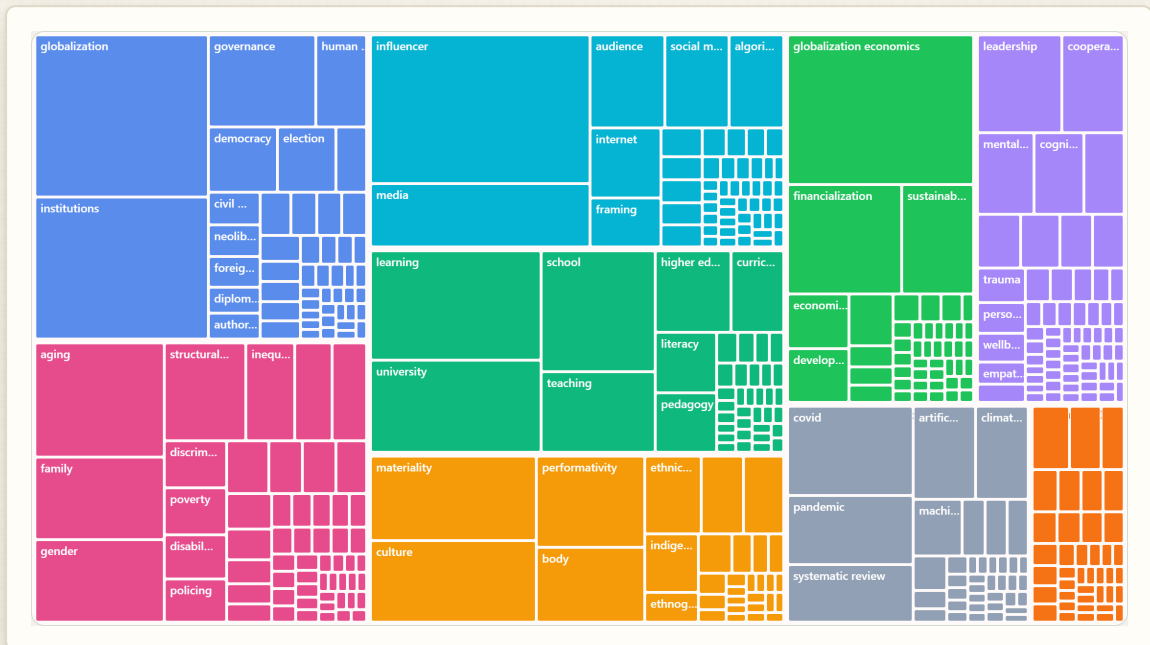




RESEARCH BOOK

Find your place in the *literature*

Syed's Research Book — how to map what has been studied, find the thin places, and write a contribution you can defend, with 9,388 hand-coded papers and the corpus around them.

Find your place in the *literature*

A working guide to the literature review as an argument, not a list.

The study from Volume 5 asks where it fits: what the field already knows about burnout, autonomy and job demands, which combinations are well trodden, which are thin — and how to say so without claiming that nobody has ever looked.

Site. <https://syeds-research-book.vercel.app/>

Version. 2.0.5 (2026-10-18) · build 3702b3b+edits · 2026-10-18T15:45:22Z

Figures. Real screenshots of the live site, captured 2026-10-18 by `scripts/capture.mjs`; sample data shown in figures is labelled simulated where it is simulated.

Sources. 15 DOI-verified references, numbered in order of use. Nothing in this book is invented: counts and labels are read from the site or its published data.

Status. A user guide, not documentation of record. Where the site and this book differ, the site is right — please report it (see Version history).

Type. Fraunces, Plus Jakarta Sans and IBM Plex Mono (SIL Open Font License). Laid out with Paged.js.

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01

BEFORE YOU SEARCH

What a literature section has to do

A literature review is not a summary of everything you read. It is the argument that your study needed doing — and it is judged by whether a reader finishes it already expecting your question.

