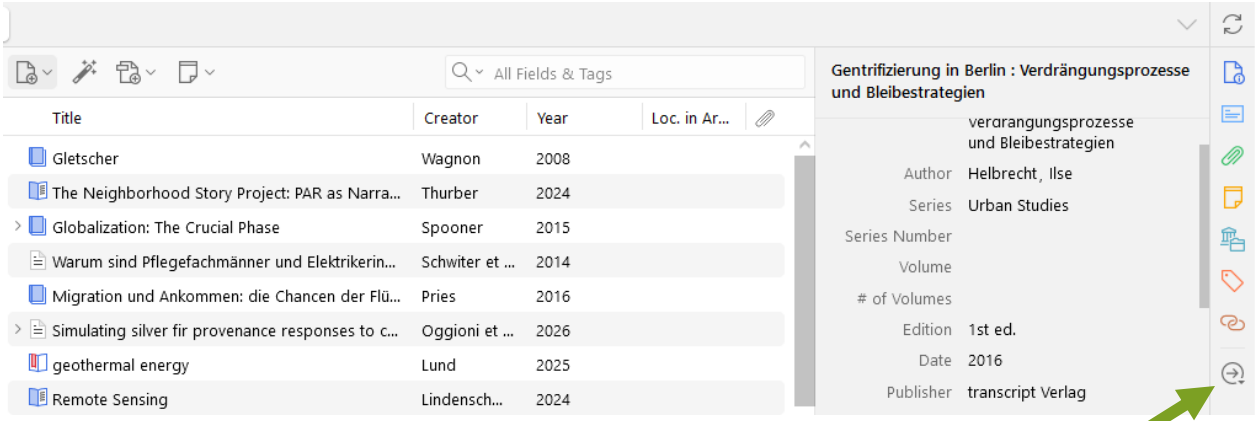


«automatically take snapshots» and «automatically attach PDFs» If they are enabled, all files linked to a bibliographic entry are also included. This is generally useful, but it consumes a lot of storage space.

With the URL resolver, you can access UZH-licensed journal articles from off campus.



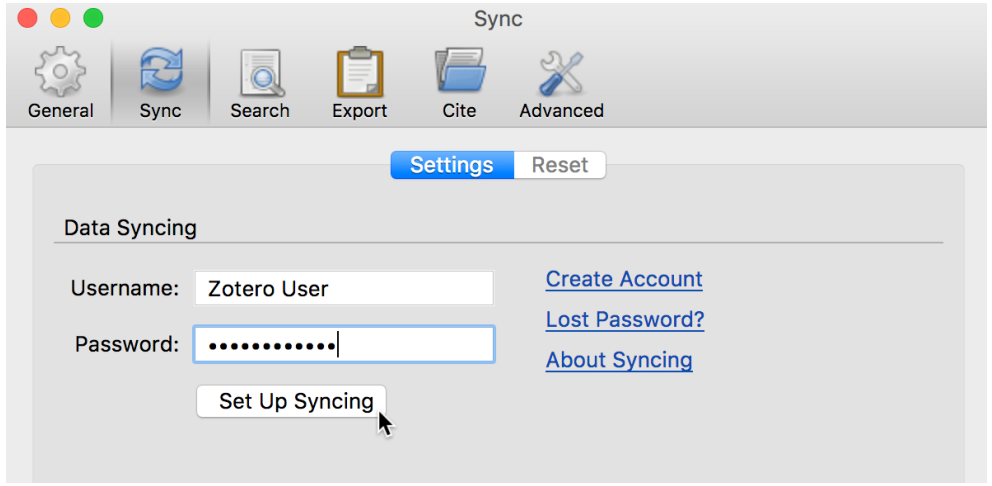
Under “Resolver,” search for Zurich University, and the link will then be inserted automatically. Link: https://slsp-uzb.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/openurl/41SLSP_UZB/41SLSP_UZB:UZB



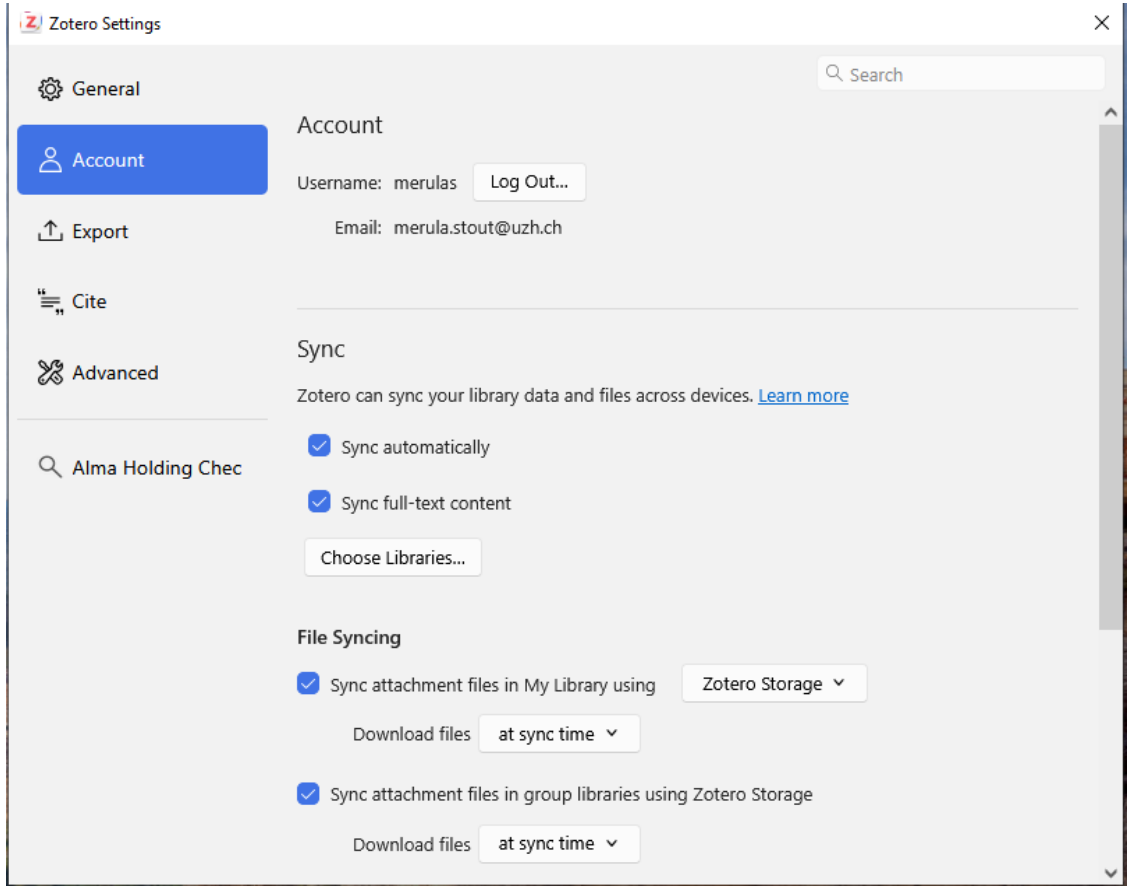
Click here to be forwarded

Settings: Data synchronizing of Zotero-Desktop and Zotero-Web

Mac OS

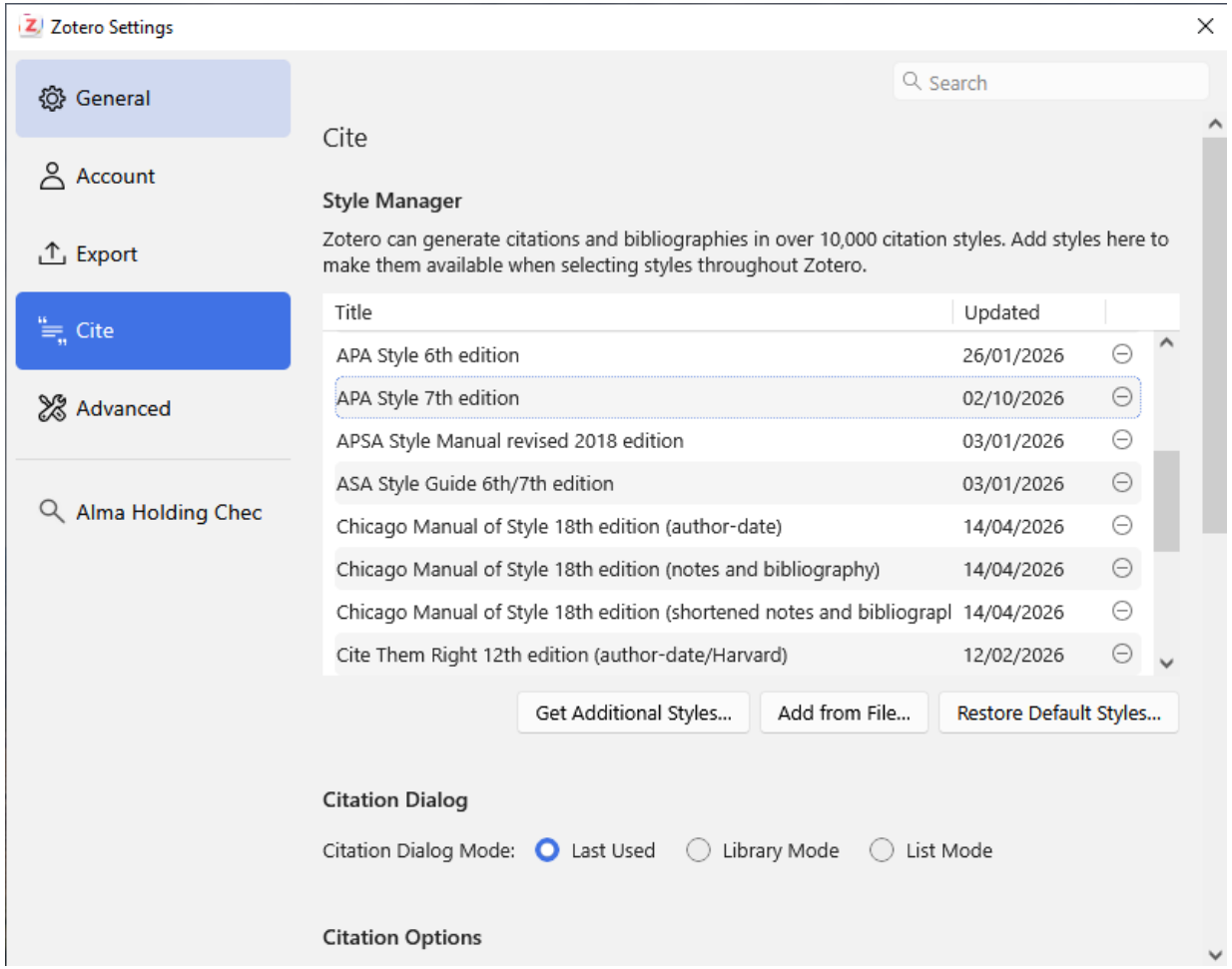


Windows



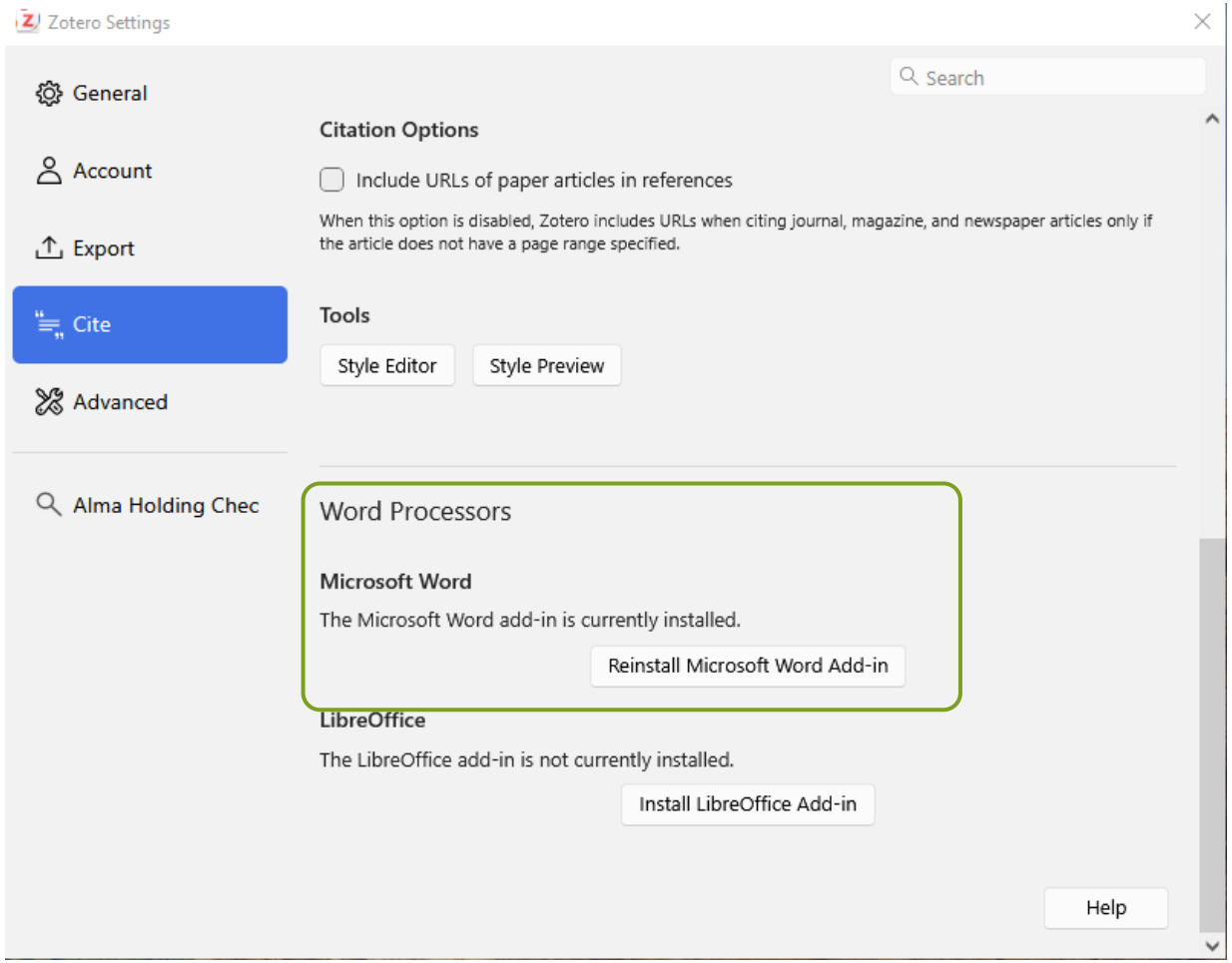
Citation Style

- Which citation style does my discipline usually use?
- Which citation style is required by the journal in which I intend to publish?

