What is ResearchRabbit?

ResearchRabbit is an innovative "citation-based literature mapping tool" available online. The scope of such tool is to optimise your time searching for references as you start planning your essay, minor project, or literature review. The concept is simple: you start by using one or more papers (called seed papers), and the app will find more papers relevant to the topic of interest (which is dictated by the seed papers you previously selected).

The tool is designed to support your research without you switching between searching modes and databases, a process that is time consuming and often escalates into further citation mining; a truly unpleasant rabbit hole (and that's what inspired the name ResearchRabbit)!

REMEMBER: ResearchRabbit is only one of the many literature mapping tools available online, some require you to create an account and others don't. ResearchRabbit is completely free of charge, and you can find an additional insightful guide on ResearchRabbit by following the links below:

(https://library.smu.edu.sg/topics-insights/new-literature-mapping-tool-researchrabbit)

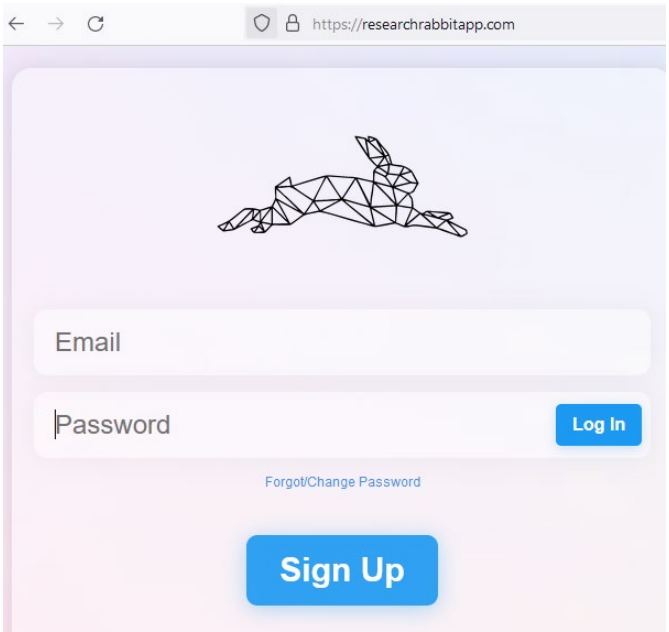
(https://medium.com/a-academic-librarians-thoughts-on-open-access/researchrabbit-is-out-of-beta-my-review-of-this-new-literature-mapping-tool-3c593d061c63).

The software scans for any publicly available source online and select papers based on their similarities. However, it seems to only work for scholarly papers, and therefore is unlikely to find other sources of information that are not journal articles, such as books.

Step by step tutorial.

Here, I'll present a quick tutorial on how to use the ResearchRabbit app, so that you don't force the inclusion of too many authors or references but develop a more functional workflow instead. First of all, the good news is that the app has been made freely available to everyone in 2021.

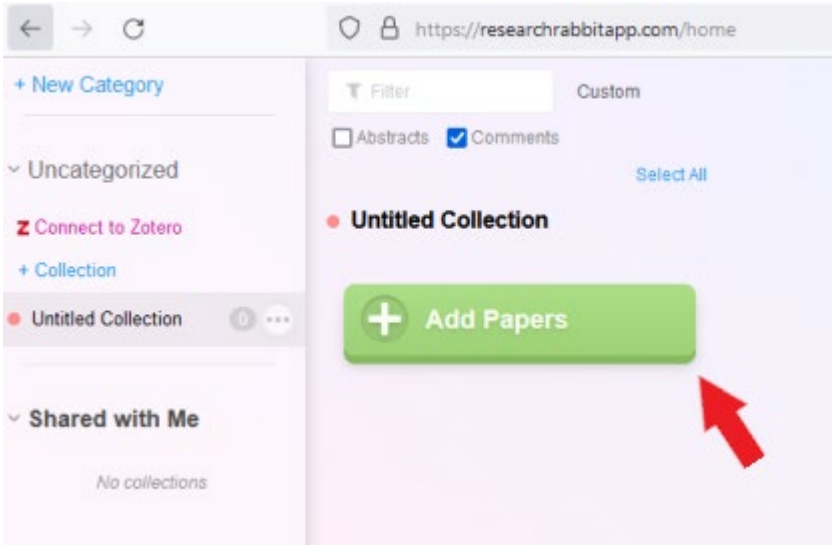
1. **Create an account** (https://researchrabbitapp.com/). It's free of charge.