Two moves dominate how management papers position themselves. The common one is **gap-spotting**: find something not yet studied and fill it. The stronger one is **problematization**: find an assumption the literature takes for granted and show why it may not hold ^{1,2}. Gaps are easy to find and easy to dismiss — "not yet studied" is not the same as "worth studying". A contribution persuades when it connects to an ongoing conversation and shows what that conversation is missing or getting wrong ³.

Structure helps. A review organised around **concepts** rather than authors lets the reader see what is known about each construct and each link ⁴; an integrative review then synthesises across them rather than listing ^{5,6}.

A LITERATURE SECTION EARNS ITS PLACE WHEN...

- ☐ The review is organised by concepts and links, not by author or date.
- ☐ It shows what is well established — and cites it, briefly.
- ☐ It identifies something thin, contested or taken for granted, with evidence for that judgement.
- ☐ It explains why that matters for theory or practice, not only that it is missing.
- ☐ It ends where my research question begins.
- ☐ Every "few studies" claim was checked in more than one database.

THE WORKED EXAMPLE – CONTINUED

The study (Volumes 5–7) tests whether job autonomy buffers the link between long shifts and burnout among nurses, using the JD–R model. To position it, it needs answers to three questions: **what is well established**, **what is thin**, and **why the thin part matters**.

02

LIBRARY

Map the territory

Start broad, in the tier you can trust most, then widen. The goal of the first pass is a sense of size and shape, not a reading list.



FIG 2.1 The Library searched for *burnout*: 643 papers across the hand-coded and recent tiers that load by default. Recent-tier cards carry the **↑ recent · auto-fetched** badge and their machine-assigned construct.

Counting by title in each tier gives a first map of the study's three ingredients:

TITLES CONTAINING...	HAND-CODED (9,388)	RECENT, 2024 ON (77,411)
burnout	109	—
burnout + nurse	8	56
burnout + autonomy	0	3
burnout + shift	—	3
burnout + nurse + autonomy	0	0

HOW THESE COUNTS WERE MADE

Title counts were computed from the Book's published index files, matching *burnout*, *nurs*, *autonom* and *shift* in titles only. Abstracts often mention what titles do not — which is why Chapter 3 uses the abstract-level matches, and why a zero here is a prompt to search, not a finding.

Already the picture has a shape. Burnout among nurses is a busy topic — 56 recent titles name both. Autonomy is rarely in the same title as burnout, and never with nurses. That is a lead about *where to look*, not yet a gap.

- 1 Search one construct at a time and note the counts per tier.
- 2 Open **Refine papers & choose corpus tiers** and add the all-years import when you need the older literature.
- 3 Star the papers that will anchor each section; **CSV** exports the filtered list for your reference manager.
- 4 **Copy link** saves the exact view, so a co-author sees the same papers.

03

THE MAP'S MATRIX

See what travels together

A literature has a shape: some constructs are almost always studied together, some rarely. The Matrix counts it.