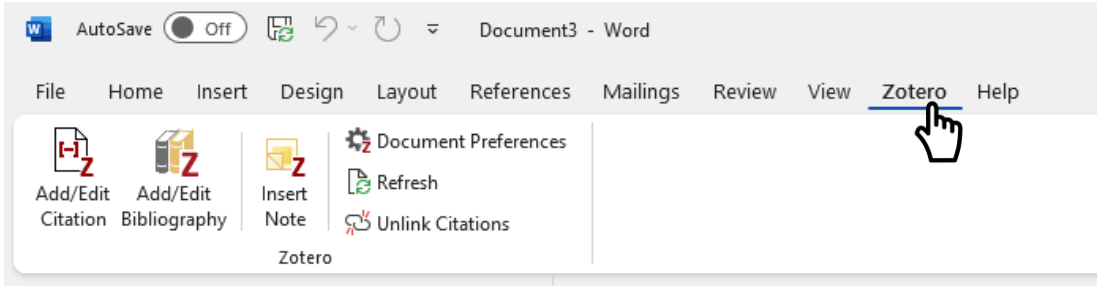


Word or LibreOffice Plugin

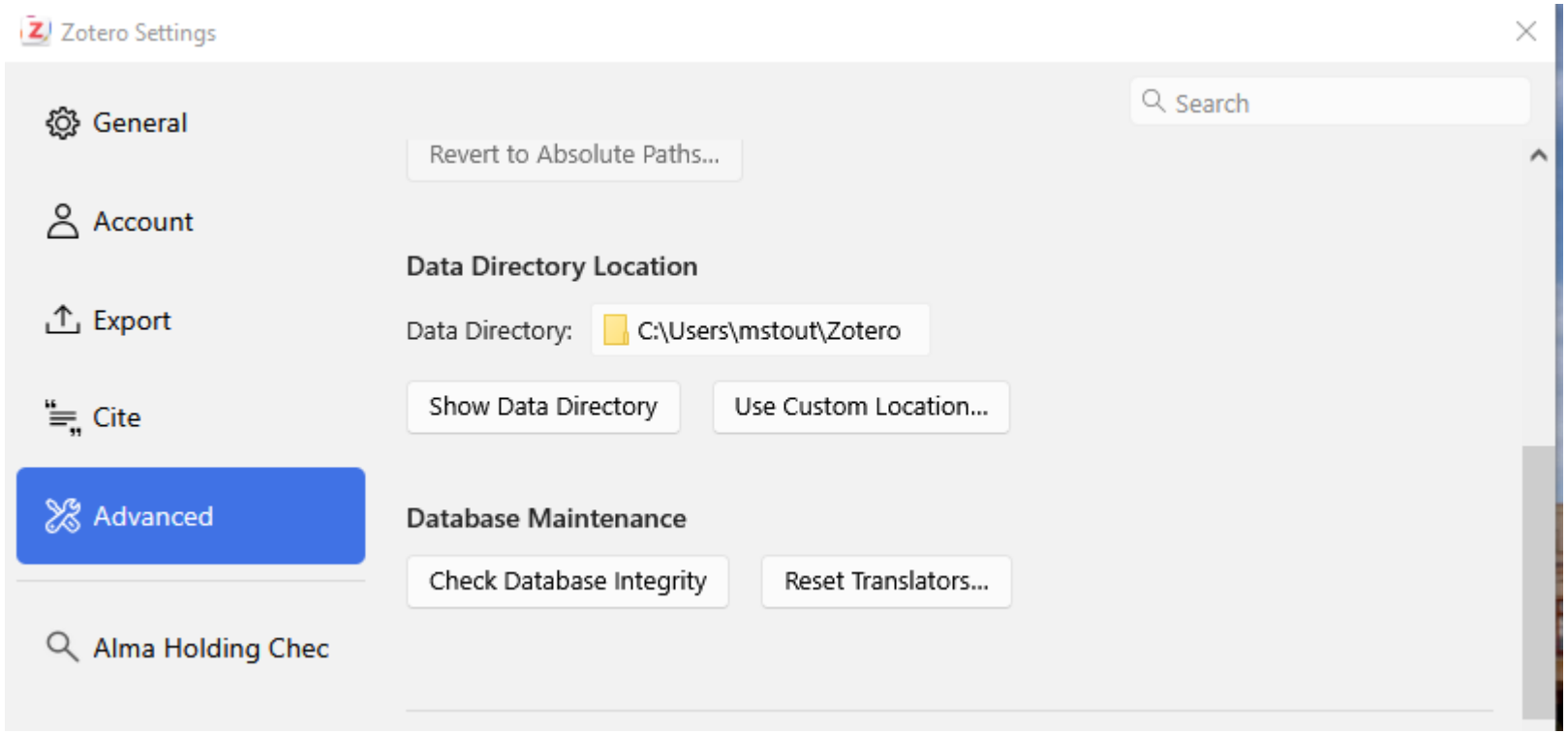
- Word Plugin is automatically added upon installation
- In case this does not happen and you cannot see this button: word_processor_plugin_installation [Zotero Documentation]



In Microsoft Word:

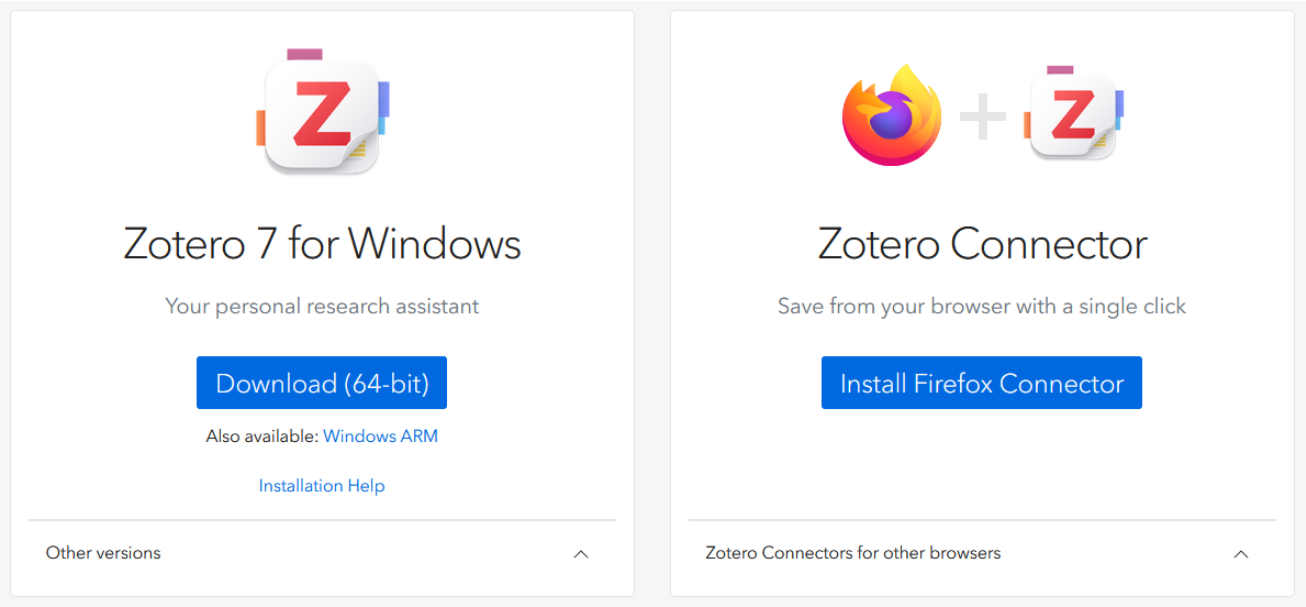


Data storage location



Import References: Zotero Connector

- **Download Zotero** and **browser extension (Zotero Connector)**: https://www.zotero.org/download/



Zotero: Add references via Zotero connector

- **Download Zotero** and **browser extension (Zotero connector)**: https://www.zotero.org/download/

→ You can add Literature while browsing on the internet to Zotero

1. Click on icon



2. «Save to Zotero»

   → Import reference & add to desired collection

3. Check entry and edit if necessary

The icon looks different depending on the type of resource:



Always check the imported data and make sure it is correct. Especially with older literature, automatic extraction may be less reliable and errors in the imported data will later appear in your bibliography.

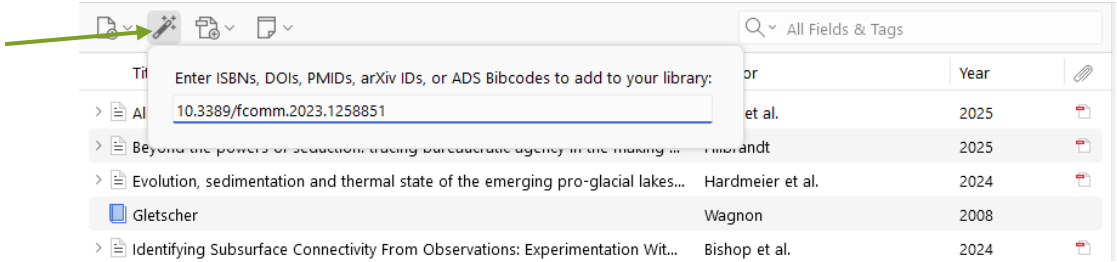
Zotero: Add references via magic wand tool

If you know the identifier (ISBN, DOI, PubMed ID oder arXiv ID, etc.) you can add the reference with the magic wand tool

1. Click on «Add items by identifier»
2. Insert identifier and click enter

- Import reference
- Add to desired collection

3. Check entry and correct if necessary

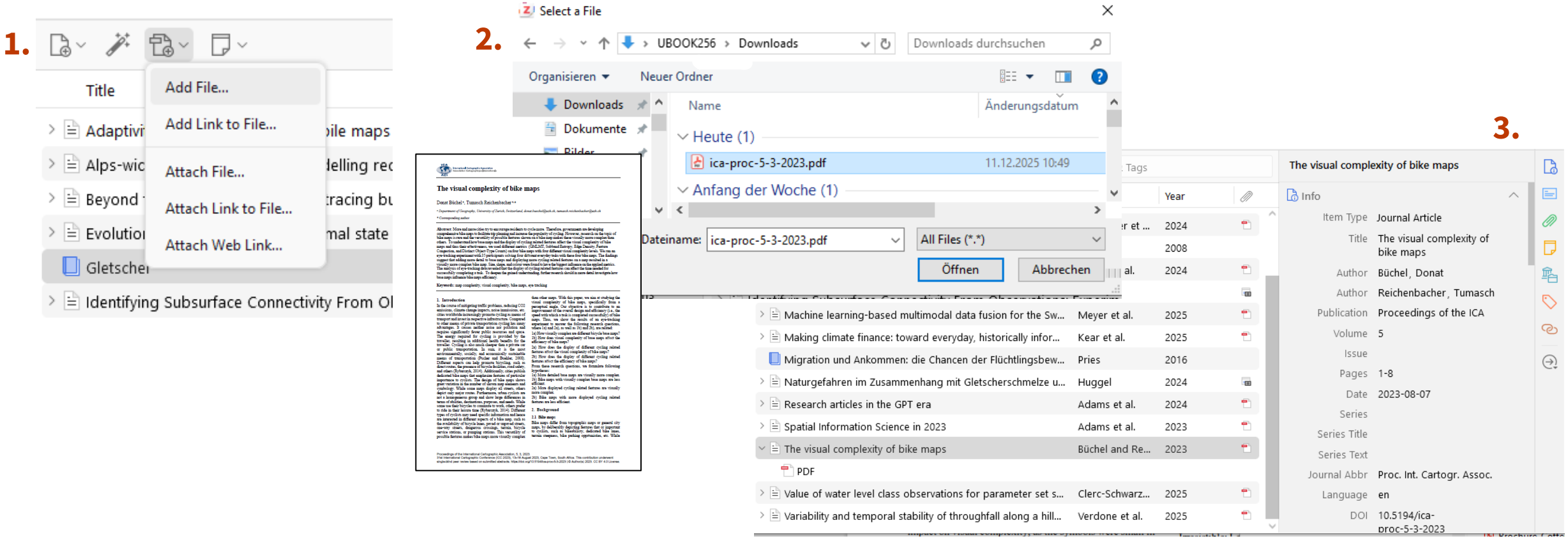


Import PDF files: parent item

Add the file as a separate reference

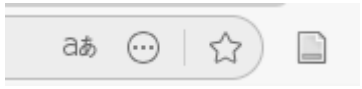
Drag the PDF file into desired collection (into the middle column with references) → the entry and metadata are retrieved automatically

Alternatively: Add File… → Select the PDF → metadata are added automatically



Import of information from websites

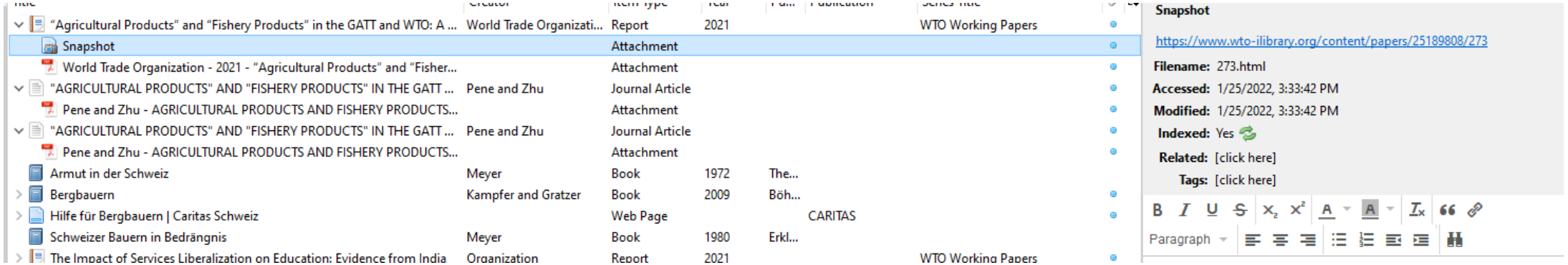
Some websites do not contain information that Zotero can recognize.
On these sites, the «Save» button shows a gray webpage icon.



normally:



1. By clicking «Save» Zotero imports the page as a webpage item with a title, a URL, and an access date.
2. Check the reference and edit it if necessary



When «Automatically take snapshots when creating items from web pages» is enabled in the «General» tab of the Zotero settings, a copy (snapshot) of the website is saved on your computer and added as a child item.

