Introduction to

Elicit Plus

Introduction to Elicit Plus

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1. What is Elicit Plus

Your research assistant for literature review

Elicit is a research assistant powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), which accelerates the review of scientific literature.

It is a **data synthesis and extraction tool** that goes a step beyond information retrieval.

Let's start with what Elicit is. Elicit's goal is not only to help you find information, but to help you with scientific literature review. What does this mean?

As you all know from your own experience, the search and review of literature is one of the longest and most tedious tasks in the research process. It's a time-consuming and energy-intensive phase because, until now, it required us to locate the paper, download it, read it from cover to cover just to check if it's useful, and then manually synthesize and extract every piece of data needed for our evidence table.

1. What is Elicit Plus

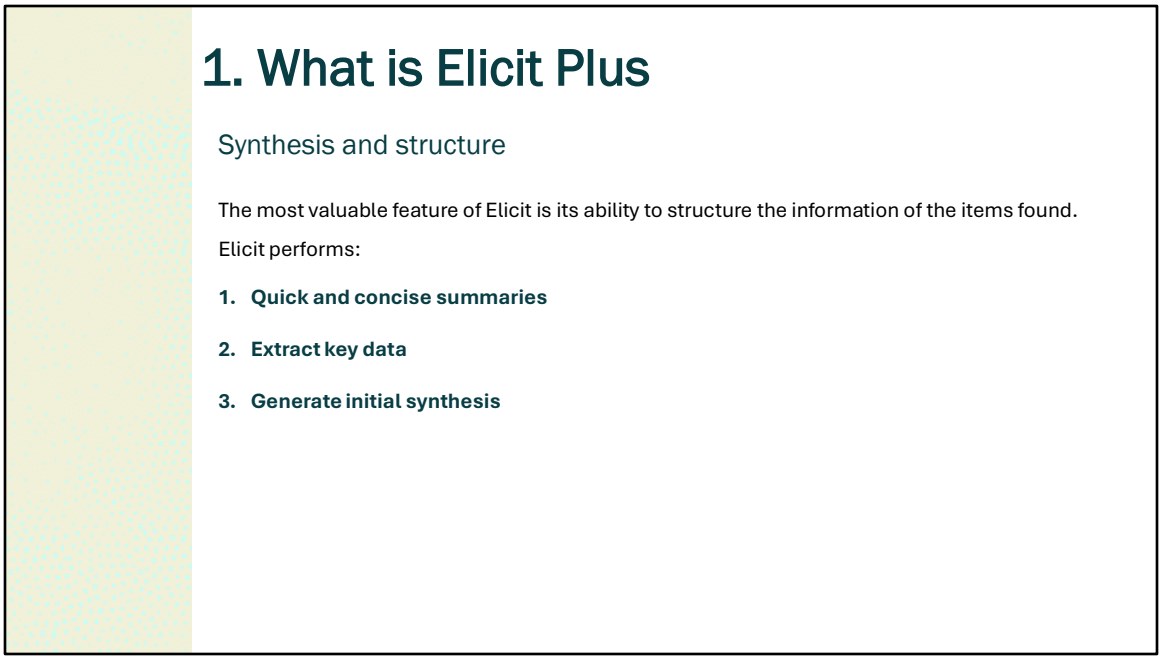
The key difference: semantic search

- It's not simply a search engine like Google Scholar, PubMed, or OpenAlex.
- Elicit accepts questions in natural language: the user can enter a complete and complex question.
- It uses AI models (NLP): the system interprets the meaning and intent of the question (semantics), not just the exact keywords. This allows you to find relevant articles that perhaps use different terminology or a lateral approach.

Ejemplo

"What is the impact of cognitive behavioral therapy on social anxiety in adolescents?"

With respect to search, the fundamental difference is semantic search. In traditional databases, we are slaves to choosing and combining the right terms and keywords and knowing how to use Boolean operators; If you don't use the exact term, the item doesn't appear. With Elicit this changes.
First, because it allows us to work in natural language. We can ask complex, comparative, or causal questions and Elicit uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) to interpret the meaning and intent of the question. Thanks to this semantic analysis, Elicit is able to rescue articles that, although they use a different terminology from ours, are dealing with exactly the same concept. It is, in essence, a search engine that 'understands' what your research is about.



The most valuable feature of Elicit is its ability to structure the information of the items found. Elicit performs:

1. **Summarize:** generates a concise and quick summary of the abstract or conclusions of each article, allowing the researcher to assess relevance without opening the PDF.
2. **Extract key data:** Analyze the text of the article (if available) and extract specific data points, such as the objective, methodology, sample, or main results, and place them in columns of a table. This capability is essential for the creation of analysis matrices.
3. **Generate initial synthesis:** offers a preliminary response (a high-level overview) to the research query, derived from the four or five most pertinent

articles identified.

1. What is Elicit Plus

Differences between the Basic Plan and the Plus Plan

Feature	Basic Plan (Free)	Plus Plan (Institutional)
Find papers	Unlimited (over 138M papers)	Unlimited (over 138M papers)
Clinical Trial Search	Not included	Unlimited (>500,000 clinical trials)
Paper summaries	Unlimited (single or in batches)	Unlimited
Chat with papers	Unlimited	Unlimited (up to 8 items at a time)
Research reports	2 automated reports per month	4 reports/month (or 48 per year)
Extraction columns	Up to 2 columns at a time	Up to 5 columns at a time
Data Export	Not available	**Unlimited (RIS, CSV, BIB, PDF and DOCX formats)**
Extra reporting features	Basic generation only	Allows you to generate and chat with reports
Ideal for...	Students trying the tool; very small and sporadic literature reviews.	Research staff with moderate projects; regular scope review; professionals who need fast, structured evidence.