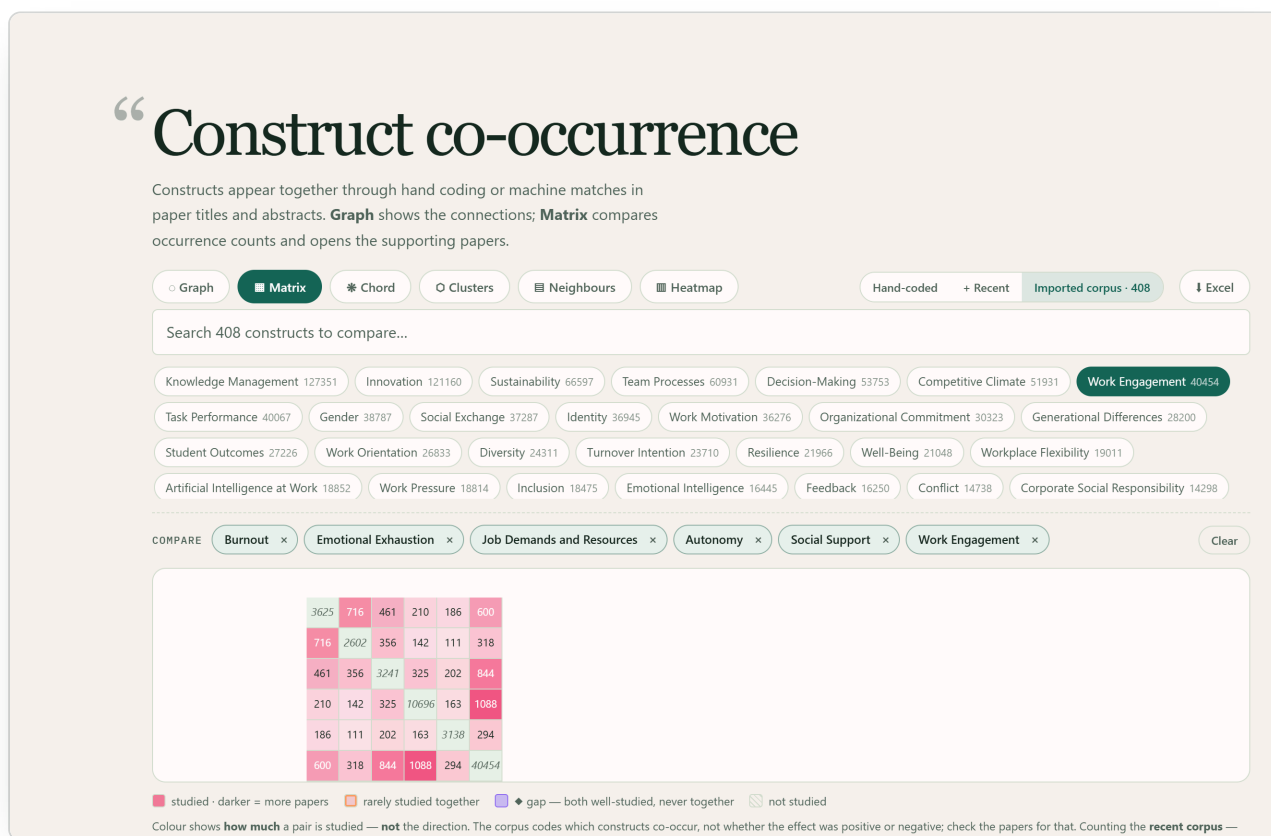


FIG 3.1 Map → Matrix over the *Imported corpus · 408* tier, with six constructs picked in this order: Burnout, Emotional Exhaustion, Job Demands and Resources, Autonomy, Social Support, Work Engagement. Diagonal = papers matching each construct; each cell = papers matching both. Machine-matched · verify.

PAIR (ABSTRACT-LEVEL, IMPORTED CORPUS)	PAPERS WITH BOTH	LIFT
Burnout × Emotional Exhaustion	716	61.7
Burnout × Job Demands and Resources	461	31.9

Burnout × Social Support	186	13.3
Autonomy × Job Demands and Resources	325	7.6
Burnout × Autonomy	210	4.4
Burnout × Work Engagement	600	3.3

Read the lift, not only the count. Burnout and JD-R appear together 32 times more often than their sizes alone would predict — a tightly connected conversation, the one the study joins. Burnout and autonomy co-occur in 210 papers, but at a lift of only 4.4: autonomy is a very large, general construct (10,696 matching papers), and only a small fraction of it is discussed alongside burnout.