Import of websites, tricks for finding data

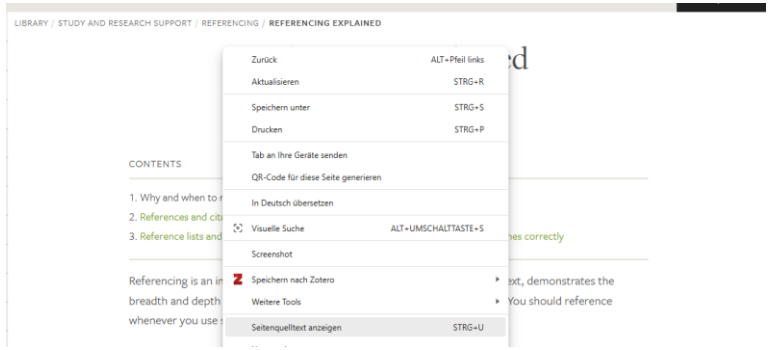
Citing of websites

How can I find author/organization and title of a website?

«Display page info»

Depends on browser → check how to do it with your browser

Instead of the author you could also state the name of the organization, the project or the company that runs the website



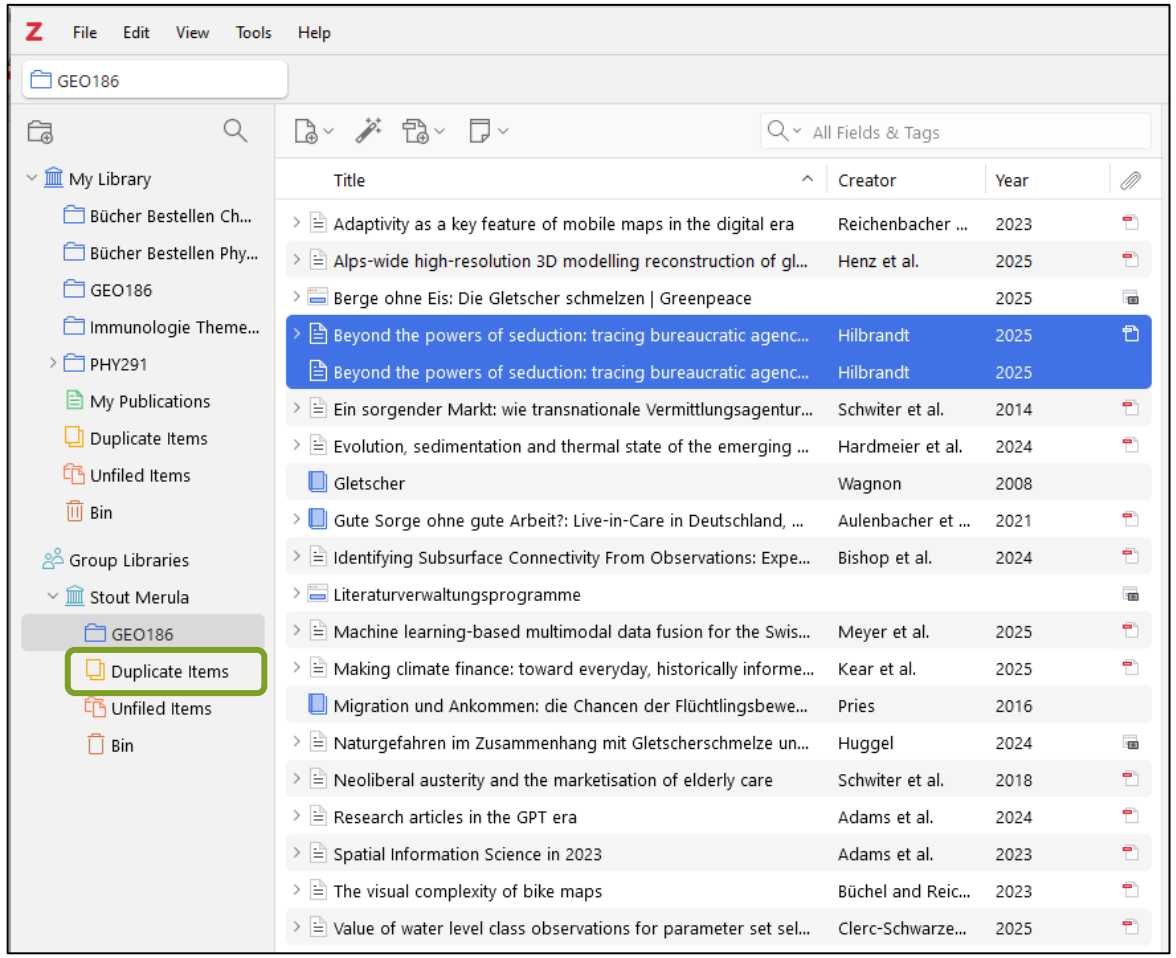


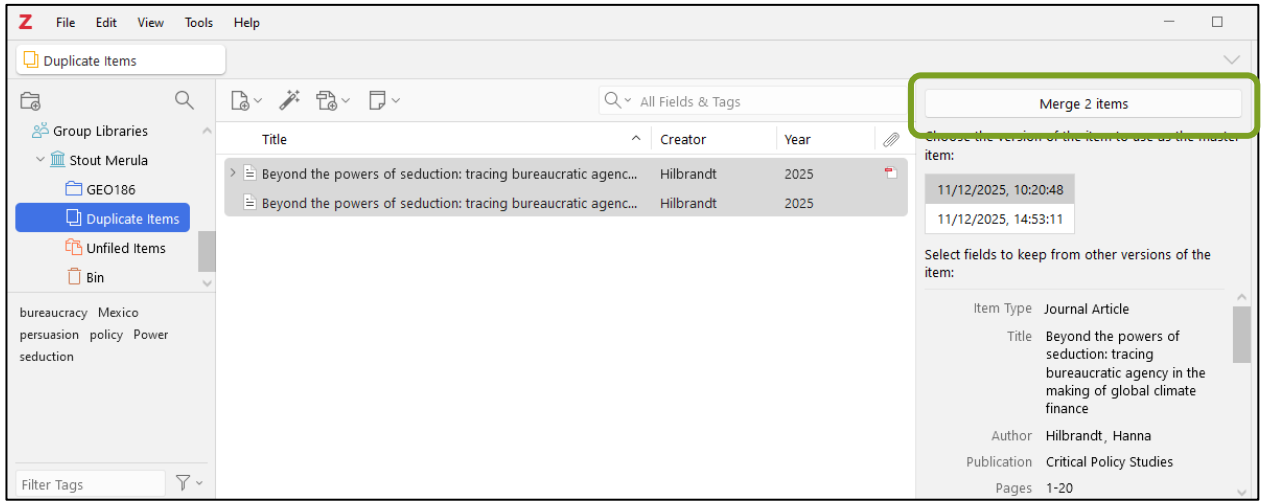
You may need to adapt the reference in Zotero if it is not completely correct after import!

Sarah Hill, *Referencing Explained*, https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1402/referencing/47/referencing-explained.

Organising references: remove duplicate items

→ In the folder “Duplicate Items”





It is always better to merge duplicates instead of deleting an entry → data could be lost otherwise

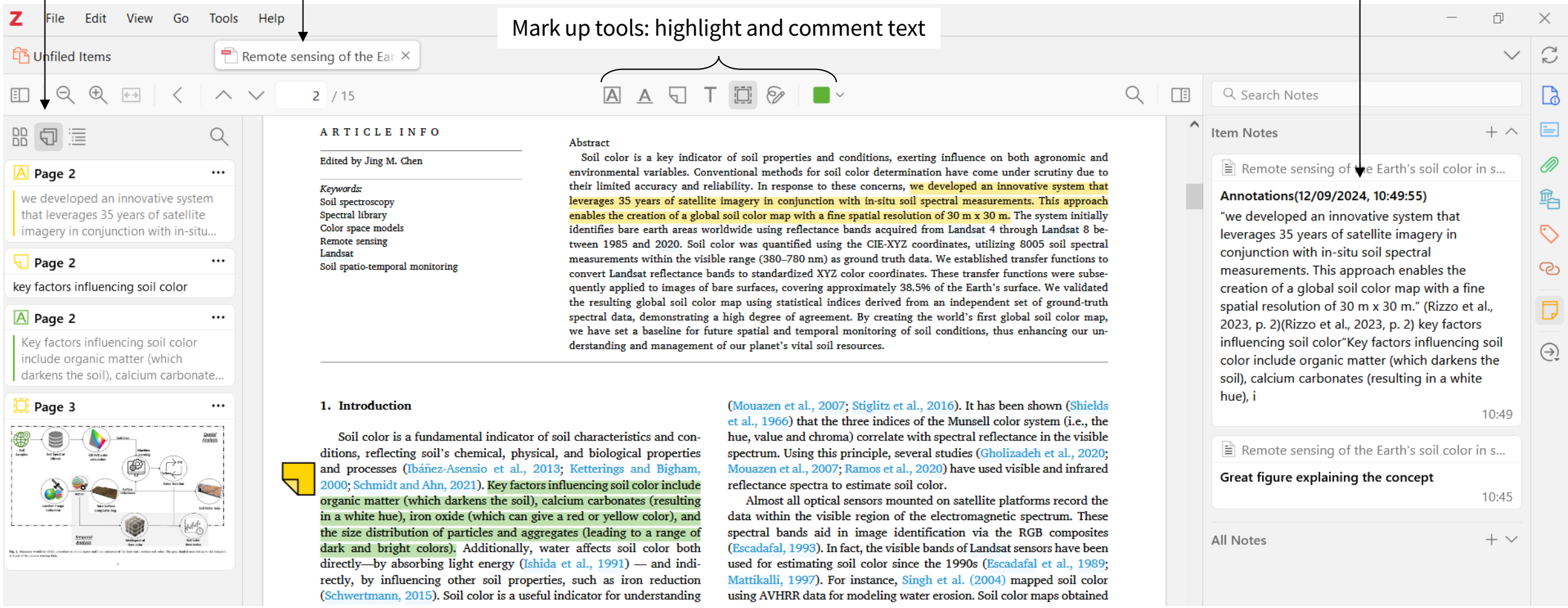
More information: Duplicate detection

Zotero Reader & Note Editor

Notes that were added to the PDF

Built-in tool to read and edit PDFs

Use notes for citations (add item notes / item notes from your annotations to your references)



Edit entries

Check data and edit entries

- Editing items
- Verify and edit records = correct metadata

Verify and Edit Your Records

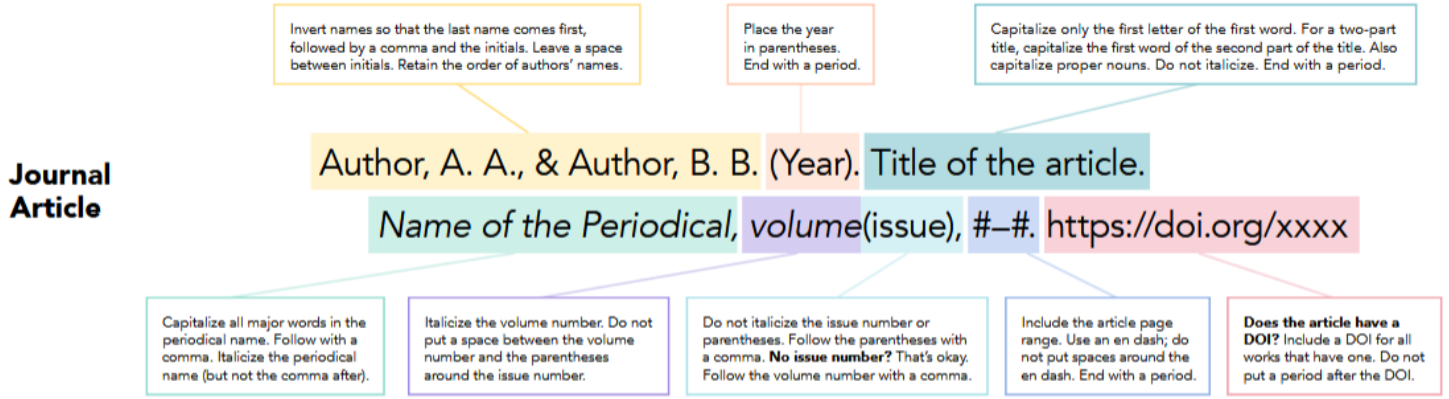
When using Zotero — or any other reference manager — for citing, you should always check items for accuracy after saving them to your library.

Zotero will accurately import metadata supplied by most bibliographic databases, library catalogs, publisher sites, and webpages. It will even make adjustments to the metadata to compensate for known quirks (e.g., author names in all upper case) in what the supplier provides.

That said, sometimes the metadata that Zotero receives is incomplete or incorrect. For example, one major academic search site often provides the wrong serial name with otherwise correct metadata. Another scholarly research site's metadata can omit some of the authors' names or present them in the wrong order. Even major publishers sometimes omit important metadata fields.