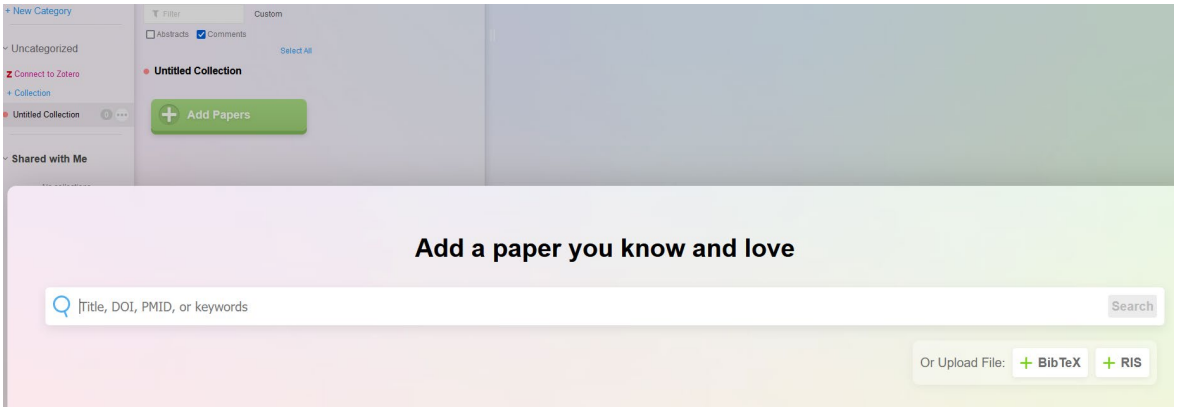


You can now see that your collection is untitled and empty, since you just opened the app for the first time.

2. **Add Papers**.

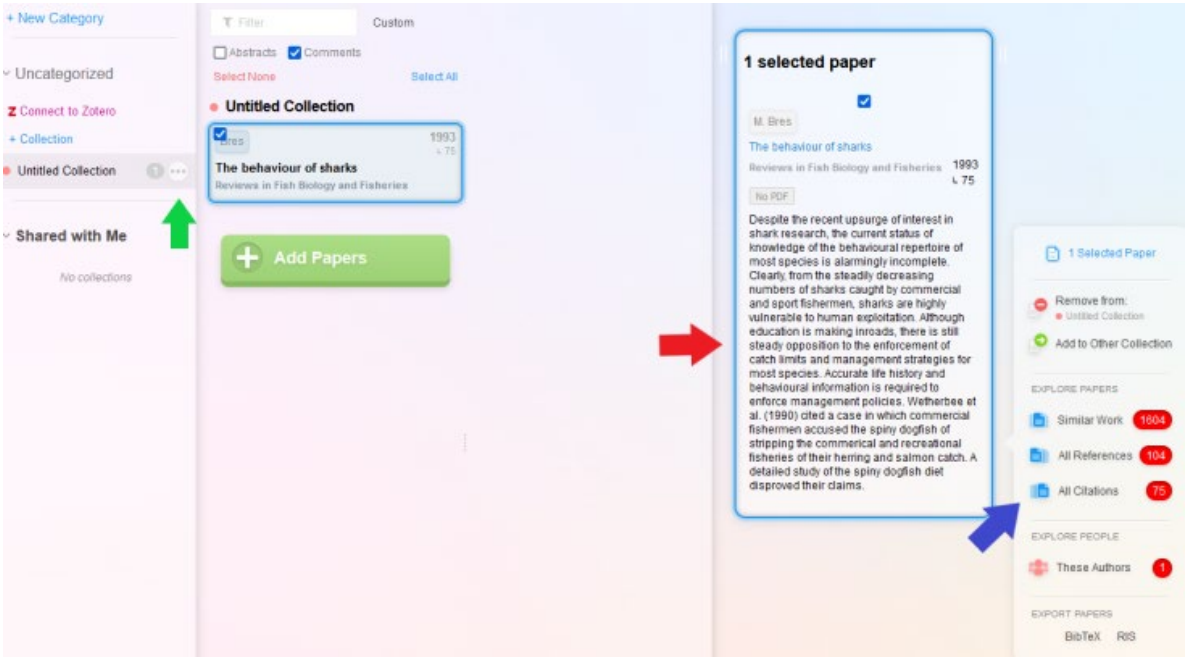
By clicking on **+Add Papers** you can select a reference paper you want to use to start your research. Add a paper that you know is a key paper to your research question. You can add only one paper, or many.





For example, I will upload a paper called "The behaviour of sharks" as a reference, just to show you the process. After you select the paper and search it using the title, you can add it to your collection (see picture below). You can work on multiple projects at the same time, since you can create more than one collection and rename them (green arrow).