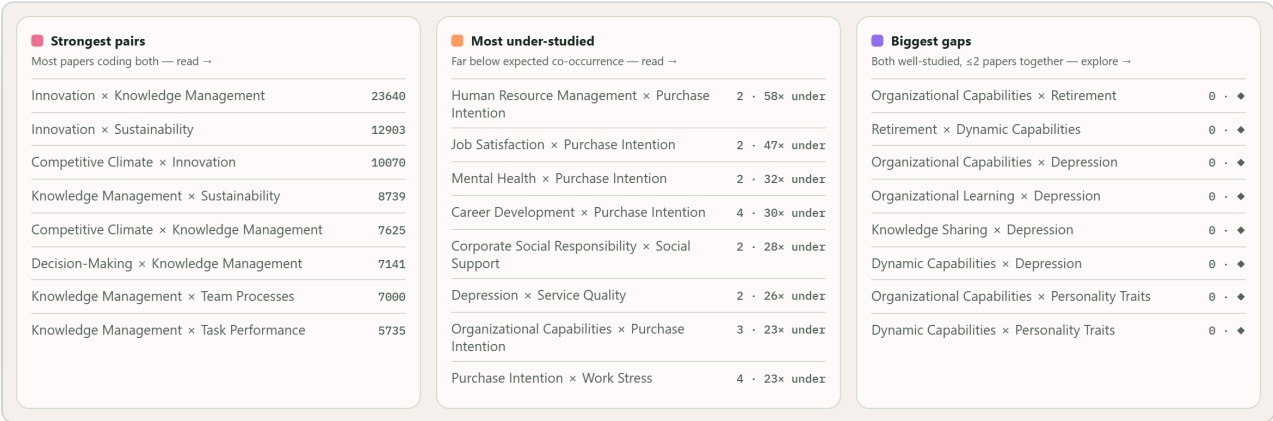


FIG 3.2 The Leads panel under the Matrix, for the whole imported corpus: the strongest pairs, the most under-studied (well below expected co-occurrence) and the biggest gaps (two well-studied constructs never matched together). Each row opens the papers.

WHAT A COUNT MEANS

Counts come from word-for-word matches of construct names in titles and abstracts. They say two ideas were *mentioned* on the same paper — not that the paper measured both, or found that one affects the other. The Map colours how much a pair is studied, never the direction of an effect.

04

TRENDS

Is the conversation growing?

A thin area of a shrinking conversation is a harder sell than a thin area of a growing one. Check the direction of travel.

Shares of the hand-coded corpus, comparing 2015–18 with 2020–23 (each paper split equally across its constructs, so nothing is counted twice):

CONSTRUCT (HAND-CODED)	SHARE 2015–18	SHARE 2020–23
Burnout and its various dimensions	0.37%	0.78%
Job Demands and Resources	0.30%	0.52%
Autonomy in various contexts	0.29%	0.33%
Engagement in various contexts	3.01%	2.18%

Burnout’s share of the corpus roughly doubled and JD-R grew; autonomy held steady. The bases are small — burnout carries the weight of about six papers in the earlier window and 33 in the later — so read these as a direction, not a precise rate. The Trends view shows the same series year by year; the hub’s river shows them as currents.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Positioning so far. The burnout–JD–R conversation is large and growing. Within it, autonomy is discussed far less often with burnout than its size would suggest, and almost never in nursing titles. The study therefore joins a busy conversation through a thin door — which is a good place to be, *if* the reason it is thin can be argued.

05

READING THE PAPERS

From counts to a claim

Counts tell you where to read. Only reading tells you what the papers say — and whether your "thin" area is really thin or just named differently.

- 1 Click the Burnout × Autonomy cell to open the 210 papers behind it.
- 2 Read the abstracts: how many actually *measure* both, and how many test autonomy as a buffer?
- 3 Search the synonyms the field uses — *job control*, *decision latitude* — before concluding anything is missing. JD-R's ancestor, the demand–control model, used exactly that vocabulary ⁷.
- 4 Repeat the search in the field's own databases. This corpus was built for management and organisational behaviour; nursing studies live mostly in health databases.
- 5 Only then write the positioning, with the evidence for it.