Zotero Documentation (2025, February 27) *Adding Items to Zotero.* https://www.zotero.org/support/adding_items_to_zotero

Example: American Psychological Association (APA) 7th (Reference Quick Guide (apa.org))



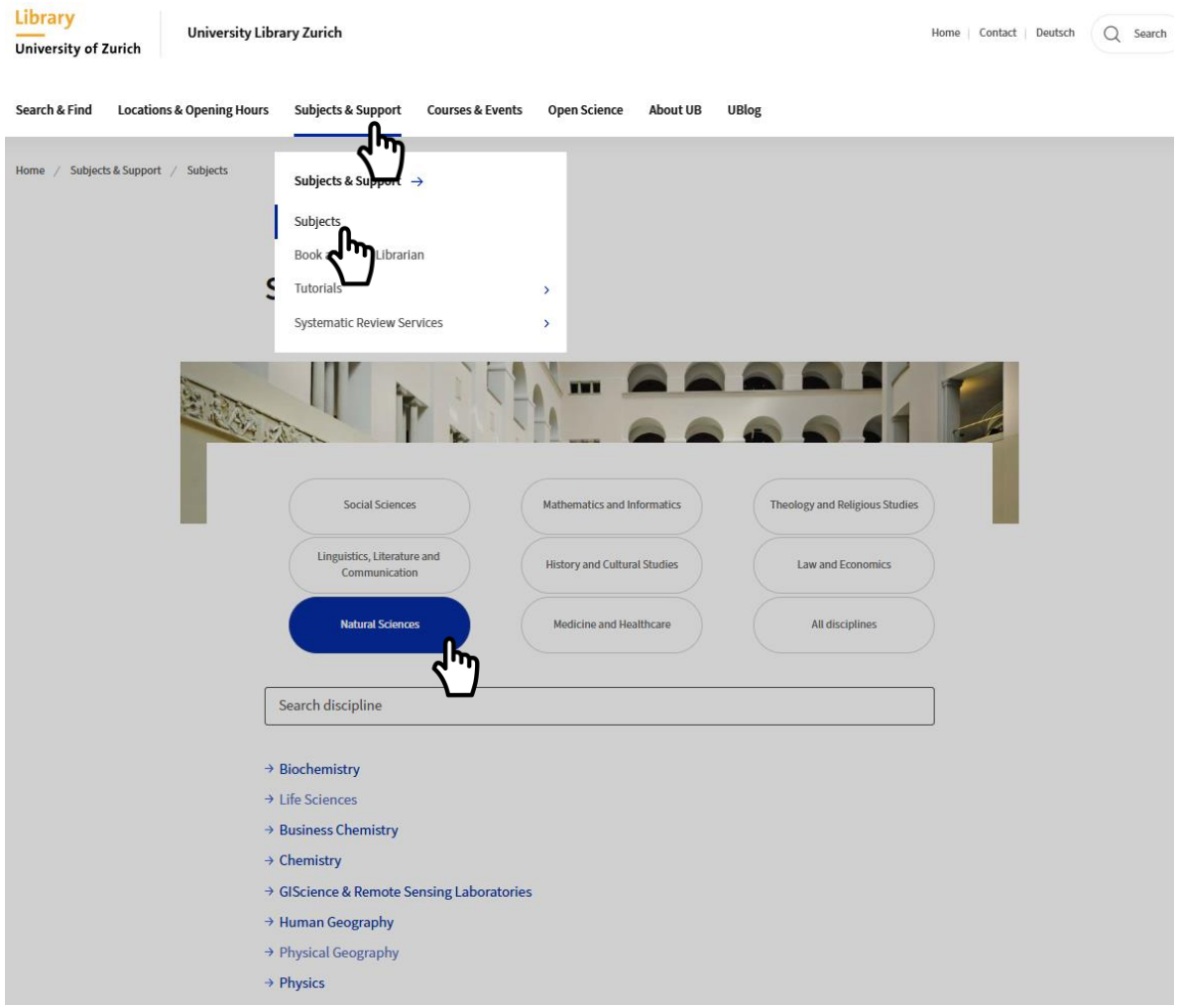
Summary: importing references

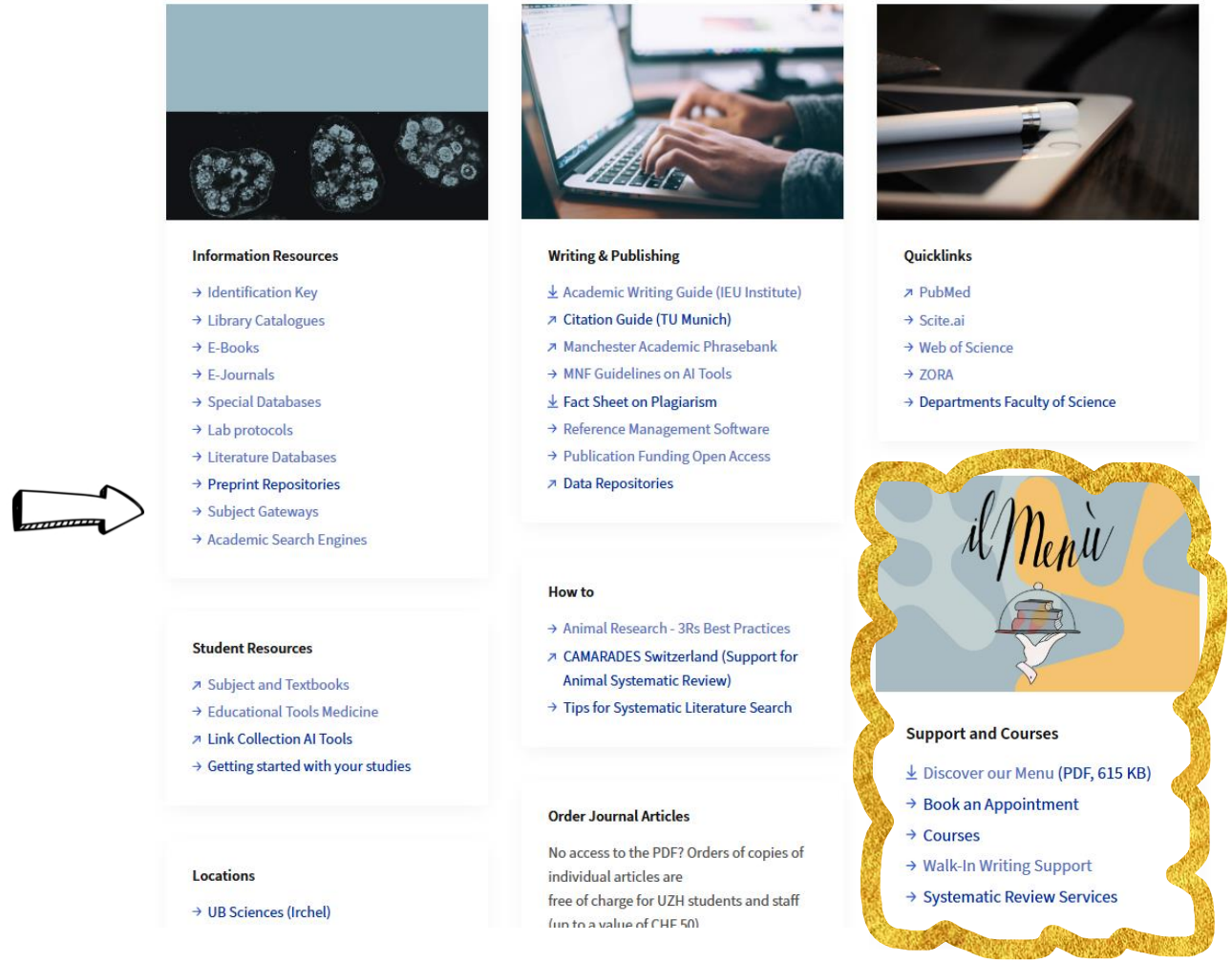
- adding_items_to_zotero [Zotero Documentation]

- Zotero Connector (Browser Add-on)
- Objekt via ISBN/DOI aufnehmen (mit Zauberstab-Icon)
- PDFs (pulling citations from desktop into Zotero = drag and drop)
- Mehrere Einträge aus Online-Katalogen gleichzeitig übernehmen
- Webseiten aufnehmen
- Lokale Aufnahme von Objekten

Library Guides

Collection of information and writing resources etc https://www.ub.uzh.ch/en/unterstuetzung-erhalten/fachliche-unterstuetzung.html





Content

Part 1: 12:10 – 12:50
- Search Strategies & Identification and Evaluation of Sources (Christine Verhoustraeten)
- Reference Management (Merula Stout)

Part 2: 13:00 – 13:45
- Citing (Merula Stout)
- Writing Tips (Anna C. Véron)
- Use of AI (Marco E. Weber)

3 Citing

When, why and what?

When and what?

- Whenever you use an idea from someone else's work (journal article, textbook, website), you should cite the original author
  → regardless of whether you have paraphrased, translated, summarized, or quoted directly.

Why?

- To mention works that support or contradict your results
- Allows others to trace the sources you used.
- Refers to established methods, measurements, techniques, or theories without having to describe them in detail
- Helps prevent plagiarism by making clear which ideas are yours and which belong to someone else

  → reusing content without citation is academic misconduct and can lead to expulsion and the revocation of academic degrees.

Sarah Hill, *Referencing Explained*, https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1402/referencing/47/referencing-explained.

What is plagiarism?

“intellectual theft, because one presents statements or ideas of others as if they were one’s own and does not indicate this” – Uni Münster. *Was ist ein Plagiat.* https://www.uni-muenster.de.

1. Copying **entire texts from other authors**, regardless of whether the author is aware or not.

2. **Incomplete or missing source citation** in the text.

Common knowledge does not neet to be cited. It is regarded as common knowledge if it is a widely accepted fact that educated readers know or can find out easily in an encyclopedia or dictionary.

Plagiarism guideline of the UZH: Information Sheet Plagiarism



Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning. Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism: Common Knowledge. https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism-common-knowledge [accessed 23.01.2026]

Image: Berman, B. (2017, January 26). *‘Innocent’ IP theft is widely accepted and dangerously viral – Why?* https://ipcloseup.com/2017/01/26/innocent-ip-theft-is-widely-accepted-and-dangerously-viral-why/

Citing

In general:

- Find out which citation style is required.
- Check the citation rules (e.g. https://apastyle.apa.org/ or https://citationsy.com/styles/nature or https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html or ...),
- Only references cited in the text should be included in the bibliography!

Which citation style?

- Ask your supervisor or check what is common in your discipline
- Commonly used citation styles:
  - **APA**: often used in social and health sciences
  - **Vancouver**: often used in health sciences
  - **IEEE**: mainly used in engineering, computer science or other technology disciplines
  - **Discipline-specific**: certain citation styles are preferred depending on the field e.g. ACS (American Chemical Society) in chemistry or APS (American Physical Society) in physics (Subject-specific Resources - Citation Style Guide McGill Library)

Veronica Bergsten. (2025). Guides: Citation Style Guide: Citation Styles. *McGill Library*. https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/citations/styles

Examples of citation styles

Different Journals require different citation styles → check before submitting

Authors (different formats), Title, Journal, Volume, Issue, Pages, Year.

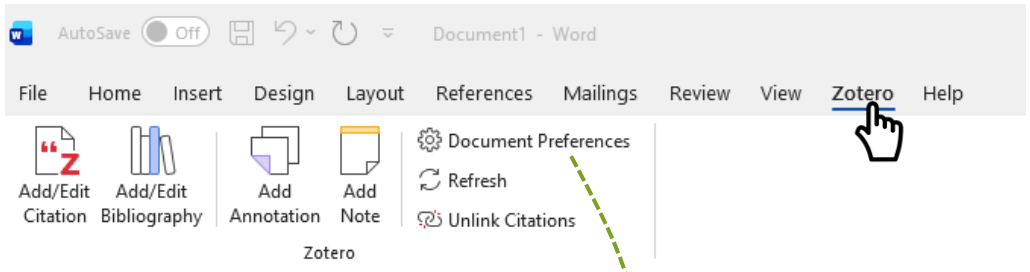
APS (American Physical Society):
[1] J. V. Barth, H. Brune, G. Ertl, and R. J. Behm, Scanning tunneling microscopy observations on the reconstructed Au(111) surface: Atomic structure, long-range superstructure, rotational domains, and surface defects, Phys. Rev. B **42**, 9307 (1990).

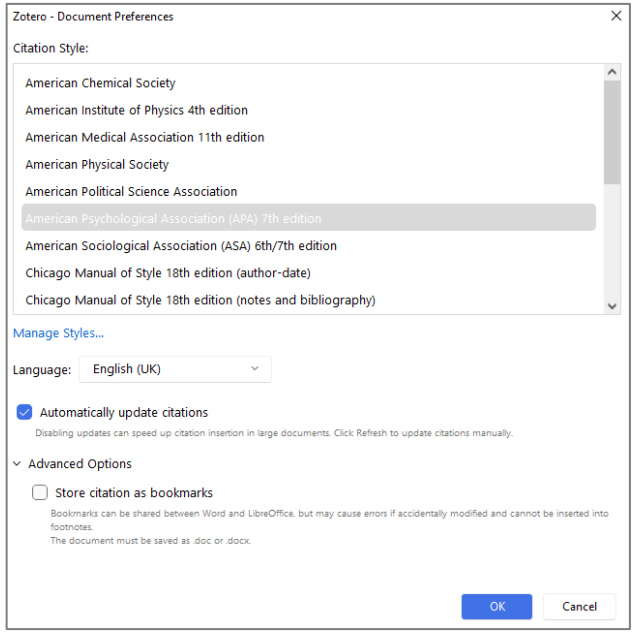
AIP (American Institute of Physics)
J.V. Barth, H. Brune, G. Ertl, and R.J. Behm, "Scanning tunneling microscopy observations on the reconstructed Au(111) surface: Atomic structure, long-range superstructure, rotational domains, and surface defects," Phys. Rev. B **42**(15), 9307–9318 (1990).
(alphabetically sorted)
Or
[1] J.V. Barth, H. Brune, G. Ertl, and R.J. Behm, Phys. Rev. B **42**(15), 9307–9318 (1990)
(sorted by number)

Nature
1. Barth, J. V., Brune, H., Ertl, G. & Behm, R. J. Scanning tunneling microscopy observations on the reconstructed Au(111) surface: Atomic structure, long-range superstructure, rotational domains, and surface defects. *Phys. Rev. B* **42**, 9307–9318 (1990).
(if more than 5 authors → et al.)

Citing in text documents and adding a bibliography

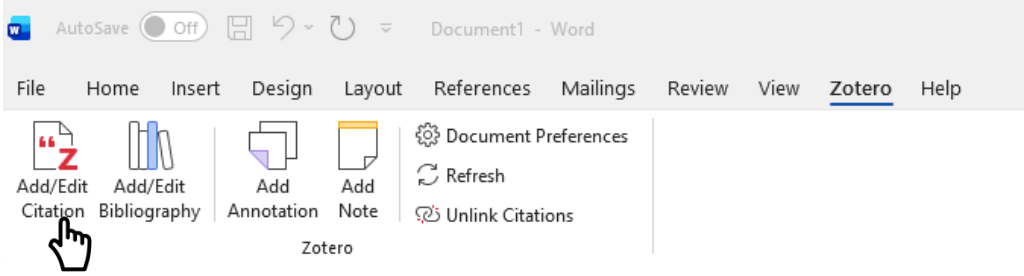
Zotero + Microsoft Word





When you add the first citation, the plugin asks about which citation style you would like to use

Citing in text documents



Text snippet:

object counts were used to measure the bike maps' complexity. The measurements showed that more detail in base maps and the depiction of more cycling related features have a positive correlation with map complexity. The size, shape, and colour of the elements are considered to have the most impact on complexity measurements. When the element is large and has various boundaries, it adds more edges to the map, increasing its visual complexity. The colour contrast is crucial, as it can contribute to the creation of strong or weak edges. In this particular case, cycling related features had a smaller impact on visual complexity, as the symbols were small in size and number.

The effects of visual complexity on efficiency were

Summary:

Greater detail and stronger visual properties in map elements, particularly size, shape, and colour, correlate with higher map complexity, while cycling-related features contributed little due to their small size and limited number.