2. Acceso a la cuenta institucional

Acceso al Plan Plus de la Universidad de Sevilla

- **New users:** if you don't have an account yet, simply register on the Elicit platform using your institutional email **(@us.es)**. The system will automatically recognize and activate the Plus profile.

  Important note: students with **@alum.us.es** accounts cannot access the institutional version.
- **Already registered users:** if you already have an account created with your @us.es email but it still appears as free, you must request an update of your license through this form: **Solicitud de alta en Elicit Plus**.

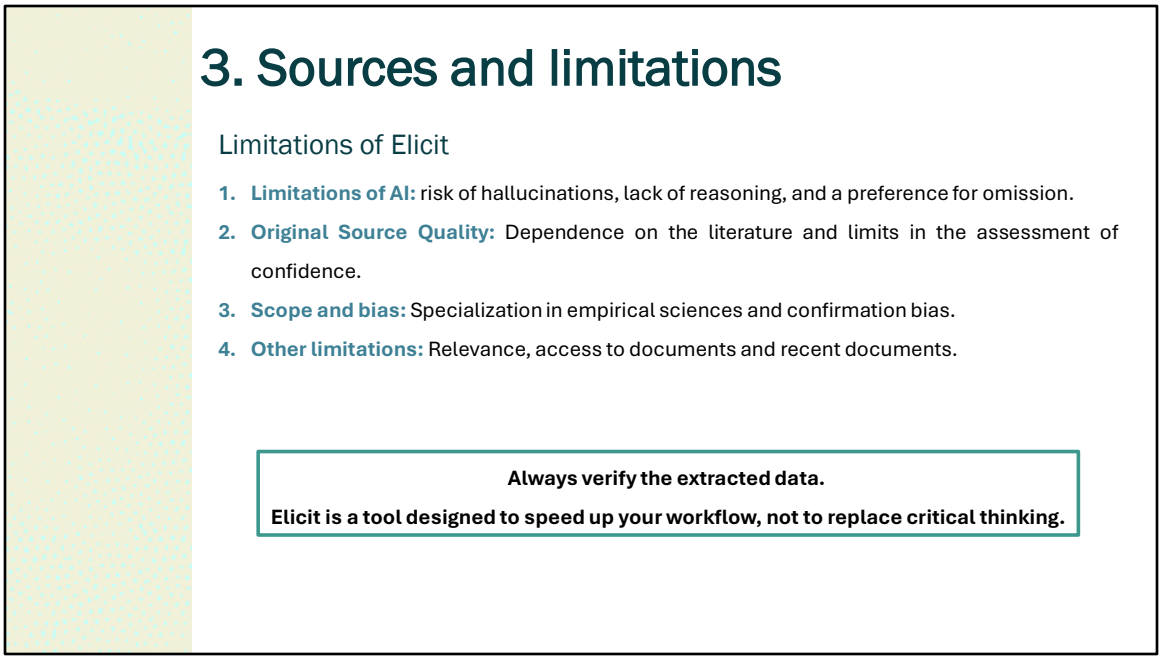
3. Sources and limitations

Sources of information and thematic coverage

Elicit offers a total of approximately 138 million items from the following sources:

1. **Semantic Scholar:** more than 200 million publications in all fields.
2. **OpenAlex:** 243 million posts from over 260,000 sources.
3. **PubMed:** more than 33 million citations in Biomedicine, Life Sciences and clinical medicine.
4. **ClinicalTrials.gov:** U.S. Clinical Trials

Elicit works best in areas with empirical studies (such as Biomedicine or Social Sciences, especially randomized controlled trials). It may be less effective in other disciplines or types of theoretical research.



Elicit is a great tool for speeding up information discovery, but it's not foolproof. Therefore, it should be used as an assistant, not as a substitute for critical judgment. It is essential to always verify the extracted data by consulting the original text of the article. Some of the limitations it presents are:

1. **Limitations of technology (AI): Its operation is based on language models that, although advanced, have the limitations of this type of tool, such as:**

- The risk of hallucinations. Although Elicit is designed to be faithful to the text of articles, language models can, at times, generate information that is not in the document or misinterpret nuances and numerical data.
- **Absence of human reasoning:** it can fail to understand the deep context of an investigation.
- **Preference for omission:** to avoid errors, the system is configured not to display information if it is not sure, which can result in incomplete extractions.

2. Original Source Quality

- **Dependence on literature:** Elicit is only as good as the articles it is based on. If a study has poor methodology or is fraudulent, Elicit will summarize it in the same way as a high-quality one.
- **Limited confidence assessment:** Currently, the tool cannot judge for itself

