

How to Read a Scholarly Article

Do scholarly articles confuse you? You're not alone. Here's a tip: stop reading academic articles like you would your favorite novel from start to finish, and instead, navigate them strategically, recognizing which parts of the article are most important for your needs. Academic articles generally follow a predictable outline, which you can use to your advantage.

1. Read the Abstract

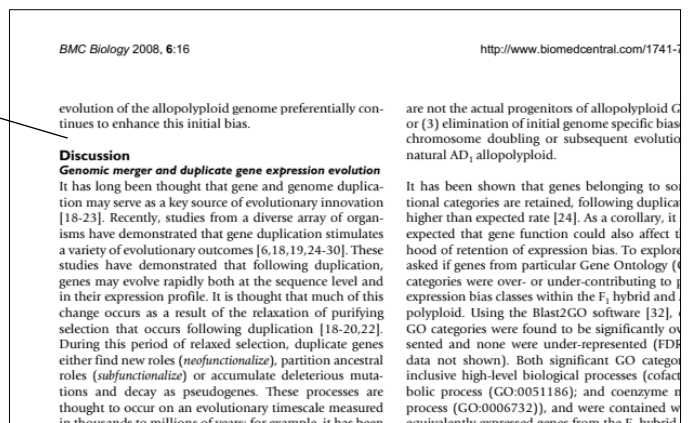
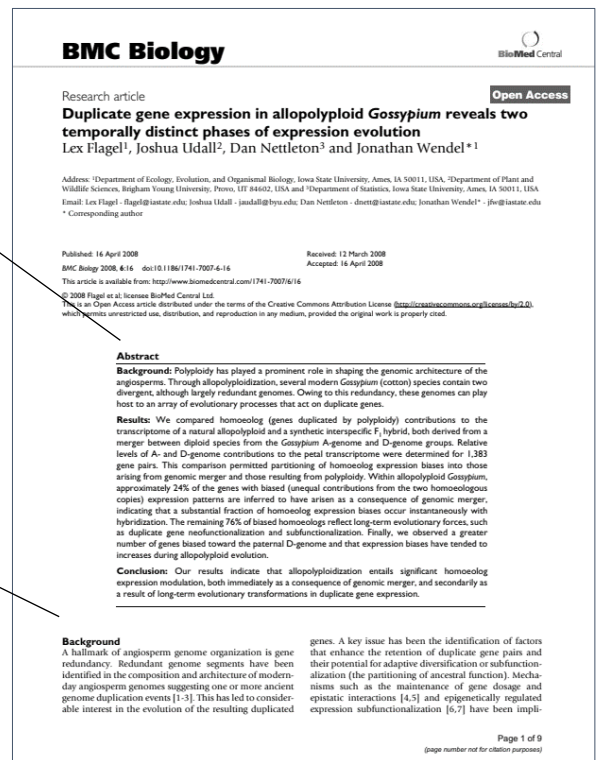
The abstract provides an overview of the paper, a synopsis of the main research question, and a summary of any major findings. Read this first to decide if the article will be useful to you.

2. Read the Introduction/Background

The introduction details the background and context for the research. Identify the research question and the researchers' hypothesis.

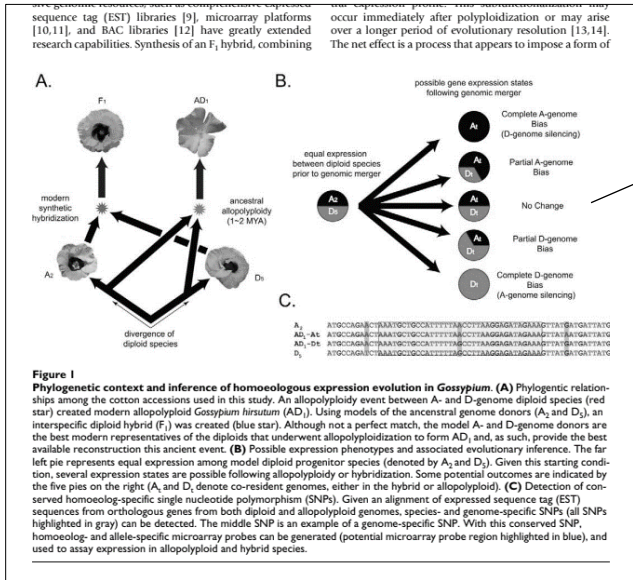
3. Read the Discussion/Conclusion

Skip down to the discussion section to read the findings of the research. Look for the significance and application of these findings, as well as any further research ideas proposed by the authors.



... genomic resources such as complementary expressed sequence tag (EST) libraries [9], microarray platforms [10,11], and BAC libraries [12] have greatly extended research capabilities. Synthesis of an F₁ hybrid, combining

... expression profiles that are common to both occur immediately after polyploidization or may arise over a longer period of evolutionary resolution [13,14]. The net effect is a process that appears to impose a form of



4. Look at Figures

Most research articles contain figures like graphs or charts, often accompanied by a short caption describing their contents. They may be helpful as they concisely display the research findings.

5. Skip the Methods

This section will explain the authors' experimental methods. You can skip it unless you need to know exactly how the experiment was performed or replicate it yourself.

stages. This finding [6,11] but differs from *Arabidopsis* [37]. In tissues from a synthetic *renosa* parent, with *maliana* parental content studied in *Gossypium*, that both species contribute to the transgressive biases can favor *Arabidopsis* only the dominance. These perhaps *ad hoc* nature

expression biases is inferred to have arisen from long-term evolutionary processes, thus implicating two temporally distinct phases of expression evolution following allopolyploidization.

Methods

Plant materials, experimental design, RNA isolation, and microarray preparation

Three replicate blocks of four *Gossypium* accessions (A₂ | D₃ | A₂♀ X D₃♂ F₁ | AD₁; Table 1) were grown in the Pohl Conservatory at Iowa State University, Ames, IA. These four accessions include representatives of both diploid progenitor genomes (A- and D-genomes) of natural allopolyploid cotton, their synthetic F₁ hybrid, and an allotetraploid, respectively [8] (Figure 1A). Petals from all

... as a reference measure of gives us the ability to discern silencing in both AD₁ silencing can be detected as an or equal to the A₂ diploid to the D₃ diploid parent. g, we were able to detect and F₁ accessions.

with Sequenom

... ults was performed for 13 is gene pairs using Sequenom following the method [42]. Aliquots of RNA hybridizations were analyzed to the transcrip-

References

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6. Check the Bibliography/References

Glance at the bibliography to see what articles and authors are cited. This is a great way to find more articles that are relevant to your research topic.