Here I want to add my citation

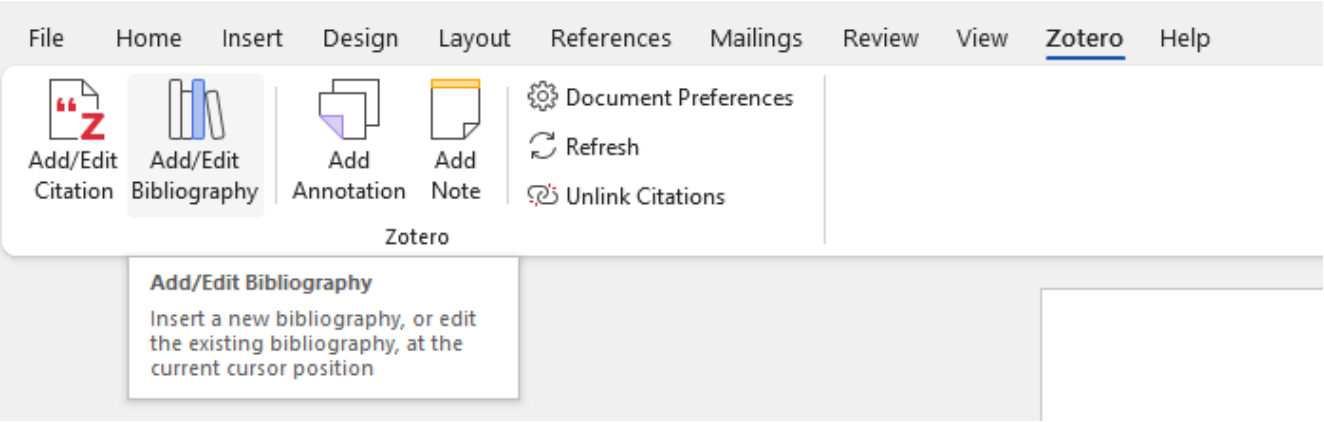


Greater detail and stronger visual properties in map elements, particularly size, shape, and colour, correlate with higher map complexity, while cycling-related features contributed little due to their small size and limited number **(Büchel & Reichenbacher, 2023).**

Selected Items: if you clicked on an entry in Zotero it will show up at «Selected Items»

Büchel, D., & Reichenbacher, T. (2023). The visual complexity of bike maps. *Proceedings of the ICA*, *5*, 1–8. https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-5-3-2023

Add a bibliography



Greater detail and stronger visual properties in map elements, particularly size, shape, and colour, correlate with higher map complexity, while cycling-related features contributed little due to their small size and limited number **(Büchel & Reichenbacher, 2023).** The effectiveness of adaptive maps relies on having sufficient, high-quality geospatial data to respond appropriately to the identified map-use context **(Reichenbacher & Bartling, 2023).**

In-text citations

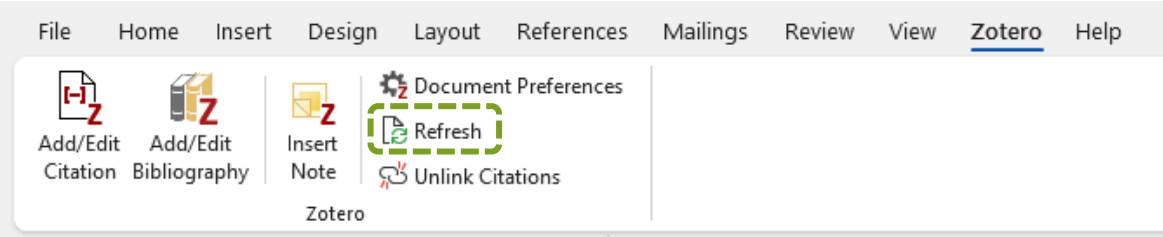
Bibliography:

Büchel, D., & Reichenbacher, T. (2023). The visual complexity of bike maps. *Proceedings of the ICA*, *5*, 1–8. https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-5-3-2023

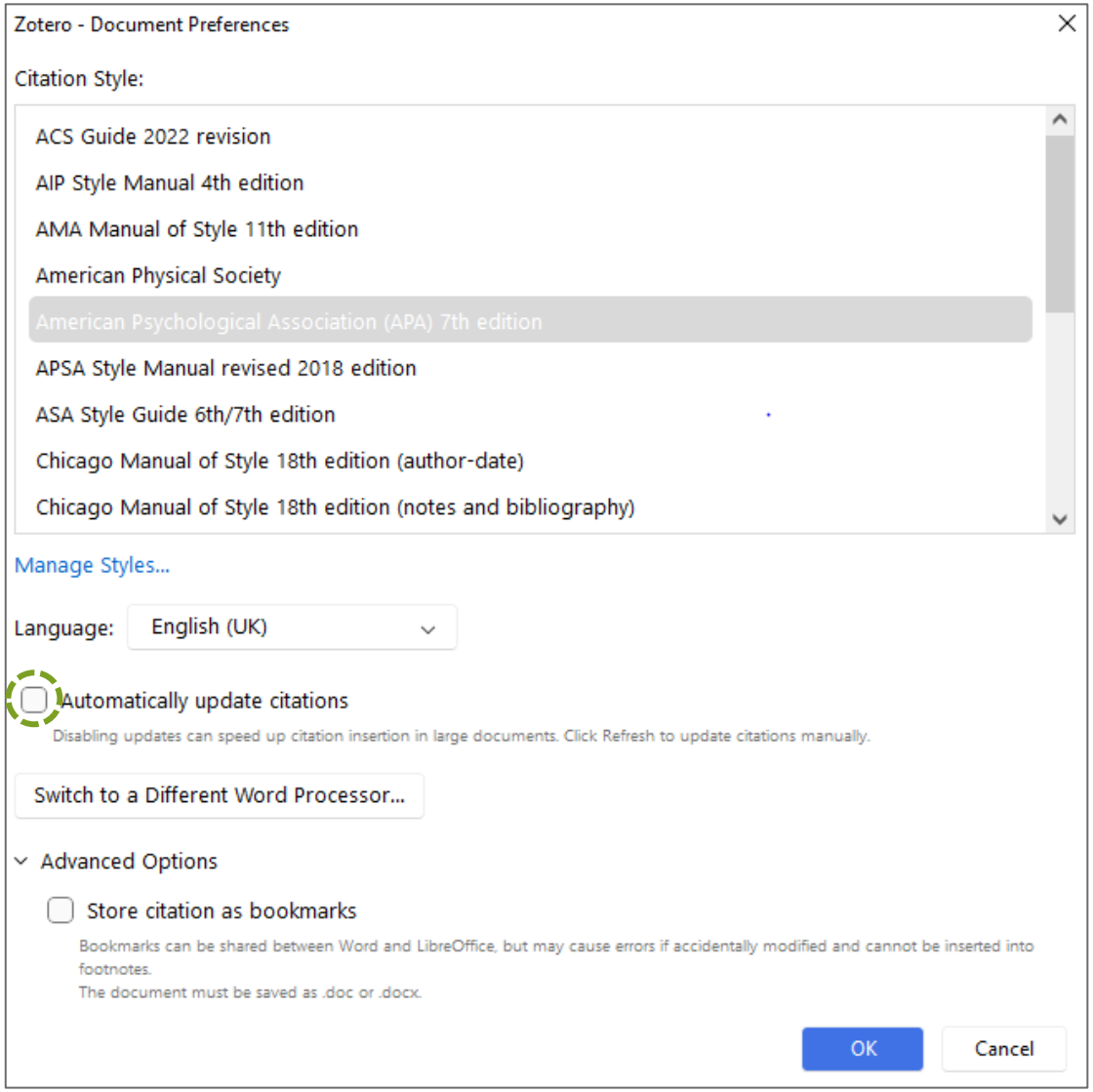
Reichenbacher, T., & Bartling, M. (2023). Adaptivity as a key feature of mobile maps in the digital era. *Frontiers in Communication*, *8*, 1258851. https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2023.1258851

Tip for large documents

In large documents such as bachelor or master thesis the refreshing can take very long (because the whole bibliography is checked every time you add a new reference). Therefore it might be useful to disable «Automatically update citations».

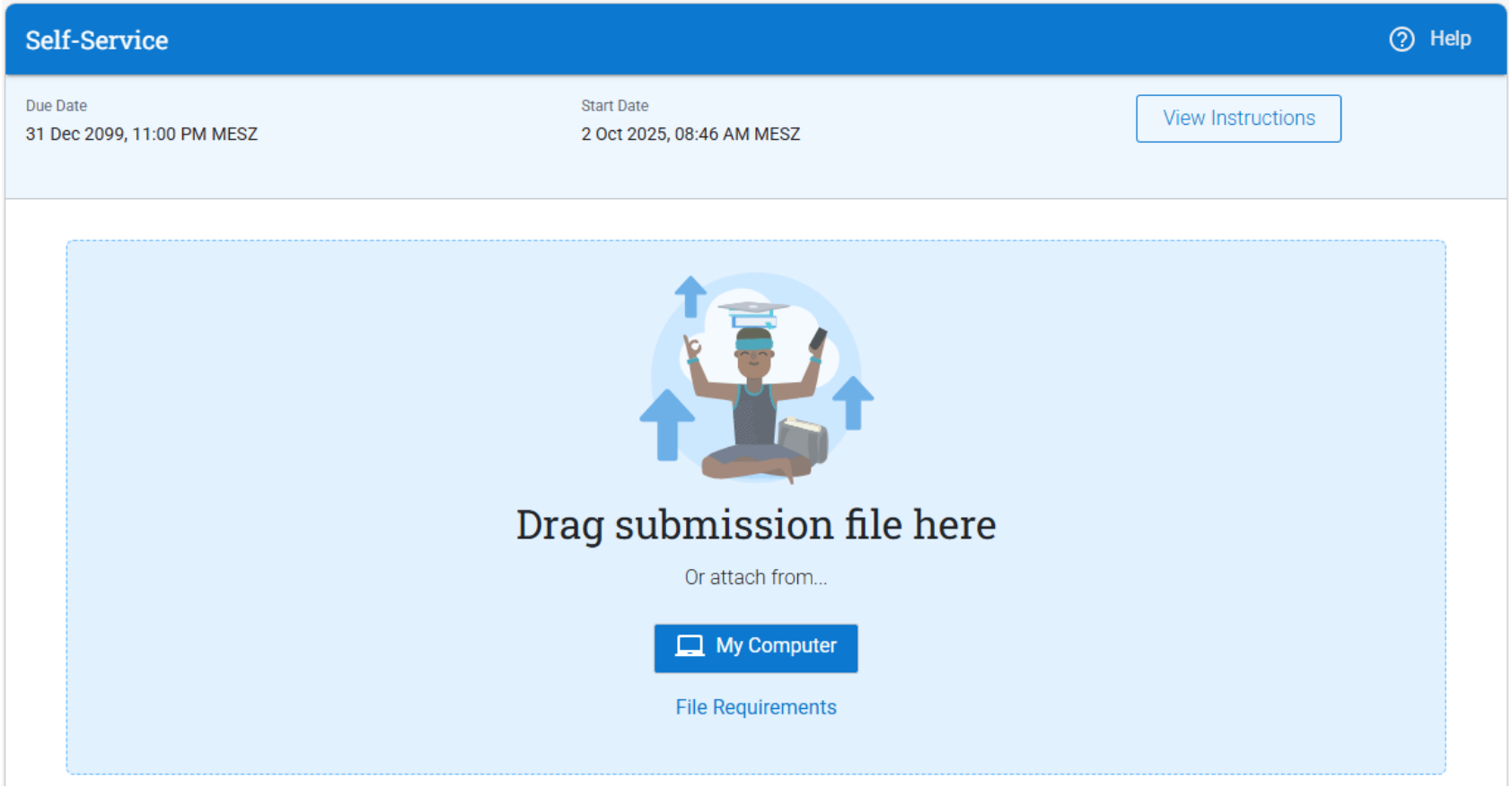


If you do <u>not</u> select «Automatically update citations», citations and the bibliography are not updated automatically but only when you click «Refresh»
→ do not select this option for large documents



Plagiarism Detection for your own documents with Turnitin

Course: «Plagiarism Check: Self-Service»: Plagiatsprüfung/Plagiarism Check: Self-Service



Plagiatskontrolle | UZH für Lehrverantwortliche | UZH

Citing in Word with Zotero

Citing in Word with Zotero → Video by ZHAW (in German)



Links

- Zotero-Documentation (Support)
  https://www.zotero.org/support/start
- Short videos on Zotero Basics (zhaw, in German)
  https://zhaw.mediaspace.cast.switch.ch/playlist/dedicated/7898/0_dx6dc2jw/0_1inq2tl0 und
  https://zhaw.mediaspace.cast.switch.ch/playlist/dedicated/7898/0_dx6dc2jw/0_2sj0kir8
- Mastering Zotero
  https://zotero-manual.github.io/
- https://libguides.library.ohio.edu/zotero/getting-started



Bild: https://japaclip.com

4 Writing Tipps

Writing Type Test

Complete the quiz to discover your writing type.



Tips for both writing types (and hybrid forms)

Scructure creating type	Structure following type
Set yourself a stricter schedule! Tip: Use a timer	Allow yourself more freedom! Tip: Try **freewriting**
Get your thoughts in order! Tip: Sort your notes	Set your outline free! Tip: Use mind mapping
For revising your text: Find a text feedback partner! Use the **reverse outline technique**!	How to combat that inner critical voice when writing: Turn off the spell checker!

Reverse Outline Technik

Technique for Analyzing the Structure of a Completed Text (First Draft)

- First, set the text aside for a few days.
- Then read through the text paragraph by paragraph.
- On the screen or on a print-out: For each paragraph, write the main idea in a few words in the margin.

- Am I able to extract one main idea or one main argument from each paragraph?
  → No? Then the paragraph is either filler material or needs more clarity. More than one idea? Consider splitting the paragraph.
- Is the progression of the ideas logical?
- Does every paragraph summary relate back to the thesis?
- Did I answer the prompt fully?

Reverse Outlining. *The Writing Center, George Mason University.* https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/writing-as-process/reverse-outlining.

Fight Writing Blocks: Freewriting

Turn off your inner critic. Develop a love of writing.