ABSENCE IS NOT EVIDENCE

"No study has examined..." is the riskiest sentence in a literature review. A reviewer only needs one counter-example. Prefer "relatively few studies...", report how you searched, and let the argument rest on *why* the thin area matters.

Turn the gap into a problem

A stronger framing asks what assumption makes the thin area thin. JD-R treats job resources as broadly interchangeable buffers ⁸. If autonomy is constrained by the very rosters that create long shifts, that interchangeability is worth questioning — a problematizing move ² that gives the study a reason, not just a vacancy.

06

THE OBJECTIONS YOU WILL MEET

Defend it

Reviewers test positioning hardest. Answer these before they ask.

REVIEWER

"This gap only exists because of the keywords you searched."

YOUR ANSWER

Show the synonyms you searched (job control, decision latitude, self-scheduling), the databases, and the dates. Report counts, not "none".

REVIEWER

"Your corpus is management-focused; nursing research is elsewhere."

YOUR ANSWER

Agree: the Research Book scoped the management literature. State that the nursing databases were searched separately and report what they added.

REVIEWER

"Co-occurrence counts are not evidence that the relationship is understudied."

YOUR ANSWER

Correct — they guided where to read. The claim rests on reading the papers: how many measured both, and how many tested autonomy as a moderator.

REVIEWER

"So what if it is understudied?"

YOUR ANSWER

Give the reason: the assumption that resources are interchangeable buffers ⁸, and what it would mean for nurses if autonomy cannot buffer the demand that rosters themselves create.

07

FROM MAP TO PROSE

Write the positioning

The positioning paragraph closes the literature review: what is known, what is thin, why it matters, and what this study does about it.

- 1 **Established:** the conversation you join, briefly, with its anchor citations.
- 2 **Thin or assumed:** what that conversation leaves out or takes for granted — with how you know.
- 3 **Why it matters:** the consequence for theory or practice.
- 4 **This study:** one sentence that answers the gap, leading straight into the research question.

MODEL PARAGRAPH

The Job Demands–Resources model holds that job resources buffer the effect of demands on strain ^{9,8}, and burnout research has drawn on it increasingly: in a 9,388-paper corpus of management and organisational-behaviour research used to scope this review, burnout's share of papers roughly doubled between 2015–18 and 2020–23.

Autonomy features far less in this conversation than its prominence elsewhere would suggest, and studies of nurses rarely examine it as a buffer of the demands that shift rosters create. Because rosters may constrain the very autonomy that is expected to protect nurses, treating resources as interchangeable buffers may overstate their protective value. We therefore test whether autonomy buffers the association between shift length and burnout.

Model paragraph for the illustrative study. The corpus figures are real counts from the Research Book; the "far less" judgement must be backed by the full search described in Chapter 5 before it is published. Adapt the structure, not the claims.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THE SECTION

- ☐ The established conversation is cited from its primary sources.
- ☐ The thin area is described with how it was searched, not asserted.
- ☐ The reason it matters is stated, not implied.
- ☐ The final sentence leads directly into the research question.
- ☐ No sentence says "no study has..." .

08

REFERENCE

The Research Book at a glance

The tiers, views and conventions — for when you know what you want and need to find where it lives.

TIER	WHAT IT IS	HOW IT IS MARKED
Hand-coded	9,388 papers x 167 constructs, coded by hand and Scopus-graded.	No badge — the verified core.
Recent	Real OpenAlex works from 2024 on ¹⁰ ; machine-assigned constructs.	↑ recent · auto-fetched
All-years import	Registry journal records across all years; opt-in.	Imported · machine tags · verify
Live	The newest ~45 days, fetched as you search.	⚡ live