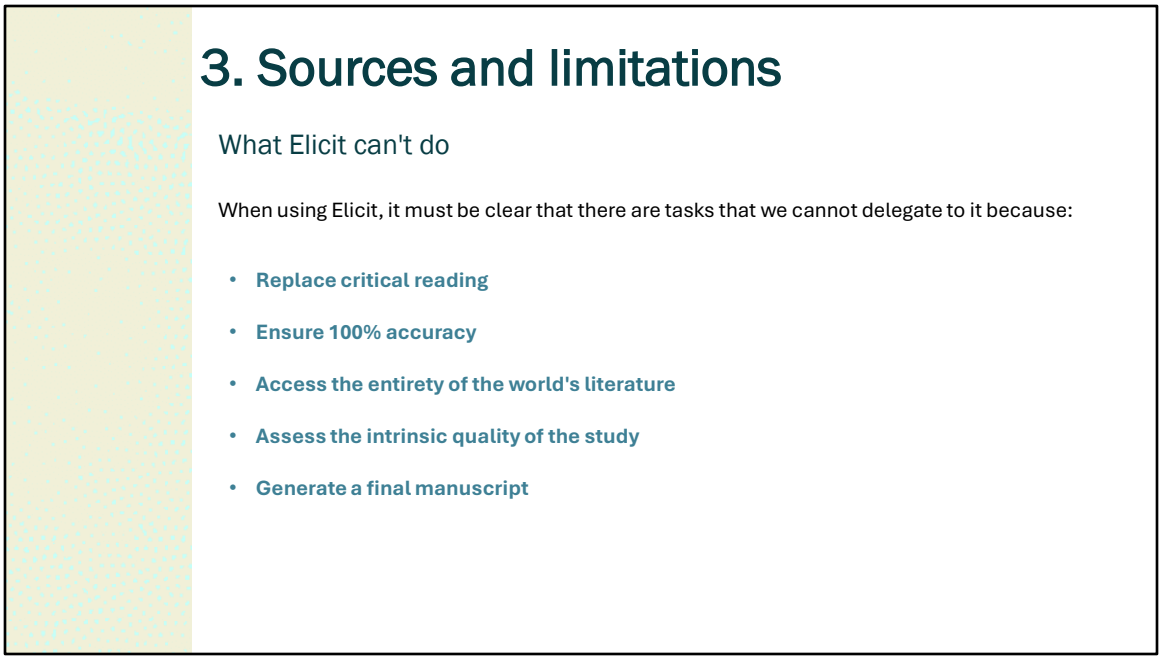
which item is more reliable. It offers indirect indicators (number of citations, type of study, journal), but the final critical evaluation continues to depend on the user.

3. Scope and biases

- **Specialization in Empirical Sciences:** Elicit works best in areas with empirical studies (such as biomedicine or social sciences, especially randomized controlled trials). May be less effective in other disciplines or types of theoretical research.
- **Confirmation bias:** people who use Elicit should actively look for evidence for and against their hypotheses, as the tool does not automatically correct search biases.

4. Other limitations:

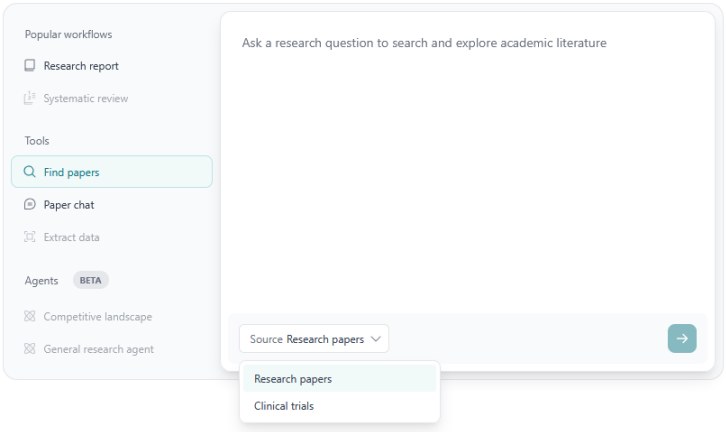
- **Relevance**: although Elicit explains the methodology used to establish the relevance ranking of the retrieved results, relevant articles for a specific study may be missed.
- **Access to documents**: Elicit has access to a huge corpus of scientific information in open access through Semantic Scholar. However, it does not have access to paywall documents, from which the content is extracted through the abstract and its keywords.
- **Recent Documents:** there may be a time lag in the documentation indexed in the sources and content of Elicit. Newly published papers, which might be relevant to the study, may not show up in searches.



Replace critical reading: AI-generated synthesis is a visual and organizational aid, but it must be verified. It is not a substitute for expert judgment, in-depth analysis of the methodology or interpretation of the results.
Ensure 100% accuracy: When using probabilistic models, there is a risk of "hallucination" (generating data that looks real but is incorrect) or errors in the extraction of figures and units. The information should always be contrasted with the fragment of the original text that the tool highlights.
Access the entirety of the world's literature: Although its corpus is immense, there may be gaps in very specific niche articles, extremely recent publications, or content protected by paywalls without an open access PDF available.
Assess the intrinsic quality of the study: Elicit will summarize a poorly methoded study with the same rigor as a high-quality one. The tool offers metrics (such as citation count), but it cannot determine whether an experimental design is biased or fraudulent.
Generate a final manuscript: the tool provides the raw material and organization of the evidence; however, the final writing, the discussion of the findings and the narrative synthesis are the sole responsibility of the author.