- Choose a term or topic as a starting point (it could be the subject of your work, or something completely different).
- Set a timer (phone) for 7-15 minutes (7 minutes for beginners).)
- Just start writing whatever comes to mind. On your computer or by hand.
- Keep writing, don't stop.
- Don't read what you've written. Don't delete or cross anything out.
- Don't worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar.
- Losing control is fine; digressions and silliness are okay.
- If you get stuck, keep writing "I can't think of anything" until a new idea comes to you.
- When the time is up, finish the thought you started and then stop! Look forward to next time! ☺



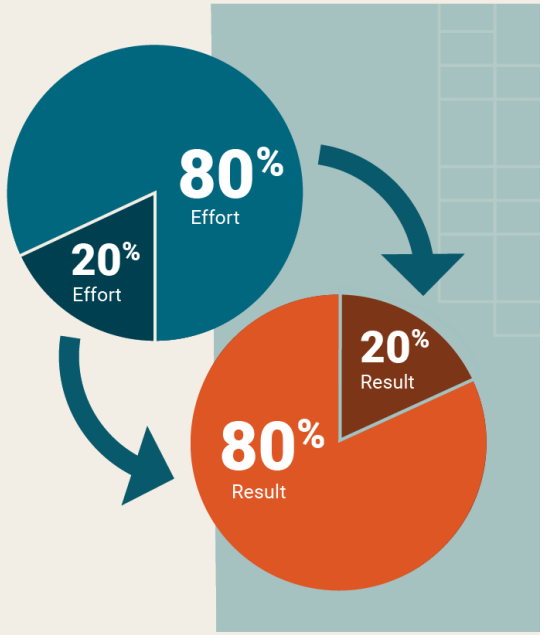
Tips for time management & productivity

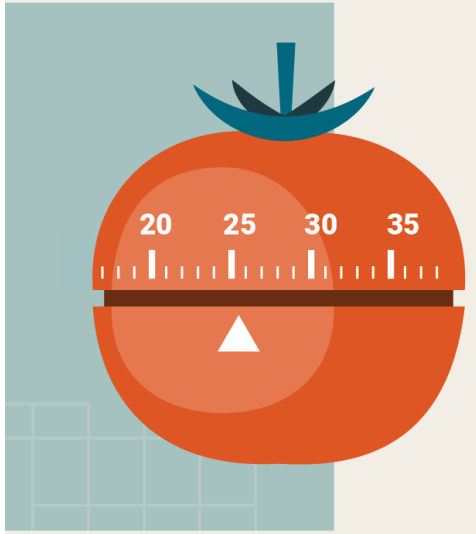
Pareto Analysis
aka the 80/20 rule

The 80/20 rule is the idea that **20% of actions are responsible for 80% of outcomes**. It helps you prioritize tasks that will solve problems.

WORKS WELL FOR:

- Problem solvers
- Analytical thinkers





Pomodoro Technique

This technique has you **utilize a timer to break down your work into intervals**. Each interval is known as a *Pomodoro*.

WORKS WELL FOR:

- Creative thinkers
- Those feeling burnt out

Mozafaripour, S. 9 Popular Time Management Techniques and Tools | USAHS. *University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences* https://www.usa.edu/blog/time-management-techniques/ (2019).

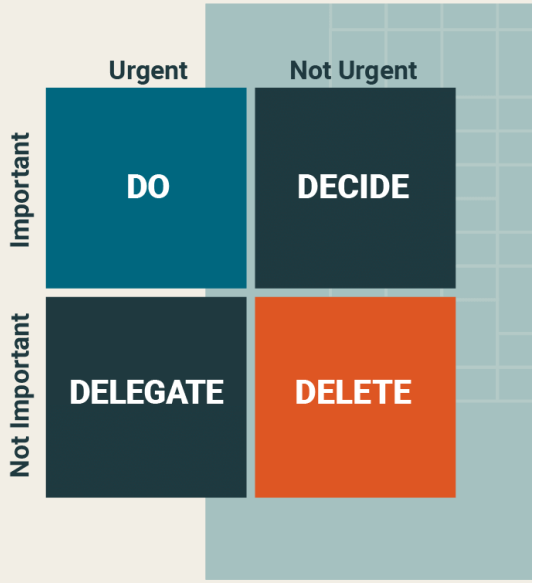
Tips for time management & productivity

Eisenhower Matrix

This method has you **organize your tasks into 4 quadrants** sorting them by important vs. unimportant & urgent vs. not urgent.

WORKS WELL FOR:

- People with tough decisions
- Critical thinkers





Parkinson's Law

This law is based on the idea that **the amount of time you give yourself to complete a task**, is the amount of time it will take you to complete that task.

WORKS WELL FOR:

- Procrastinators
- People that work well under pressure

Mozafaripour, S. 9 Popular Time Management Techniques and Tools | USAHS. *University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences* https://www.usa.edu/blog/time-management-techniques/ (2019).

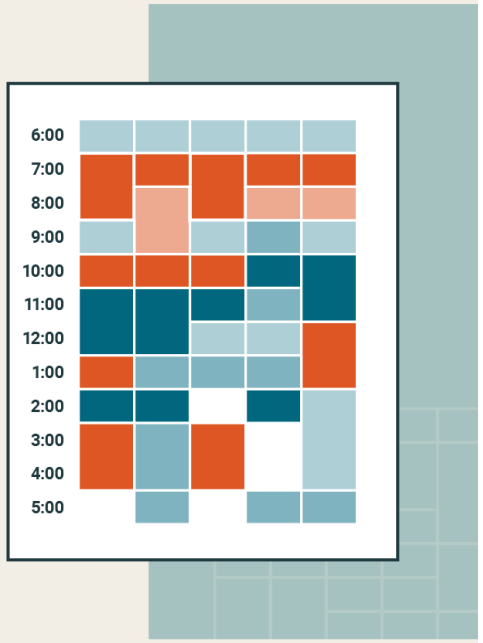
Tips for time management & productivity

Time Blocking Method

To use this method, **assign each time block in your day to a task**. These tasks can be anything from eating breakfast to studying for a test.

WORKS WELL FOR:

- Working students/parents
- Analytical thinkers





Getting Things Done (GTD) Method

This process works to help you **move planned tasks aside by recording them on a piece of paper** & then breaking them down into actionable work items.

WORKS WELL FOR:

- Distractible people
- People who like to make lists

Mozafaripour, S. 9 Popular Time Management Techniques and Tools | USAHS. *University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences* https://www.usa.edu/blog/time-management-techniques/ (2019).

5 Use of AI

Use of AI in Scientific Projects



Information Search and Retrieval

- Overview on a topic
- Supporting/contrasting evidence
- Generating search strings
- Extract & summarise information



Data Collection and Analysis

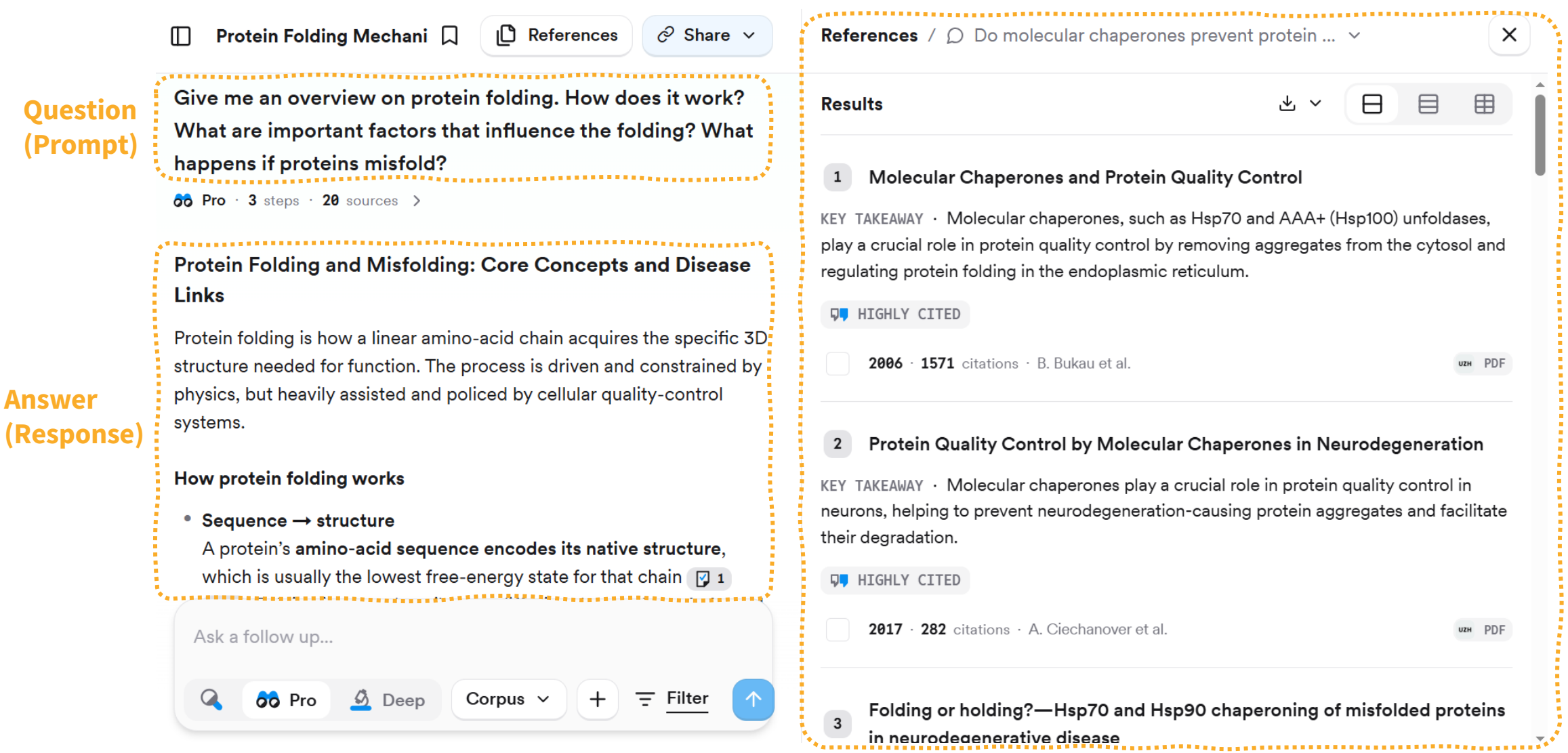
- Coding
- Analysis of large datasets
- Image analysis



Writing of the Thesis

- Grammar correction
- Phrase concepts
- Hedging/boosting
- Connect sections

Using Consensus to Get an Overview on a Topic



Log-in with your UZH e-mail address to access our test license: https://consensus.app/

Using Scite.ai to Get an Overview on a Topic

Question (Prompt)

Give me an overview on protein folding. How does it work? What are important factors that influence the folding? What happens if proteins misfold?

Answer (Response)

Overview of protein folding

- Protein folding is guided by a proteostasis network where nascent polypeptides fold with the help of molecular chaperones (Hsp70, Hsp90, Hsp60/TRiC) and co-chaperones; this network uses ATP to assist folding, prevent aggregation, and, when needed, target misfolded proteins for degradation (Morimoto, 2008; Finka & Goloubinoff, 2013) Zúñiga-Hernández et al., 2023). The core "chaperome" constitutes roughly 10% of cellular protein mass and coordinates de novo folding, translocation, and quality control Johnston et al., 2018; Finka & Goloubinoff, 2013).
- Key drivers of folding: cellular context (subcellular compartment, ATP availability), chaperone–substrate interactions, and stress-induced upregulation via heat shock factors (HSF1–4) that elevate HSP expression to restore proteostasis (Morimoto, 2008; Mikhailova et al., 2025; Finka & Goloubinoff, 2013) Zúñiga-Hernández et al., 2023).

Important factors influencing folding

- Molecular chaperones (Hsp70, Hsp90, Hsp60/TRiC) and co-chaperones

Ask a follow-up question

Start a new chat

References

References (8) | Search Strategy

Copy | Export

Add references to dashboard

Proteotoxic stress and inducible chaperone networks in neurodegenerative disease and aging

Richard I. Morimoto[1] 2008

Genes Dev.

848 | 15 | 797 | 0

"...Chaperone terminology has its origins as heat-shock proteins (Hsps) annotated by molecular size; Hsp 100, Hsp90, Hsp70, Hsp60..." >>

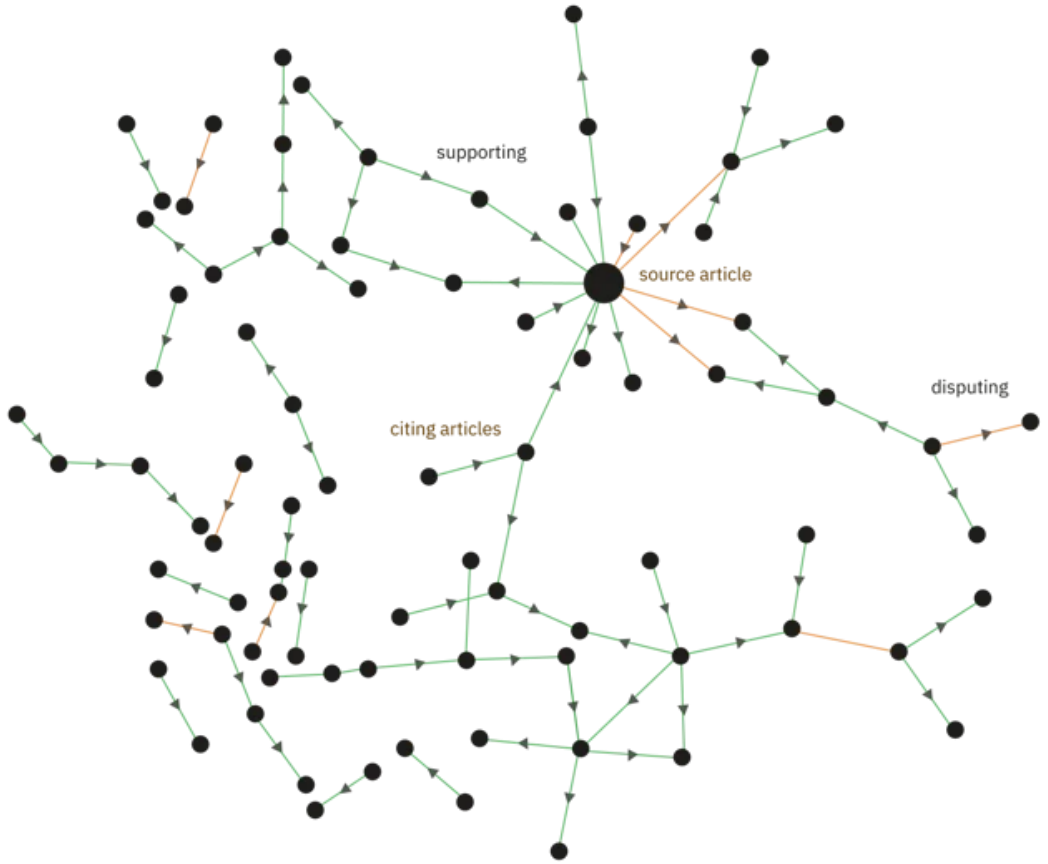
Section: Chaperone Network

"...Indicated below each major class are representative conditions known to involve the expression of heat-shock proteins and cha..." >>

Section: Full Text

Access to our institutional license in UZH network or via VPN: https://scite.ai/assistant

Supporting and Contrasting Evidence



Citation Network

2022 DOI: 10.1101/2022.11.21.517405 | View PDF | Summarize | Cite | Check for full-text from University of Zurich Preprint | Set alert

AlphaFold predictions are valuable hypotheses, and accelerate but do not replace experimental structure determination

Thomas C. Terwilliger[1], Dorothée Liebschner[2], Tristan I. Croll[3], Christopher J. Williams[4], Airlie J. McCoy[5], Billy K. Poon[6], Pavel V. Afonine[7], Robert D. Oeffner[8], Jane S. Richardson[9], Randy J. Read[10], Paul D. Adams[11]

Abstract: AI-based methods such as AlphaFold have raised the possibility of using predicted models in place of experimentally-determined structures. Here we assess the accuracy of AlphaFold predictions by comparing them to density maps obtained from automated redeterminations of recent crystal structures and to the corresponding deposited models. Some AlphaFold predictions match experimental maps closely, but most differ on a global scale through distortion and domain orientation and on a local scale in backbone and sid... Show more

Summarize citations

Help me understand this report

View published versions

Cited by 94 publications (109 citation statements)

References 43 publications (52 reference statements)

"...To validate our observations for both cancer-associated and negative controls, these mutations must be tested via functional assays (van Aalst & Wylie, 2021) and likely candidates selected for further structural characterization via Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (van Aalst, Jang, et al, 2023; van Aalst, McDonald, & Wylie, 2023). In the end, we agree with the sentiment that AF models are invaluable hypotheses, but the field is not currently capable of replacing experimental structural techniques (Terwilliger et al, **2024**)..."