VIEW	USE IT TO...
Library	Search and filter papers; star, export CSV, copy a shareable link. URL parameters (<code>q</code> , <code>construct</code> , <code>year</code> , <code>ymin</code> , <code>ymax</code> , <code>journal</code> , <code>author</code> ...) open exact views.
Constructs	Browse the 167 hand codes with their identifiers and papers; switch to machine-extracted phrases.
Map	Graph · Matrix · Chord · Clusters · Neighbours · Heatmap over three tiers; ↓ <code>Excel</code> exports the counts.
Trends	Construct x year heatmap; <code>Counts</code> <code>Share of year</code> .
Term Trends	425 terms across nine OpenAlex subfields; scrub, play, or the <code>■ Quadrant</code> growth x novelty view.
Overview	The corpus as a landscape: provenance, tide, bedrock, canopy, voices, echo.

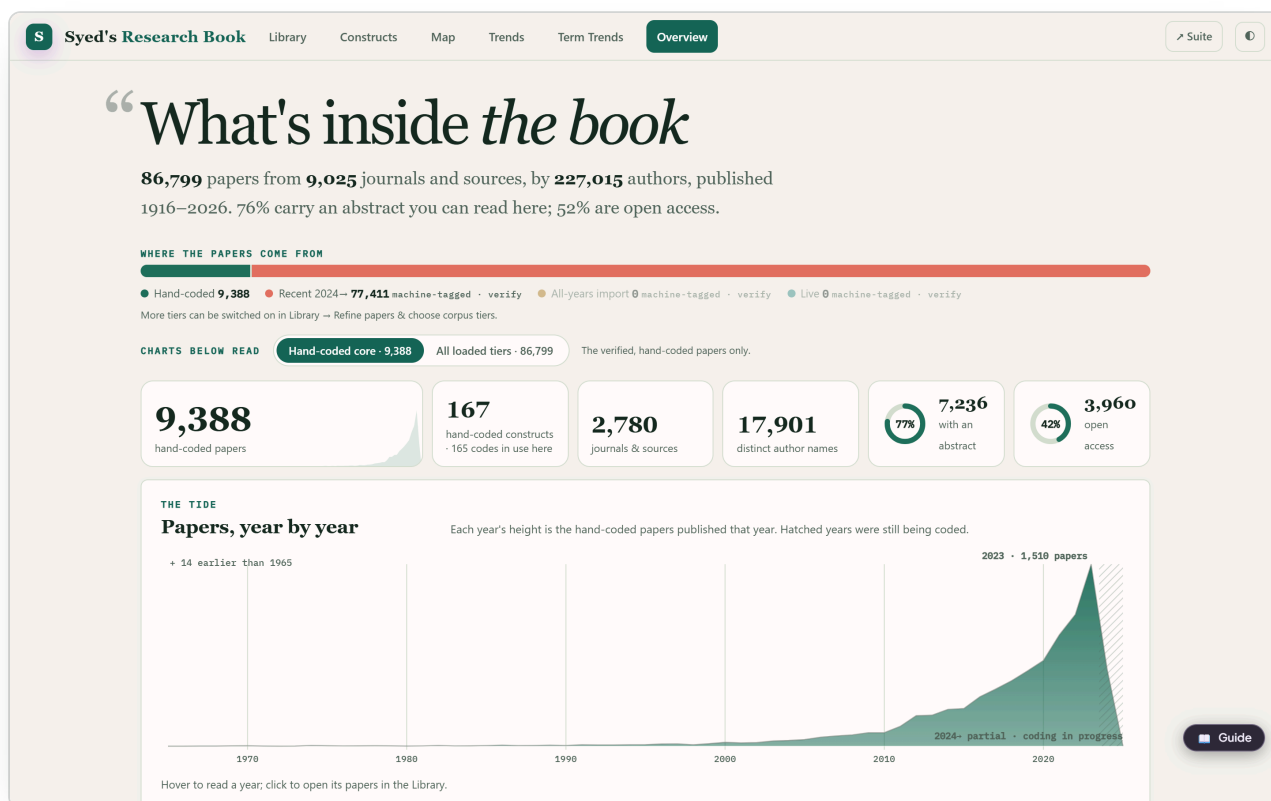


FIG 8.1 The Overview, hand-coded lens. Every number and mark is computed from the papers currently loaded.

