



INFLIBNET - Institutional Toolkit Evaluation

The Lens: Supporting Research and Teaching at Universities

The Lens is an invaluable resource for universities to support teaching and research by enabling the community to discover and analyze scholarly works and patents. An outline of use cases is below. Before reviewing that list, please reflect on what your university uses today to support needs for discovery, citation analysis, literature reviews, and patent analysis and landscaping. The Lens suggests that you compare Lens.org (and the API) to those tools for **functionality, ease of use, and permissions**. Additionally, and importantly, The Lens is open.

What does **open** do for you? Briefly, it enables you to create, re-use and share knowledge as you wish – and in a way that enables teaching, learning, and research without constraints from licensing restrictions.

- Share a curated literature review publicly or fork and refine someone else's. See [Lens Collections](#).
- Post citation counts and other metadata publicly with links back to the Lens.org platform to showcase the research and capabilities of your institution.
- Support open metrics in place of closed, proprietary, unverifiable commercial metrics.
- Collaborate with specific team members or the global community by sharing links to saved searches, dashboards and other specific results.

Bianca Kramer and Jeroen Bosman of Utrecht University created a “[Scholarly Search Engine Comparison](#)” that includes The Lens as well as many alternatives. We invite you to reference that.

Importantly, The Lens includes all this at price points that are a fraction of those of commercial alternatives. Differentiating from Google, confidentiality is assured. You and other users in your community are not the product.

How does The Lens support teaching and research?

Unique features about The Lens and the Institutional Toolkits:

- Linkages and analytics to show relationships between scholarly works and patents. This is especially helpful to:



- Show which research provides a foundation for inventions
- Highlight intellectual relationships between organizations focused on creating research output and organizations focused on creating IP
- Map potential partnerships based on capabilities
- Highlight and assess impact based on both citations from papers and patents
- Open. As a source of citation metrics, The Lens is a transparent, verifiable alternative to closed, proprietary tools.
- Tools to manage and share content. Tools include dashboards for analytics, collections for alerts and curated datasets, and Lens Reports for overviews of specific technology areas.
- Lens Profiles. Simplifies the process for the university community to update their ORCID records with scholarly works and patents.
- Permissive terms of use. Institutional subscriptions provide exports limits on Lens.org of 100,000 records, API access provides generous monthly volumes to support AI and ML applications. Licensees are invited to display records and citation data publicly to tell their story about their capabilities and impact.
- Collective action. The Lens is committed to inclusive access to knowledge to accelerate problem solving. The Lens is about continuous improvement of open infrastructure, not continuous price increases.

Teaching and research use cases have significant overlap.

Examples of teaching use cases:

- Literature reviews: open, shareable literature reviews that can be forked and customized.
- Capability is outlined well by Aaron Tay, a librarian at Singapore Management University. <https://aarontay.medium.com/using-lens-org-c7ef5553fc27>
- Systematic reviews: open content and paper references enables systematic reviews.
- Lens Report Builder to showcase specific areas of research. An example is this report on [Regenerative Agriculture](#).
- Teaching intellectual property concepts

Strategic positioning:

- Finding routes to innovation
- Protecting innovation results
- Increasing competitive advantage
- Establishing clear ownership of IP and IPR
- Establishing freedom to operate

Examples of research use cases:

- Identify the influence of your research on industry/innovation from citing patents to improve your impact narratives for grant/funding applications



- Getting familiar with a body of literature or conducting systematic literature reviews
- Discovery: keyword and metadata search and analysis
- Research landscape assessment: research intelligence
 - Who are potential collaborators?
 - Who are possible competitors?
 - Who is citing your organization's research and/or patents?
 - Who is citing your clients' patents?
 - Who is citing a particular technology?
 - What is being cited against your own patents?
 - Which new competitors are in your space?
 - What licensing opportunities are emerging?
 - Tracking staff research output and patent activity
- This [Nature correspondence](#) is an example of how a landscape of SARS-CoV-2 was created to support research using Lens.org.
- Data mining with API access
 - API access allows integration into research and teaching workflows.

Library use cases:

- Tracking institutional Open Access publishing trends
- Identifying Diamond OA journals
- Integrating content into Institutional repositories
- Find and harvest OA versions from other repositories
- Full text discovery (through LibKey, WorldCat links)
- Assessing subscriptions - where (journals/publishers) are your staff publishing?
- Using Lens to improve ORCID compliance

Resources:

Learn more about The Lens at [The Lens – Support Center & Knowledge Base](#)

View community created resources about The Lens here:

<https://support.lens.org/knowledge-base/external-posts-and-coverage/>

Questions?

Email Daiknow, The Lens partner in India: training@daiknow.in

Or contact The Lens support: support@lens.org