Section: Results **supporting** confidence: 82%

An in silico framework to visualize how cancer-associated mutations influence structural plasticity of the chemokine receptor CCR3

show abstract

Aalst[1], Wylie[2] 2024

Protein Science

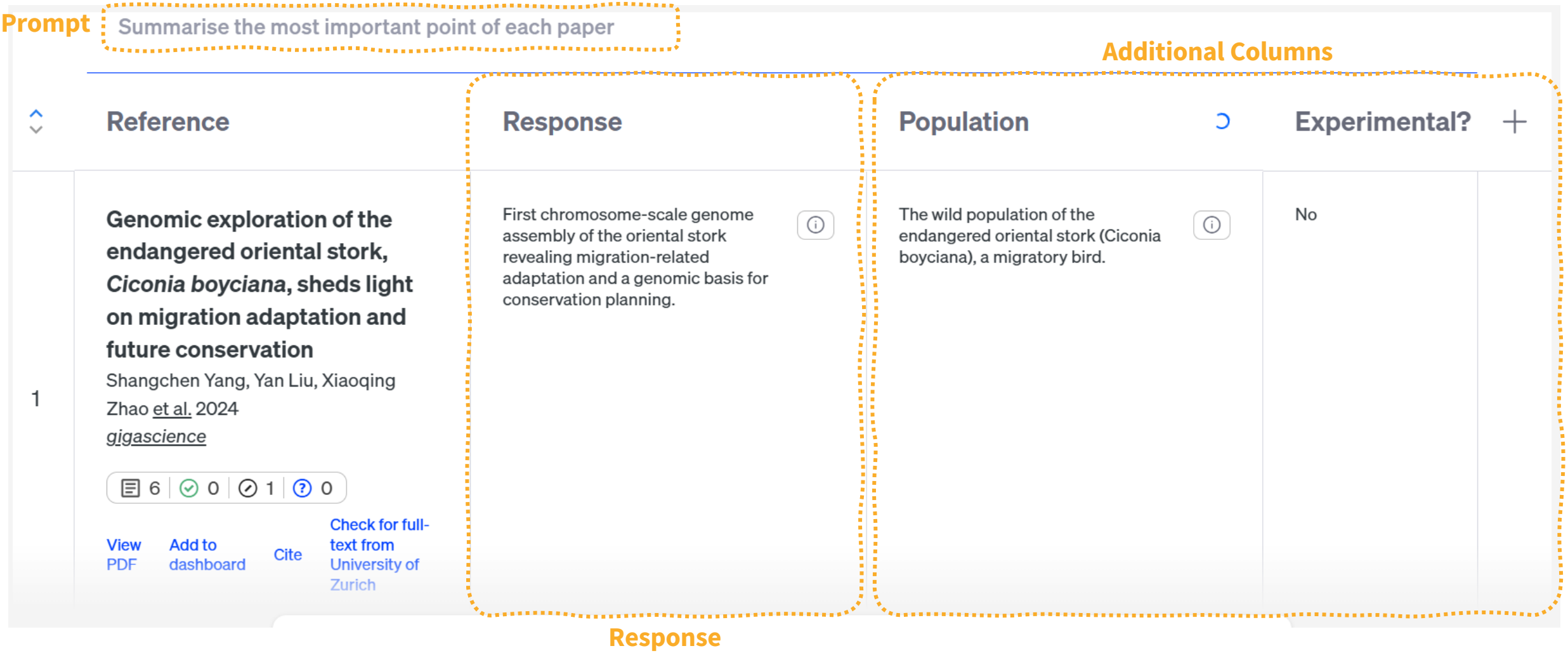
2 | 0 | 0 | 0

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"...We previously showed that the sequences of most BEPs are predicted to encode TMDs (Vakirlis, Acar et al 2020) (Fig S2). Structural predictions by Alpha-Fold2 (Jumper, Evans et al 2021) were consistent with these TMD predictions (Fig 2), though some have low confidence owing to BEPs' lack of homology with known proteins (Peng, Svetec et al 2024, **Terwilliger, Liebschner et al 2024**). Considering TMD predictions and structural modeling together, all the ER-localized BEPs displayed the biophysical potential to integrate into

Research Solutions. (n.d.). *Smart Citation Index: Revolutionize how you understand and evaluate research impact.* Retrieved 16 November 2025, from https://www.researchsolutions.com/capabilities/smart-citation-index

Table Mode in Scite.ai: Analysis of Search Results



Note: A personal (free) account is required to create dashboards with search results

Use of AI in Scientific Projects



Information Search and Retrieval

- Overview on a topic
- Supporting/contrasting evidence
- Generating search strings
- Extract & summarise information



Data Collection and Analysis

- Coding
- Analysis of large datasets
- Image analysis



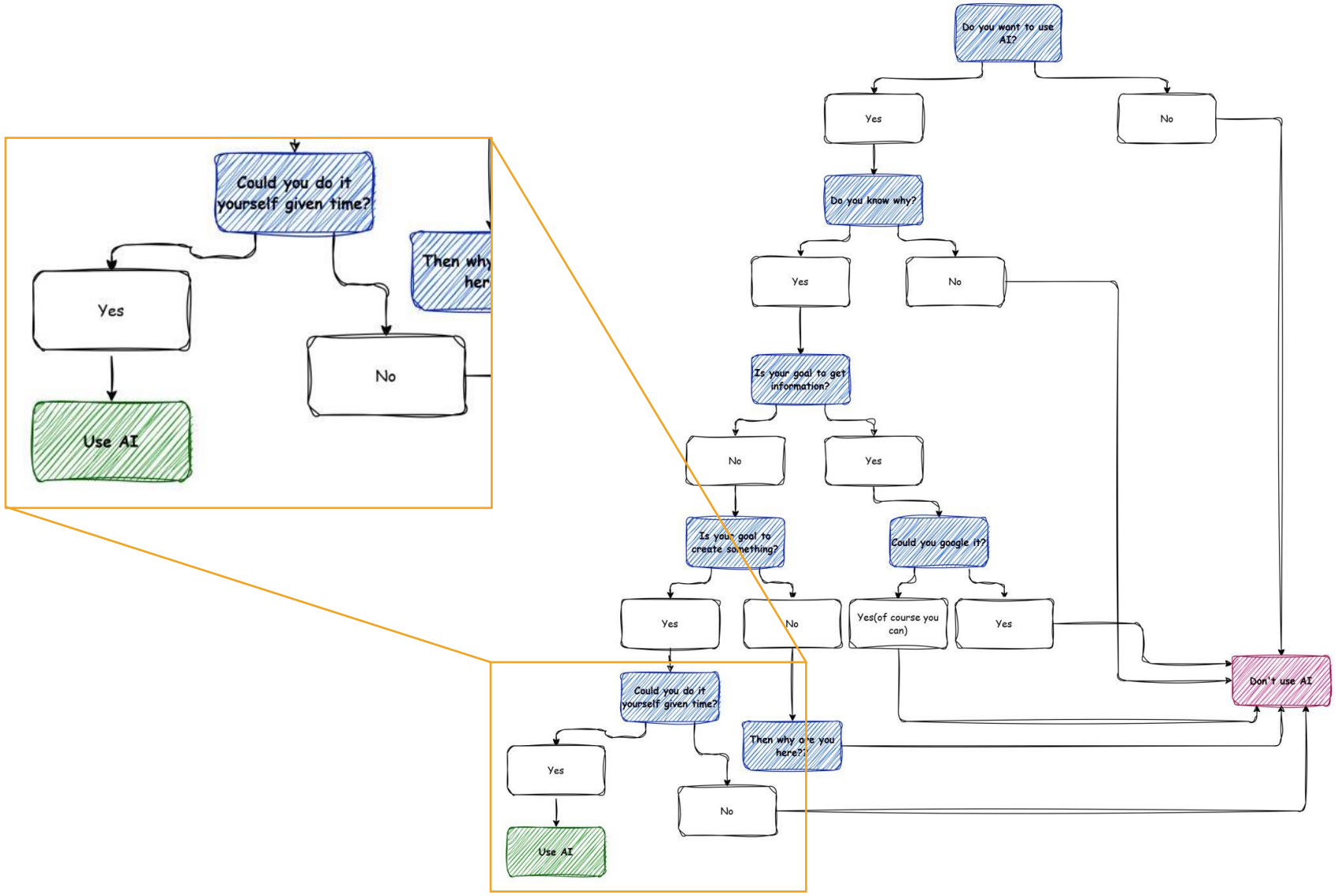
Writing of the Thesis

- Grammar correction
- Phrase concepts
- Hedging/boosting
- Connect sections

Best Practices for AI in Scientific Writing: Keep Intellectual Control

1	2	3	4	5
				
Start with a Draft	**Focus on One Aspect**	**Request Multiple Suggestions**	**Evaluate Every Output**	**Decide When to Stop**
Define content and structure of the text	Edit one thing at a time: phrasing a concept, connecting two sections, fixing grammar etc.	Select and combine the best aspects	Accuracy, bias, language	AI will always suggest «improvements»

Should you use AI for this task?



"Generative AI shines when you've got **enough domain knowledge to recognize a solid answer**.

If you can spot a good line of code, or detect a nonsense summary, or say, "Hmm, this marketing strategy sounds off", then AI is a force multiplier.

But if you're relying on AI to think *for* you, you might not realize when it's confidently wrong, and worse, you might not be able to easily correct it when you do realize its wrong."

Dengg, N. (n.d.). *LinkedIn*. Retrieved 30 January 2026, from https://lnkd.in/d6nkpzqA

Evaluation of AI Tools: SCORE

S	C	O	R	E
Strategic Aim	**Computational Core**	**Ownership**	**Robustness**	**Ethics**
What is the goal / objective / purpose of this AI tool? What was it built for?	What is the subtype of AI behind this tool? Is there a specific model disclosed? What information system does it rely on? How has it been adapted and tuned to interact with its users?	Who is responsible for creating and managing this tool? What are their interests? Who has access to (the full version of) this tool under which conditions?	How reliable are the results produced by this tool? When and how does it fail? How can you assess the quality of the results this tool produces?	Does the use of this tool cause or perpetuate any ethical or societal issues?

Suitability
Is this tool appropriate for my use case?

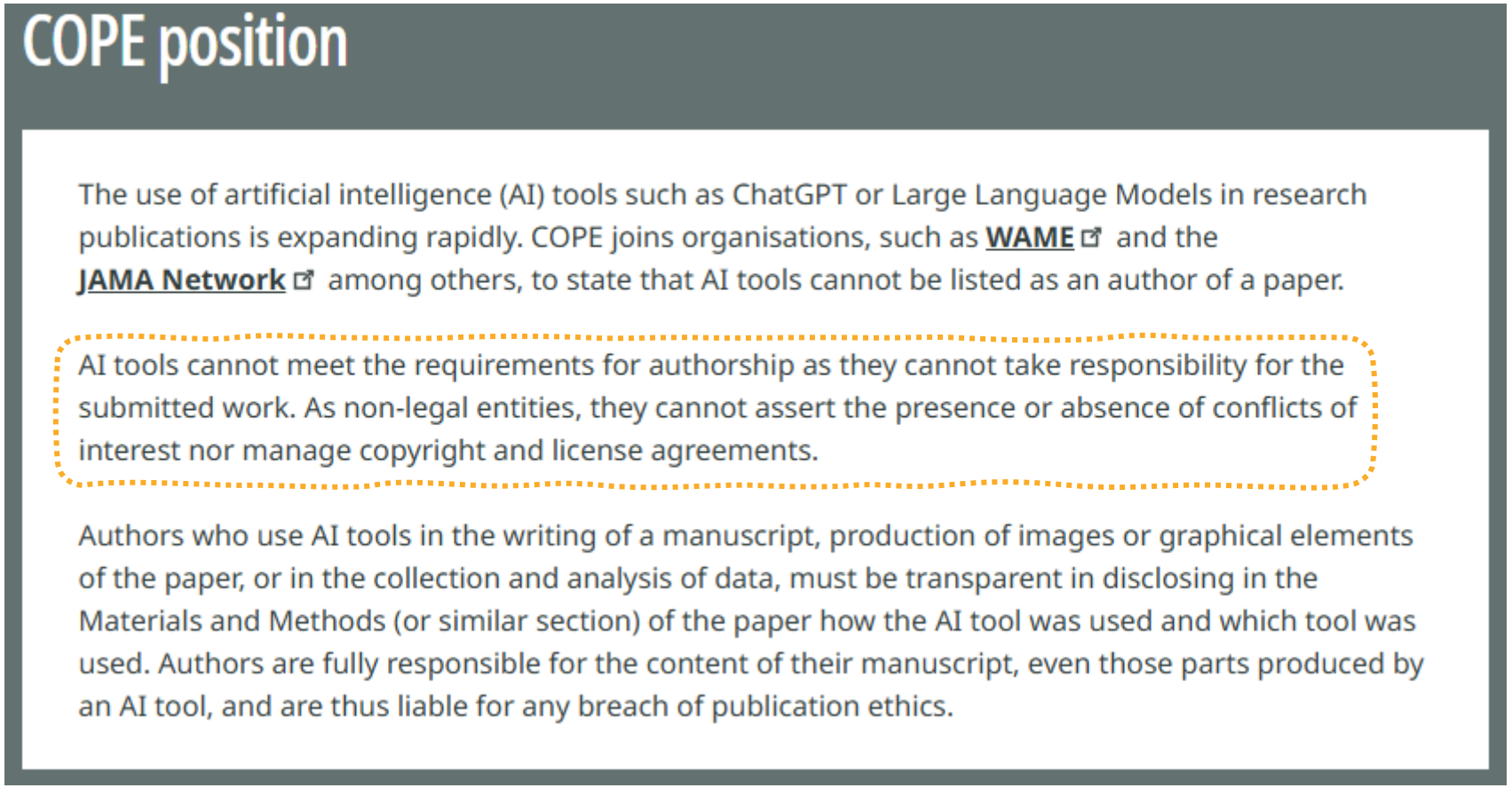
Véron, A. C. (2026). *SCORE: A Set of Questions for the Evaluation of AI Tools* (Version v01). Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.19382695

Evaluation of AI Outputs: CRAAP Checklist

Currency	Is the information up to date? AI Context: GenAI tools may only rely on information from their training data and thus not have access to real-time data or current events. Check the date of the information and verify with current sources.
Relevance	Does the information meet your needs? AI Context: AI may generate generic or off-topic responses. Ensure the output is tailored to your question, discipline, and academic level.
Authority	Who is the source of the information? AI Context: AI often doesn't cite sources. Ask for sources and check whether the response references credible sources.
Accuracy	Is the information correct and supported by evidence? AI Context: AI can hallucinate. Cross-check claims, statistics, and quotes with trusted sources. Be cautious of confident-sounding but incorrect answers.
Purpose	Why was this information created? AI Context: AI outputs are generated based on patterns, not knowledge. Consider whether the response is informative, persuasive, biased, or misleading. Be aware of potential bias in training data.

