

# Free Internet Sources

(Google, Wikipedia, etc.)

## Advantages

- **Currency**—Up-to-date news from around the world
- **Convenience**—Accessible anywhere
- **Diversity of Information**—minority views are often given equal forum
- **Electronic Access**—Ability to download and edit text and images

## Disadvantages

- **Disorganized**—Conducting research often leads to nonproductive searches
- **No Standards**—No process to check information for accuracy
- **Transient**—Web addresses change; sites disappear
- **Limited archives**—Often only current information is available online
- **Costs**—Fees often charged for access to specialized information
- **Unplanned**—content often based on what is popular or profitable.



*Effective searching in Google*



## Learn how to use Google to find:

- Books
- Scholarly Articles

Google Scholar searches for scholarly materials such as peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and reports from many academic and technical fields. It is freely available to anyone searching the Internet; however, many of the links that lead to full-text resources are not.

### Benefits

- Worked with publishers to gain access to some material locked behind subscription barriers
- Coverage seems strongest in science & technology
- Relevant references listed by author, publication, & how many times cited at top of page
- Linked to Harold B. Lee Library InterLibrary Loan
- Searches full-text of articles
- Includes article citations
- Includes cites to older works and seminal articles not available online
- Usually includes an abstract or summary

### Disadvantages

- Free access to materials not guaranteed
- Definition of scholarly works not described
- Not necessarily peer-reviewed
- Cannot limit by author (entire name)
- Enable few refinement techniques
- May refer to variant editions such as preprints
- Number of citations listed may vary with edition that is included in Google Scholar

### Areas of Research Covered

Google Scholar searches a subset of Google and covers a wide range of academic content areas. Coverage appears to be strongest in science and technology, and weakest in the humanities. Google Scholar ranks and lists results according to how relevant they are to the search query. The most relevant references should theoretically appear at the top of the page.

### Adding Library Links to your Search

Click on the link for “Scholar Preferences”. There will be a box for Library Links. Type in the name of your library, and then click the “Find Library Button”. There will be a few options that appear under the box, check the correct one, and click “Save Preferences” at the bottom or top of the page.

Then when you perform your search there will be a link for the library. Clicking on it will send you to that library’s webpage.



### Advanced Scholar Search Tips

You can increase the accuracy and effectiveness of your searches on Google Scholar by adding "operators" that fine-tune your search terms. In some cases, you can add operators right in the Google Scholar search box; other times, you'll want to use the Advanced Scholar Search page.

### Scholar Help

Scholar Help will help you work through your search results, and how to formulate the best search for the results you are looking for.



With Google Book Search, you find your search term in the full-text of books. Some of the books will be available full-text. For others, check the HBLL site for availability.

### Browsing your results:

Clicking on a search result, you'll be able to see a variety of excerpts from the book.

- Full View: if the book is out of copyright or the publisher has given permission, you will be able to see the whole book.
- Limited Preview: if the publisher has provided the book through the Partner Program, you'll be able to see about 20% of the book.
- Snippet View: If the book is under copyright, you'll usually find the table of contents, index, and a few pages showing your search term in context.
- No preview available: for books where you are unable to see any of it, you will only see bibliographic information.

### Search within the book:

Once you find a title that interests you, you can search within the book. If you click on the title of the book, it will take you into a view mode. You can click on a certain part you want to view, or you can search within the book by typing in the search box at the bottom right hand corner of the page.