WHERE THE RECORDS COME FROM

Journal ranks come from the Scopus source list and CiteScore quartiles ¹¹; DOI metadata is cross-checked against Crossref ¹². Repository and dataset deposits are removed from the recent tier by venue and by DOI registrant. Cite the paper, not the Book: open the record, follow its DOI and read the source.

Why it looks like this

The Book offers several pictures of the same counts because each answers a different question best ¹³. A node-link graph shows the overall web but is hard to read exactly; the Matrix gives the exact count for a chosen pair; the Heatmap orders constructs so that groups appear as blocks.

The Trends heatmap uses a single-hue scale, light to dark, so that darker always means more — rather than a rainbow, which has no inherent order ¹⁴. Exact values are always one click away, because colour and area are among the least accurate channels for reading quantities ¹⁵.

Glossary

Gap-spotting

Positioning a study by pointing to something not yet studied. Useful, but weak on its own: a gap is not a reason ¹.

Problematization

Positioning a study by questioning an assumption the literature takes for granted ².

Co-occurrence

Two constructs coded (or machine-matched) on the same paper. Counts, not effects: they say nothing about direction or strength.

Lift

Observed co-occurrence divided by what the two constructs' sizes alone would predict. Above 1: studied together more than chance; well below 1: rarely together.

Hand-coded tier

9,388 unique papers coded by hand to 167 constructs over 24 months and Scopus-graded. The verified core.

Recent tier

Real OpenAlex records from 2024 onward (77,411 after the October 2026 purge), machine-assigned constructs; badged [↑ recent](#) · [auto-fetched](#).

Imported corpus · 408

A cleaned lexicon of 408 constructs matched word-for-word in titles and abstracts of the recent and all-years management tiers. Machine-matched · [verify](#).

References

Every reference was resolved by its DOI against Crossref (or DataCite) and matched on first author and year before it could be cited — 15 sources in this volume. Verification date per entry is kept in `references/verified.json`.

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Version history & errata

This guidebook is version-controlled. Corrections are made in its source, the version number is raised, and the change is recorded here and in [CHANGELOG.md](#). Report an error with the page number and the version printed in the footer.

VERSION	DATE	CHANGES
2.0.5	2026–10–18	Series back to 13 volumes (Throughline CS dropped: a separate product, not one of the Lazy Research Lad sites): covers and title pages now read 'of 13'. Text and figures unchanged.
2.0.4	2026–10–18	Series grows to 14 volumes (ScholarScope, Cadence, FallacyScope and Throughline CS added): "of 14" on the cover and title page; content unchanged.
2.0.3	2026–10–18	Series grows to ten volumes: Volume 10 (BookScope) added, so covers and title pages now read 'of 10'. Text and figures unchanged.
2.0.2	2026–10–18	Suite renamed: Throughline is now Lazy Research Lad (series, titles and text). Screenshots unchanged.
2.0.1	2026–10–17	Light cover edition: paper-cloth cover with the volume's accent spine and the live figure as a plate, captured in light theme 17 October 2026.
2.0.0	2026–10–16	Rewritten as a research guide continuing the Volume 5 study: what a literature section must do, mapping the territory in the Library, co-occurrence and lift in the Matrix, reading counts as leads, trends, reviewer objections and a model positioning paragraph. Tool reference moved to the last chapter. New figures captured 16 October 2026; 6 new verified references.
1.1.0	2026–10–16	Overview chapter rewritten for the new Overview landscape (provenance ribbon, lens, tide, bedrock, canopy, voices, echo); three new figures.
1.0.0	2026–10–16	First edition. Figures captured 16 October 2026 from the full Vercel host, after the repository-deposit purge of 15–16 October.

Errata

No errata recorded for this version.