4. Elicit Plus Features

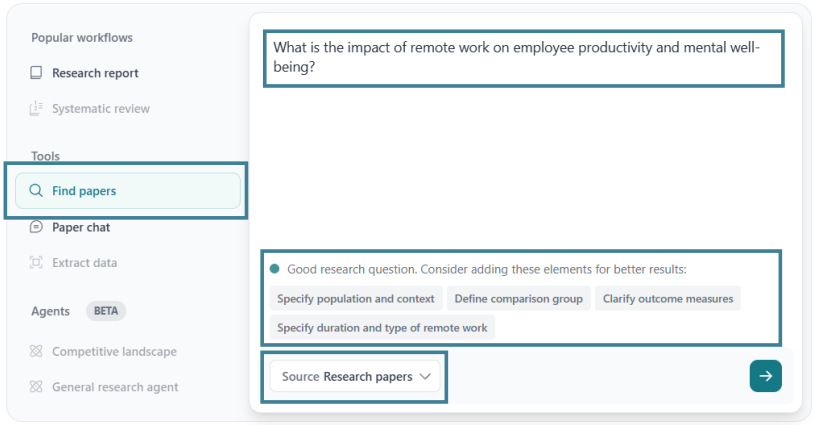
Main panel



The Elicit main panel shows us the different starting options we have to use the tool. Light gray shows options that aren't turned on due to paid plan limitations.

4. Elicit Plus Features

1. Find papers (natural language search)



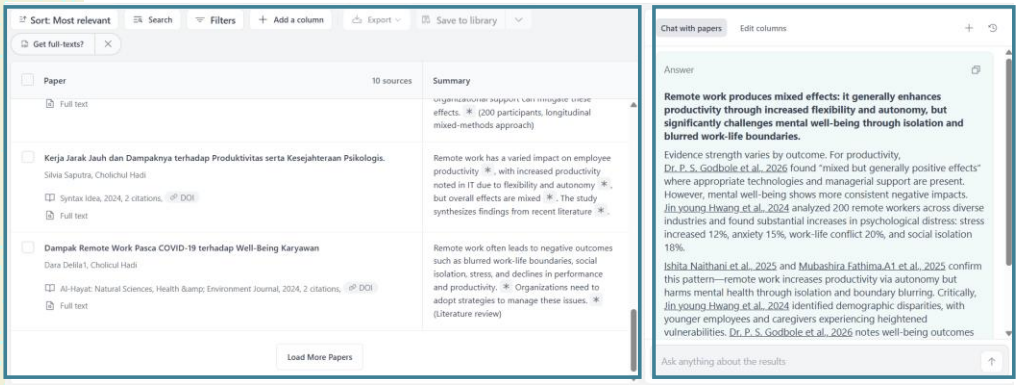
The key advantage of Elicit's AI-powered search lies in its **semantic reasoning** and **automated evidence synthesis**. This allows for **natural language queries**, where Elicit identifies the most relevant terms and operators to align the search strategy with the user's intent.

I.e.: "What is the impact of remote work on employee productivity and mental well-being?"

Elicit identifies papers that link **productivity** with **mental well-being**, uncovering potential correlations without requiring the user to execute multiple search strategies.

4. Elicit Plus Features

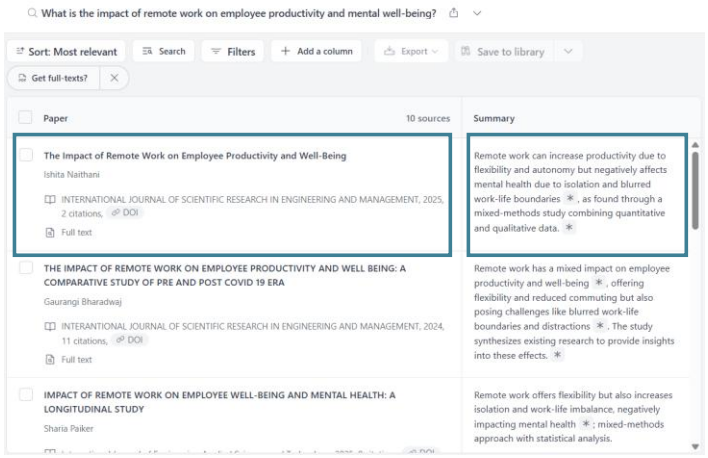
1. Find papers (natural language search)



The results screen is split into two sections: **selected papers** and **analysis tools**.

4. Elicit Plus Features

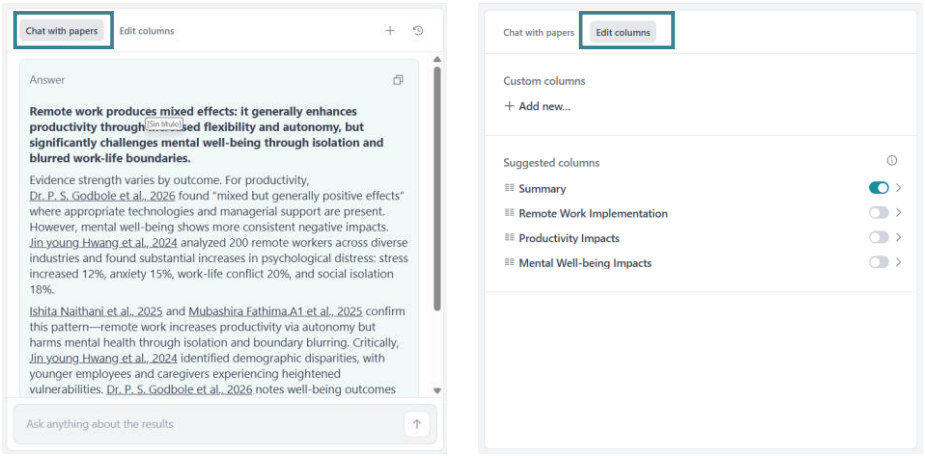
1. Find papers (natural language search)



Elicit generates a table featuring the 10 most relevant papers for your query, along with a **custom summary** (distinct from the abstract). You can load additional papers, up to a maximum of 100. The summaries provided are not the original abstracts; instead, they are **tailored to directly answer your specific research question**.