Adapted from: University of Exeter Library. (n.d.). *AI: Understanding it: Taking a critical approach to AI*. Retrieved 4 February 2026, from https://libguides.exeter.ac.uk/c.php?g=725611&p=5278326

AI Tools cannot be Listed as Authors of Publications



Authorship and AI tools. (2024). Committee on Publication Ethics. https://doi.org/10.24318/cCVRZBms

Do not Cite AI Tools



Citing ChatGPT from OpenAI according to APA style

APA format	Author (year). Title (date and version) [description of the model]. URL
APA bibliography entry, example	OpenAI (2023). ChatGPT (May 2023 version) [large language model]. https://chatopenai.com
APA in-text Zitation, Beispiel	«Zitat» (OpenAI, 2023)

↗ American Psychological Association: How to cite ChatGPT

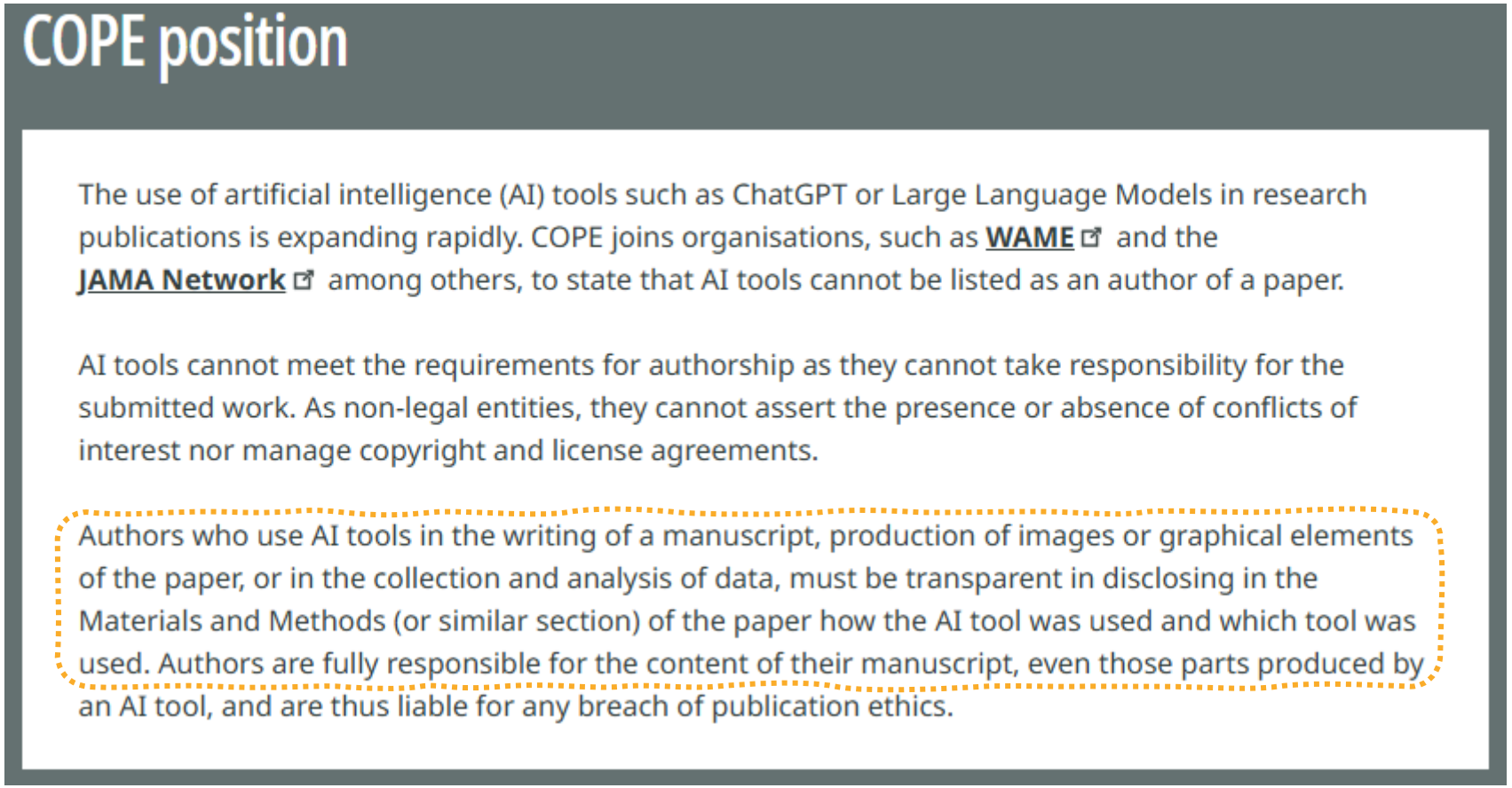
Citing ChatGPT from OpenAI according to MLA style

MLA format	“Prompt text” prompt. Title, day month version, author, day month year, chat.openai.com
MLA bibliography entry, example	How do I cite ChatGPT in MLA-Style?” prompt. ChatGPT, May 2023 version, OpenAI, 23 July 2023, chat.openai.com
MLA in-text citation, example	(“How do I cite ChatGPT in MLA style?”)

↗ MLA Style Center: How do I cite generative AI in MLA style?

University of Zurich. (n.d.). *Recommendations on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence at UZH*. Retrieved 30 January 2026, from https://www.uzh.ch/en/explore/basics/ai/recommendations.html

Document the Use of AI in the Materials and Methods Section



Authorship and AI tools. (2024). Committee on Publication Ethics. https://doi.org/10.24318/cCVRZBms

Which AI Use has to be Declared?

0% machines
handcrafted with ❤

100% machines
blind trust in 🤖



degree of machine support

spell checker
google search
brain storming
summariziation
AI writes text
grammar checker
improvement of style
machine translation
paraphrasing

not expected
not important

highly expected
important

expectation of an AI statement

Prof. Noah Bubenhofer, Deutsches Seminar UZH

Include an AI Statement in Theses, Reports and Presentations

- Describe how AI has been used
- You may include example prompts for clarification
- Do not append full logs of conversations with AI chatbots, since they are not reproducible (exception: the Vetsuisse faculty at UZH requires it)
- Include the name of the AI tool, the version, the type of tool (e.g. large language model, generative text-to-image model) and the provider/creator
- Example:

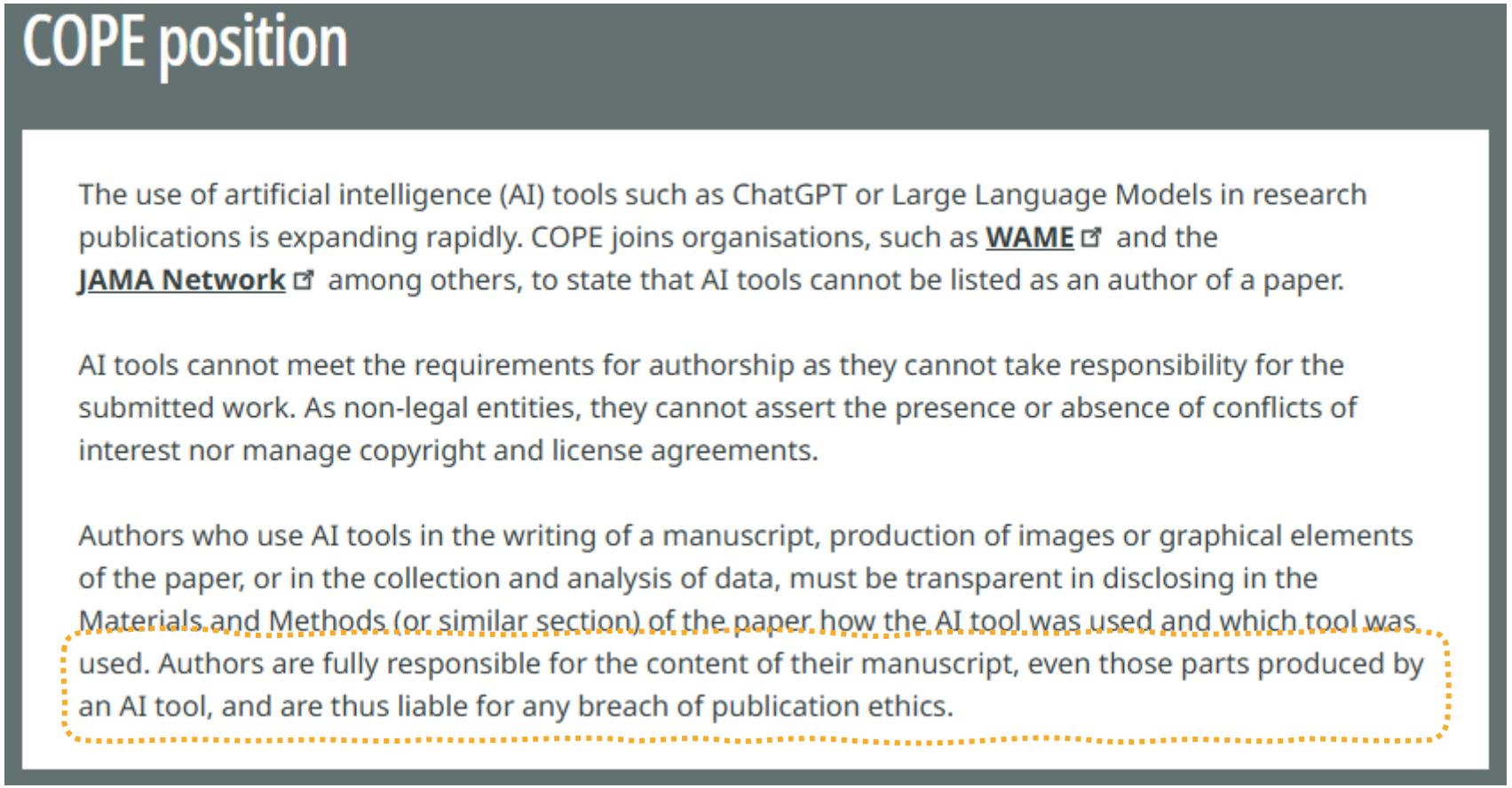
General Statement

AI has been used in this work as follows:
- Idea generation and brainstorming with ChatGPT (GPT 4o)
- Summary and machine translation of research literature with ChatPDF (version March 2024)
- Formulation and structure suggestions with ChatGPT (GPT 4o)
- Stylistic improvements with ChatGPT (GPT 4o)

All text parts created by AI have been checked by me, the author of the text. I take full responsibility for the text.

The following prompt has been used for structuring section xy: [prompt]

The Author is Fully Responsible for the Entire Work



COPE position

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT or Large Language Models in research publications is expanding rapidly. COPE joins organisations, such as **WAME** and the **JAMA Network** among others, to state that AI tools cannot be listed as an author of a paper.

AI tools cannot meet the requirements for authorship as they cannot take responsibility for the submitted work. As non-legal entities, they cannot assert the presence or absence of conflicts of interest nor manage copyright and license agreements.

Authors who use AI tools in the writing of a manuscript, production of images or graphical elements of the paper, or in the collection and analysis of data, must be transparent in disclosing in the Materials and Methods (or similar section) of the paper how the AI tool was used and which tool was used. Authors are fully responsible for the content of their manuscript, even those parts produced by an AI tool, and are thus liable for any breach of publication ethics.

Caution: LLMs can produce inadvertent plagiarisms by generating or editing text that closely resembles their training data

Authorship and AI tools. (2024). Committee on Publication Ethics. https://doi.org/10.24318/cCVRZBms

Data Privacy and Copyright

- Any information uploaded to an AI tool may be shared with third parties or used to improve AI models
- Never enter or upload personal or otherwise sensitive data (unpublished results, patient data, trade secrets, classified information) into AI tools
- The upload of licensed electronic resources (e.g. journal articles) to AI tools is generally prohibited by license agreements
- Alternatively: Run LLMs locally on your computer

Permitted use	✅ Non-commercial research, teaching, and learning purposes
Commercial use	❌ Commercial use of AI-generated content or platforms using licensed content is prohibited.
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Use with third-party AI systems	⚠ Allowed, provided the content is neither used to train AI systems nor shared with third parties.

LM Studio

Software ID
ZI-SWV-00389

Software type
Klassische Installer Software

Category
KI und Machine Learning

Description
LM Studio ist eine Desktop-Applikation, die ermöglicht, lokal KI-Sprachmodelle laufen zu lassen statt die Prompts an einen Cloud-Dienst zu senden. LM Studio unterstützt verschiedene Open-Source-Modelle wie Llama, Qwen, Gemma, DeepSeek oder Mistral.

Website
https://lmstudio.ai

University Library Zurich. (n.d.). *AI and Licensed Full texts*. Retrieved 24 April 2026, from https://www.ub.uzh.ch/en/literatur-suchen-nutzen/e-library-nutzen/ki-und-lizenzierte-volltexte.html
Zentrale Informatik. (o. D.). *LM Studio*. Retrieved 6 November 2026, from https://www.zi.uzh.ch/apps/software-catalog/?current=n_4_n&q=%2A&size=n_10_n

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