We present a large-scale evaluation of Argo Scholar, an open-sourced, web-based tool for literature exploration.

122 Diverse Participants

51 Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)
24 Biological Sciences (BIO)
21 Computer & Information Science & Eng. (CISE)
 9 Engineering (ENG)
 6 Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)
 5 Education & Human Resources (EHR)
 3 Integrative Activities (OIA)
 2 Environmental Research & Education (ERE)
 1 Geosciences (GEO)

Usability

- Easy to use
- Easy to understand
- Enjoyable to use
- Would like similar software
- Helped find related work
- Helped understand relation

Feature Usefulness

- Graph View
- Exploration Dropdown
- Paper Information Panel
- Saving and Sharing
- Node Appearance Customization

Key Findings

Incremental exploration works well across a wide range of disciplines and helps find related work and understand relationships between such articles

- "I have never been able to map out citations and references for research papers so quickly in an organized fashion."
- "... it helped me to find some relevant papers I hadn’t come across yet ... could be very helpful for my dissertation."

No one-size-fits-all literature exploration tool

- "Love the node aspect and makes showing connections to other papers super easy!"
- "... not how my mind works. I can see that it could be very powerful for some people, though."

Need for increased user interactions

- "to make my own ... lines to connect some of my own connections" * "sticky note function"
- "Very easy to publish ... Can save lots of time working with my colleagues"