4. Elicit Plus Features

1. Find papers (natural language search)



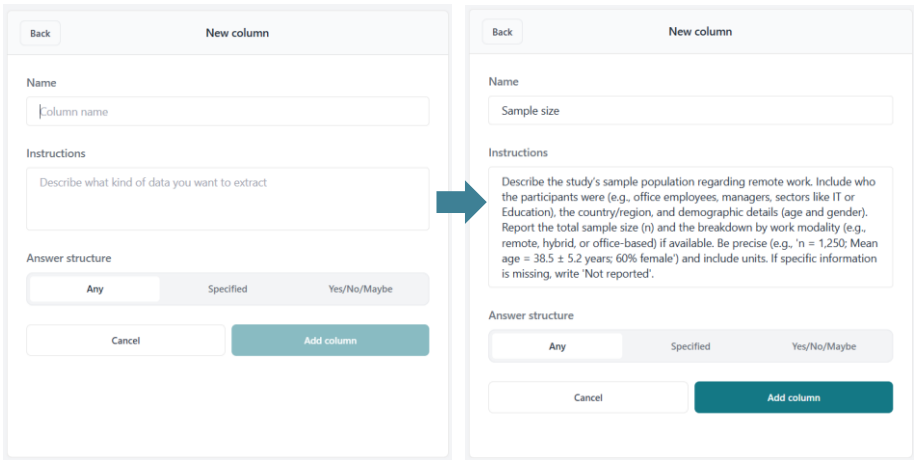
In the **Analysis Tools** area, the **Chat with Paper** feature is enabled by default. This tab displays Elicit's response to your specific research question. As previously noted, the response correlates both dimensions of the query: the effects of remote work on productivity alongside mental health-related issues, showing how scientific evidence varies across both areas.

The other tab, **Edit Columns**, is arguably the most powerful feature. It allows you to build your **analysis matrix** and extract specific information from the retrieved articles. This tool is designed to structure paper data into a comparative table. Instead of manually opening 10 PDFs to find sample sizes or results, you can ask Elicit to "read" and extract that specific data for you. On the **Plus Plan**, you can add up to **5 custom columns simultaneously**, enabling a much deeper analysis than the free tier.

The tool also suggests a list of columns for data analysis. These default suggestions adapt to your specific research; for example, you may see tailored suggestions such as: *Remote Work Implementation*, *Impact on Productivity*, and *Impact on Mental Well-being*. By activating these columns, you can compare exactly what each article says about these dimensions side-by-side.

4. Elicit Plus Features

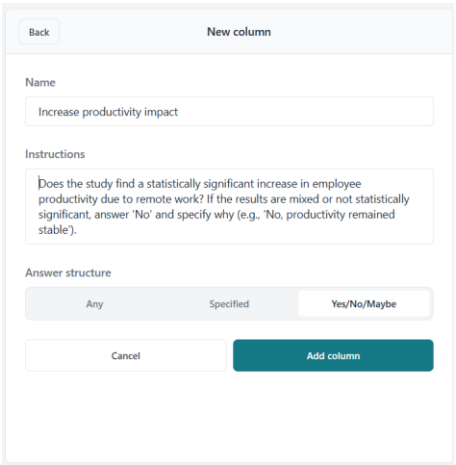
1. Find papers (búsqueda en lenguaje natural)



By clicking **'New Column'**, you can create custom columns to extract specific data tailored to your own study. For instance, you can define parameters for **sample demographics** (such as size, gender, or country), **data collection periods**, **response rates**, or the specific **methodologies** used to measure your research dimensions.

4. Elicit Plus Features

1. Find papers (natural language search)

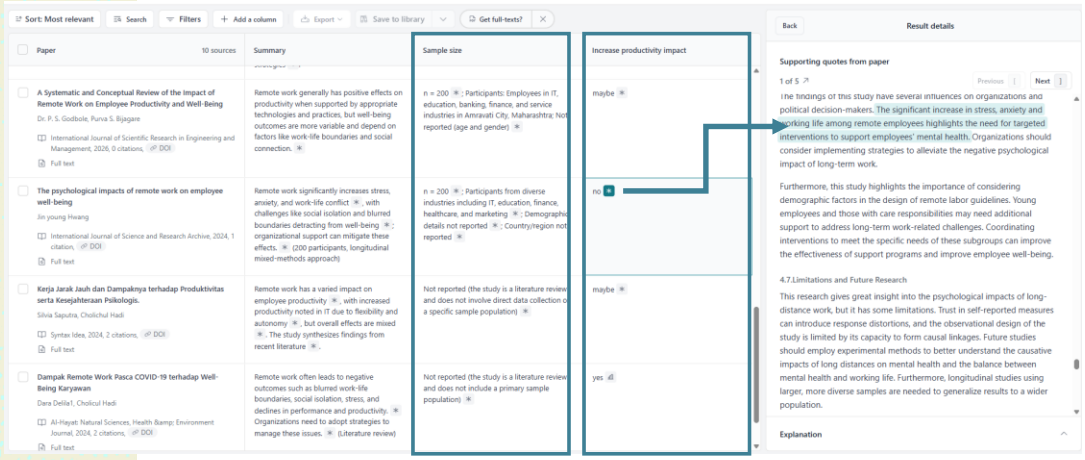


The **Yes / No / Maybe** column is a specific type of data extraction tool that allows the AI to evaluate whether a paper meets a certain condition or contains specific information. Instead of a long text summary, Elicit provides a clear, categorical answer followed by the supporting evidence from the text.
When you create a "Yes/No" column, Elicit doesn't just give you a one-word answer. It follows a **Reasoning + Evidence** structure:

- **The Verdict:** A clear label of **Yes**, **No**, or **Maybe**.
- **The Quote:** It extracts the exact sentence or paragraph from the PDF that justifies the answer.
- **The Explanation:** A brief note on why the AI reached that conclusion, especially useful for the "Maybe" results where the evidence might be ambiguous.

