

# Is semanticscholar.org legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 90/100

semanticscholar.org

## Verdict

90

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

semanticscholar.org appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Safe for Login

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-13 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 65%.

What this site appears to be

Semantic Scholar is an AI-powered search and reading tool for scientific literature provided by the Allen Institute for AI. The page emphasizes search, API offerings for developers, and the Semantic Reader feature; it appears informational and research-focused.

## Evidence status and limitations

Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN

- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
- Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

## At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

|                           |                                                            |       |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Malware engines           | None flagged it<br>VirusTotal                              | CLEAR |
| Google Safe Browsing      | Not listed<br>Google                                       | CLEAR |
| Abuse reports on the host | 0 reports<br>AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count | NOTED |
| Domain age                | 12 years old<br>Registered history                         | CLEAR |
| Web archive               | Archived since 2015<br>5000 snapshots                      | CLEAR |
| Certificate               | Encrypted connection<br>Issued by Amazon RSA 2048 M01      | NOTED |

## The page as captured

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No screenshot is retained for this report.

## Key findings

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- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 2015.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.

## Full analysis

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### Overview

Semantic Scholar is an AI-powered academic search and reading platform presenting access to more than 237 million scientific papers, developer API services, and the Semantic Reader feature; its apparent business model is a free research tool supported by the Allen Institute for AI and potentially by paid developer services.

### Scam/Impersonation Risk

No blacklist, phishing, malware, brand-impersonation, or conflicting-identity signals were observed. The homepage presents a coherent academic-search purpose, and its sign-in function is not accompanied by hidden forms, external password submission, wallet activity, or cloaking. A limited behavioral anomaly involving external network activity and page changes was observed, but the absence of associated abuse mechanisms means it does not constitute an identity or impersonation contradiction. The site's apparent legitimacy is therefore supported by converging content, continuity, reputation, and technical signals, while the real-world operator identity remains independently unverified.

#### EVIDENCE

- The homepage is classified as an informational academic-search service and contains no reported red-flag content.
- Domain registration records show registration on 2014-09-05, with an age of 11.94 years, through Amazon Registrar, Inc.
- Web archives contain 5,000 snapshots from 2015-12-18 through 2022-11-26, covering 8 years of tracked activity.
- Behavioral testing recorded 2 successful runs, 29 external XHR requests, 4 non-whitelisted external XHR requests, 0 hidden forms, 0 external password forms, and 0 wallet-drainer runs.

### Regulatory Verification Notes

The site presents itself as an academic research service rather than a financial, investment, or other visibly regulated offering. The reviewed content does not make a licensing claim or provide a license number; this is a limited disclosure point requiring contextual verification, not evidence of a scam. The stated association with the Allen Institute for AI is an on-site claim and should not be treated as independently proven. Overall, the long registration history, sustained archival continuity, clean external reputation, established page authority, and valid transport security are consistent with an established website.

#### EVIDENCE

- The homepage describes a free AI-powered research tool, developer API, and academic reading service; no regulatory license claim is presented.
- The site is served from AS16509, Amazon.com, Inc.
- The transport certificate is issued by Amazon RSA 2048 M01, uses DV validation, and is valid through 2027-02-04.
- External checks recorded 0 malicious detections, 0 suspicious detections, and no blacklist finding.

#### What to Verify Next

Before credential or payment interactions, an enterprise user should independently confirm the site's relationship with the Allen Institute for AI through an institutional channel, review the applicable privacy, terms, and API-service documentation, and confirm any applicable commercial, refund, and payment-protection conditions. Account access should be limited to the intended official domain and authenticated through normal organizational controls.

#### EVIDENCE

- The homepage provides sign-in and free-account functions, making independent domain confirmation relevant before credential use.
- The homepage directs developers toward API onboarding, making review of the associated service terms relevant before commercial adoption.
- The reviewed content identifies the service purpose but does not independently establish the real-world operator identity.

#### Summary Verdict

Available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate website and supports a high-trust, low-risk posture for its stated academic-information purpose. The operator identity remains independently unverified, so the legitimacy assessment is evidence-consistent rather than proven.

#### Infrastructure Integrity

The observed endpoint is served through Amazon infrastructure, a conventional enterprise hosting environment that provides a modest mitigating signal against ad hoc infrastructure concerns. Hosting arrangements alone do not establish the operator's identity or legitimacy, and the supplied evidence does not support a separate conclusion about a dedicated WAF or exposed origin.

#### Closing Assessment

Ordinary use is proportionate to the assessed posture, but credentials or payments should follow independent merchant-identity, return-policy, and payment-protection checks.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-13 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

#### What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

## Identity verification

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Status                           | UNVERIFIED |
| Identity score                   | 30/100     |
| Identity verification confidence | 50%        |

- No on-site identity signals detected

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

## What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of semanticscholar.org.

- The request stayed on semanticscholar.org. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under Amazon Registrar, Inc.. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by awsdns-51.org, across 4 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2027-09-05. NOTED
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 2015-12-18. CLEAR
- It is hosted on AMAZON-02, from a server in US. NOTED

## Domain intelligence

|                    |                                                                                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Registrar          | Amazon Registrar, Inc.                                                                     |
| Hosting            | AMAZON-02 - Amazon.com, Inc., US                                                           |
| Country            | US                                                                                         |
| Server IP          | 2600:9000:278f:9000:6:4565:580:93a1                                                        |
| Name servers       | ns-1437.awsdns-51.org, ns-1772.awsdns-29.co.uk, ns-290.awsdns-36.com, ns-586.awsdns-09.net |
| SSL issuer         | Amazon RSA 2048 M01                                                                        |
| SSL expiry         | 2027-02-04                                                                                 |
| Domain age         | 11.94 years (continuous registration)                                                      |
| Domain expiry      | 2027-09-05                                                                                 |
| Archive first seen | 2015-12-18                                                                                 |
| Archive snapshots  | 5000                                                                                       |
| Reputation         | VirusTotal: 0 flagged   AbuseIPDB: 0 reports   Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches             |

## About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about semanticscholar.org at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent

with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

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**This report online:** <https://trustsniffer.com/report/semanticscholar.org> · assessed 2026-08-13