The reference paper you select will appear in the app with the abstract, author name, title, year of publication and journal where the paper was published (red arrow). On the right side of the screen (blue arrow), the app tells you how many similar papers have been found online, and it also explores the references and citations within the paper you selected.

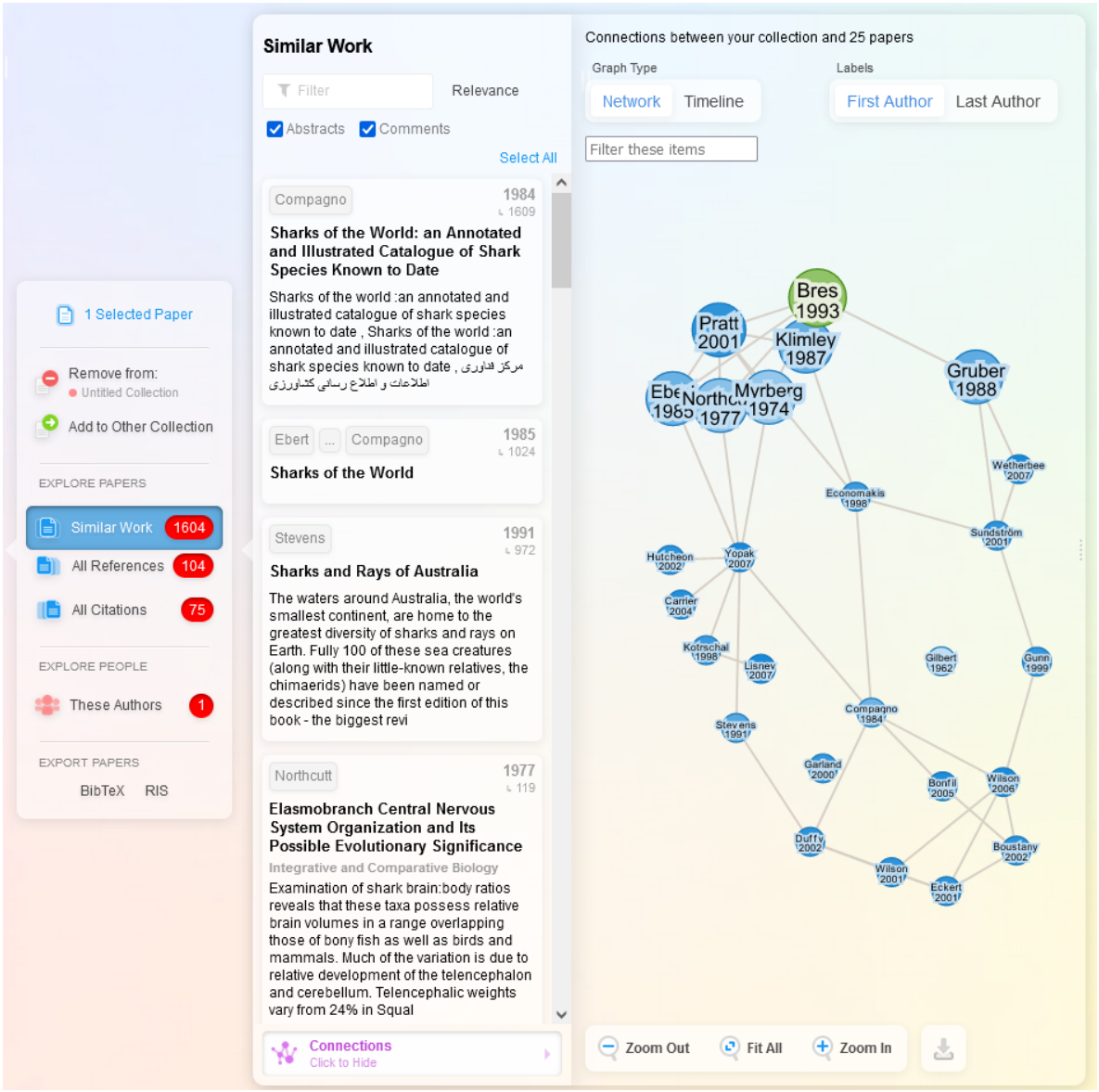


3. **Visualise connections between your reference paper and similar papers the app found.**

By clicking on "Similar work", you will visualise the closest and best connection possible between your reference paper and the literature available online.