4. Elicit Plus Features

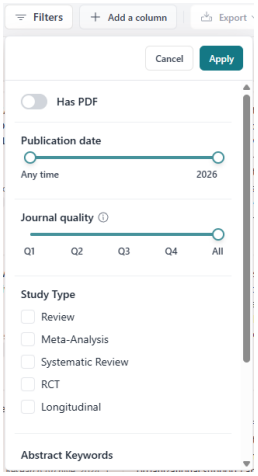
1. Find papers (natural language search)



By adding columns, you build an **analysis matrix** tailored to your research objectives. Clicking on the **asterisks** allows you to jump directly to the specific section of the paper where that information was found.

4. Elicit Plus Features

1. Find papers (natural language search)



Filters in Elicit allow you to refine your search to ensure the papers you are analyzing meet your specific academic standards and relevance criteria.

Core Filters:

- Publication Date: Narrow your search to a specific timeframe (e.g., "Last 5 years") to ensure you are citing the most current evidence.
- Journal Quality Filter (SJR Quartiles): you can filter papers based on the prestige and impact of the journal where they were published. This is done using the SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) metric, which categorizes journals into four quartiles.
- Study Type: You can filter by methodology, such as Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs), Systematic Reviews, or Meta-analyses. This is crucial for prioritizing high-level evidence.
- Full Text PDF: Check this box to only show results where Elicit has access to the full document, ensuring you can perform a deep dive or data extraction later.

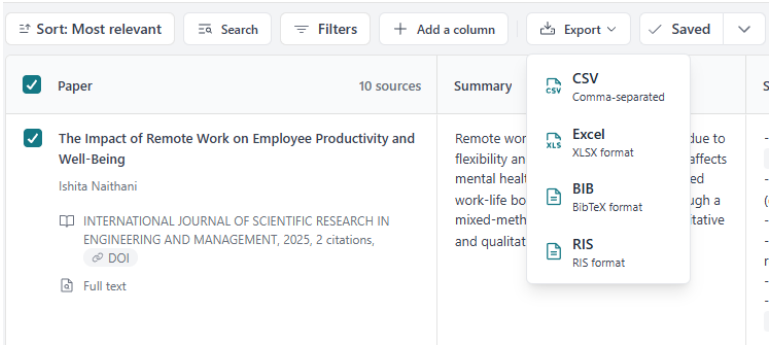
Advanced Keyword Filtering

- "Has Citations": A great way to gauge the impact of a paper within the scientific community.

- Keyword Include/Exclude: * Include: Ensures every result contains a specific term (e.g., "remote work").
  Exclude: Removes irrelevant results that might clutter your matrix (e.g., excluding "medical" if you are researching "productivity").

4. Elicit Plus Features

2. Export in CSV, Excel, BIB or RIS



Reports take a few minutes to generate. Once ready, the final screen displays the report for your review. On the right-hand panel, you can examine the **analyzed sources**, **data points used**, and **extracted information**. You also have the option to **download the report as a PDF**. Additionally, you can **chat with the report** to ask follow-up questions or dive deeper into the findings.

4. Elicit Plus Features

2. Export in CSV, Excel, BIB or RIS

Excel

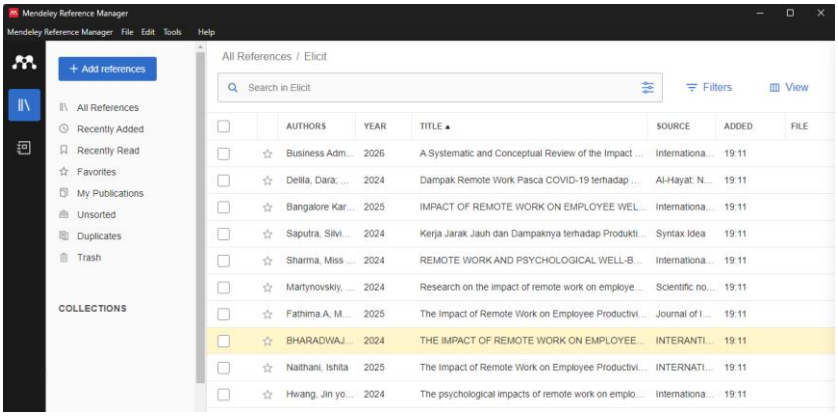
P	Q	R
Reasoning for "Sample size"	**Supporting quotes for "Increase productivity impact"**	**Supporting tables for "Increase productivity impact"**
- The paper specifies that the targeted sample size is 50 t	- "remote work offers flexibility and eliminates commut	-
- The study was conducted in Amravati City, Maharashtra	- "The review shows mixed but generally positive effect	-
- The paper by Dara Delila1 and Cholicul Hadi (2024) is a l	- "Remote work menawarkan sejumlah kelebihan, sepe	- "(Page 5, Table 1) |----------
- The study is a literature review, which means it does nc	- "Overall, the findings from these journals show that re	-
- The study involved a structured online survey distribut	- "According to this research, working remotely can hav	-
- The total sample size is explicitly mentioned as 200 rem	- "Remote work has evolved from being a niche practice	-
- The total sample size is explicitly mentioned as 500 em	- "This study underscores the importance of addressing	-
- The abstract discusses the impact of remote work on er	- "The research results demonstrate positive trends in e	-
- The paper mentions that data was collected from a "div	- "Preliminary findings suggest that remote work has le	- "<table_quotation page_num=1 table_on_page=1></ta
- The paper mentions that the study involves a sample of	- "By understanding the psychological effects of remote	-

Example of export to Excel/CSV

4. Funciones de Elicit Plus

2. Exportar en CSV, Excel, BIB o RIS

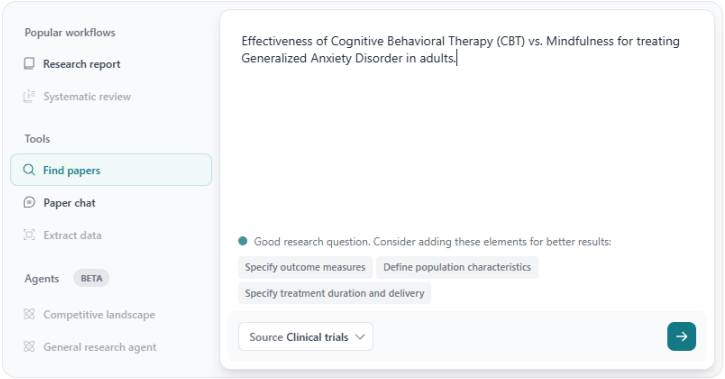
RIS (Mendeley, Zotero, etc.)



Example of Export to RIS (Mendeley)

4. Elicit Plus Features

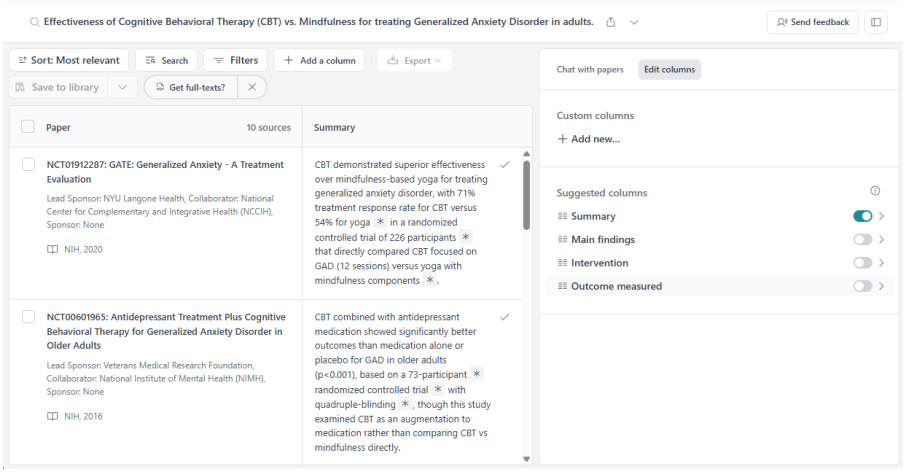
3. Search in clinical trials



The Clinical Trials search is one of the most powerful features, providing access to a database of over 500,000 records (sourced from platforms like ClinicalTrials.gov). This tool identifies not only published articles but also study protocols and ongoing trials, which is vital for mitigating publication bias.

4. Elicit Plus Features

3. Searches in clinical trials

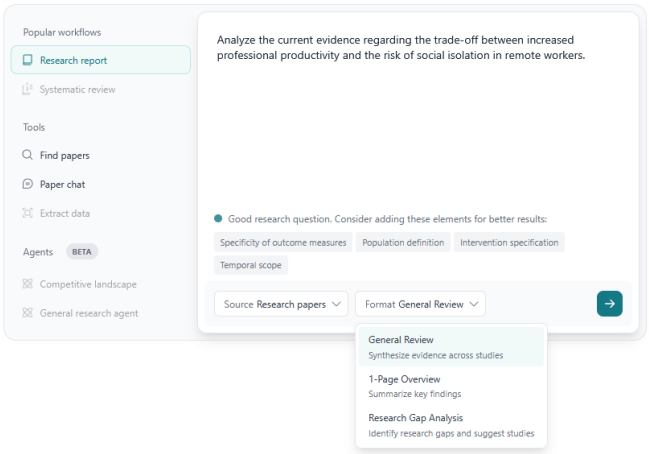


Here, among others, you can configure these 5 specific columns (taking advantage of the Plus plan limit)

- **Intervention:** *"What specific dosage or frequency of CBT and Mindfulness was used?"*
- **Primary Outcome:** *"What was the main scale used to measure anxiety (e.g., GAD-7, HAM-A)?"*
- **Phase:** *"Is this a Phase 2, 3, or 4 clinical trial?"*
- **Completion Date:** *"When was the study completed or when is it expected to finish?"*
- **Trial ID:** *"Extract the clinical trial registration number (e.g., NCT number)."*

4. Elicit Plus Features

4. Research reports



Research Reports are among Elicit's most valuable advanced features. This automated process generates a draft narrative report that provides a detailed, cited response to your research question. These reports are ideal when you need to:

- **Generate a Rapid Narrative Synthesis:** Ideal for obtaining a fluid, written response to complex questions, moving beyond a simple data table (analysis matrix).
- **Create a 1-Page Overview :** It serves as an excellent foundation for drafting thesis sections or reports. **Note:** As previously mentioned, these should not be used verbatim; Elicit may include text excerpts that could lead to plagiarism. It is essential to review the analyzed documents and craft your own original writing.
- **Conduct Quick Evidence Reviews:** Perfect for informed decision-making based on a structured and fully referenced report.