- All similar works are now listed in order of relevance. You can also filter them by citations or alphabetical order.
- By ticking the box "abstracts", the app will show you the abstracts of all similar work listed, so that you can easily go through the results and decide which papers are actually relevant to your research and which ones are not.
- In the connection graph, select the graph type that better suits your research. A timeline graph type could be useful to discuss your topic chronologically, while the network type will favour similarities between references.
- The option "labels" can be handy if you are interested in looking at different authors, which might lead to the discovery of more papers and different pathways you could take.

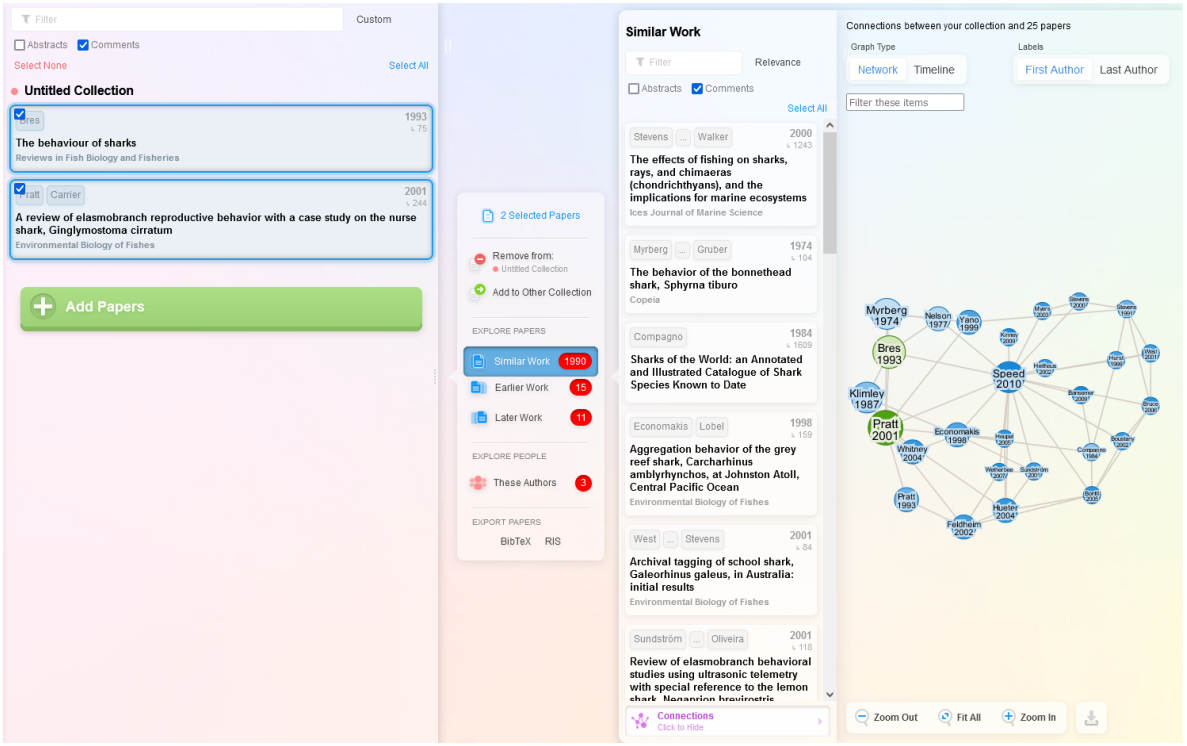
REMEMBER: Abstracts can be extremely helpful, but sometimes can also be insightful to go through other sections (e.g. discussion or methodology). Don't select papers a priori, take your time to read through them to optimise the quality of your research.



4. Build up your network of references.

Now that you found your main connections, you can start building your research. The papers that are in your collection are shown in green, while all the papers that might be relevant to your project are displayed in blue. As you proceed reading through the references, you can add the papers you consider relevant to your collection. These papers will then be displayed in green, and will automatically create more connections.

You can add papers from the graph to your collection just by clicking on the author name from the graph itself. By doing so, the paper selected will open on the right side of the graph with the full abstract in display. Then, by clicking on the option "Add to" you can add the new paper into your collection. Right after the paper is added to the collection, the graph changes and other similar work and connections will appear.



Now you can keep building your research and add all the papers you want to your collection. As you can create multiple collections, you can also use them to separate different paragraphs and topics so that your searching won't get confusing.

The best part? The software will keep all your papers saved and organised, and you will not have hundreds of tabs opened on your computer!

REFERENCE

The software was developed and is periodically updated by Krishnan Chandra, Ben Slater and Mike Ma (https://www.researchrabbit.ai/team)