Report Types

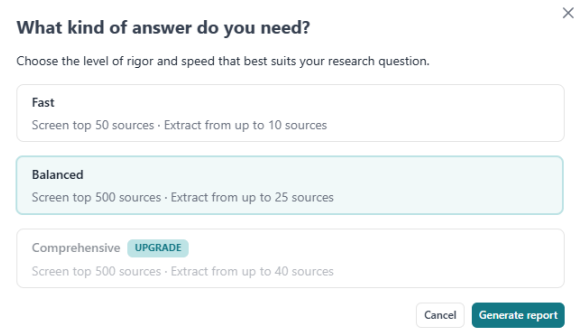
Elicit offers three distinct report formats:

- **General Review:** A comprehensive synthesis of evidence across all analyzed studies.

- **One-Page Overview:** A concise summary of the most critical findings.
- **Research Gap Analysis:** Identifies voids in current literature and suggests potential areas for future study.

4. Elicit Plus Features

4. Research reports

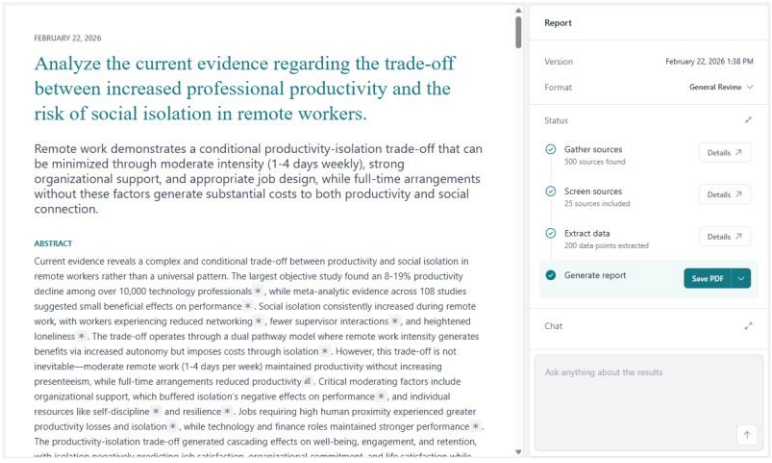


Once you have entered your query, selected the report type, and launched the search, you will be prompted to choose the level of analysis required:

- **Fast:** Analyzes up to 50 sources and extracts data from up to 10 different sources.
- **Balanced:** Analyzes up to 500 sources and extracts data from up to 25 sources.

4. Elicit Plus Features

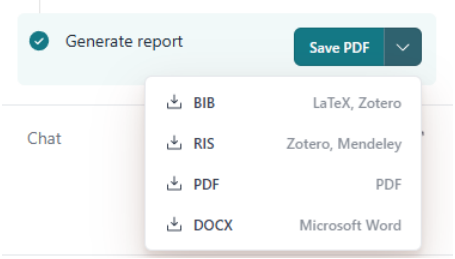
4. Research reports



Reports take a few minutes to generate. The final screen displays the report ready for review; on the right-hand panel, you can examine the analyzed sources, data points used, and extracted information. You also have the option to download the report as a PDF. Additionally, you can chat with the report to ask follow-up questions and explore the findings further.

4. Elicit Plus Features

5. Export the reports in BIB, RIS, PDF and DOCX



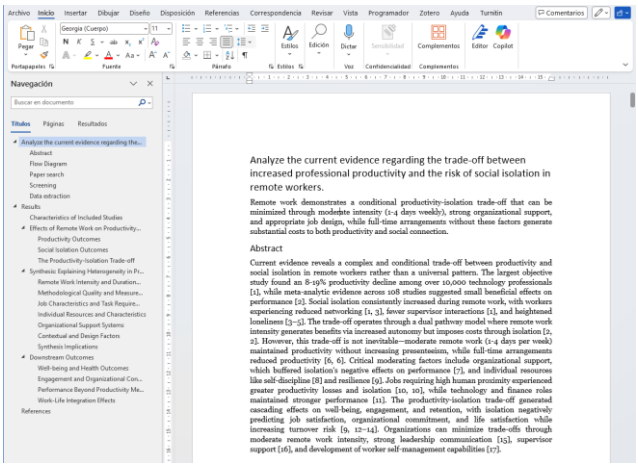
Elicit provides multiple export options to integrate seamlessly into your research workflow. These formats are categorized by their primary use:

1. **Bibliographic References (BibTeX & RIS):** Use these formats to export the citation data of the analyzed papers. They are specifically designed for seamless integration with reference managers like **Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote**.
2. **Narrative Reports (PDF & DOCX):** These formats export the full text of your generated report.

- **PDF:** Ideal for a final, read-only version to share or archive.
- **DOCX (Microsoft Word):** This is the most versatile option.

4. Funciones de Elicit Plus

5. Exportar los informes en BIB, RIS, PDF y DOCX



Unlike a static PDF, the Word export allows you to actively edit the content, refine the narrative, and collaborate with your team to integrate the findings into your final manuscript.

University of Seville Library Guides: Elicit

Access to Elicit Video Tutorials

Thank you!