

Google Scholar

What is Google Scholar?

Google Scholar is a subset of Google Web Search that specifically searches for scholarly literature, including articles, papers, theses, books and reports.

Does Himmelfarb offer a link to Google Scholar?

Yes, Google Scholar is available on the E-Databases/MEDLINE page. While on-campus or using the VPN for off-campus access, full-text links will automatically appear in your search. These links connect you to full-text electronic journals provided by Himmelfarb Library.

What are the advantages to using Google Scholar?

A Google Scholar search uses natural language. Your search is interdisciplinary, retrieving broad results. Each citation retrieved includes a "Cited by" reference which links to other articles that have used the retrieved article in its references.

What are the disadvantages to using Google Scholar?

The retrieval is organized by relevancy ranking rather than reverse chronology; older results may appear first. Citations do not import into any bibliographic software.

How does Google Scholar differ from MEDLINE?

MEDLINE citations are part of Google Scholar. Google Scholar also searches scholarly literature not found in MEDLINE such as journals not indexed in MEDLINE, theses, books and reports.

What is the best way to search Google Scholar?

Google Scholar can be searched using natural language, just as you would use in any Google Web Search. Since MEDLINE citations are included, consider using the scientific terms you would use in MEDLINE (ex. myocardial infarction instead of heart attack).

Google Scholar's Advanced Scholar Search feature will allow you to narrow your searches to the most relevant literature. Author, publication, title word and date range searches are part of the Advanced Scholar Search feature. For further information click Scholar Help.

What should I do if I am asked to pay for full text?

Google Scholar links to versions of papers and articles on publisher websites. If a publisher does not recognize GWU as a subscriber, these sites will ask you to buy a subscription or pay for article access. Don't pay commercial prices for articles! Check Himmelfarb Library's E-Journals page at <http://www.gwumc.edu/library/eresources/ejournal.cfm> for access options.

What should I do if full-text is not available?

If Himmelfarb Library does not have full-text or print access to a journal, interlibrary loan is often a less costly alternative to paying high publisher prices. Through interlibrary loan, Himmelfarb Library will locate and acquire the article for you for a standard fee. Use Documents2Go at <https://eleanor.gwumc.gwu.edu/illiad/illiad.dll> to place a request.

What subject areas does Google Scholar cover?

While Google Scholar is an interdisciplinary resource, its search capabilities and content are strongest in science and technology with new material being added in the social sciences and humanities. The Advanced Scholar Search page lists the categories of information currently available.

Can I trust the resources listed in my search?

As with any Internet resource, it is important to carefully assess each citation for its appropriateness and relevance to your search. Not all of the Google Scholar results can be considered “scholarly” in nature. Scholarly articles can be defined as those articles published in peer-reviewed journals and written by researchers, scholars or practitioners for others in their fields.

How should I interpret a citation retrieved on Google Scholar?

The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search interface. At the top, the Google Scholar logo is on the left, followed by a search box containing the text 'arthritis treatment' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search box are links for 'Advanced Scholar Search', 'Scholar Preferences', and 'Scholar Help'. Below the search bar, a green header bar displays 'Scholar' on the left and 'Results 1 - 10 of about 321,000 for arthritis treatment. (0.22 seconds)' on the right. The first search result is displayed with a green background for the title: 'The methotrexate therapeutic response in rheumatoid arthritis'. To the left of the title is a large number '1'. To the right of the title is a large number '3'. Below the title, the citation information is shown: '... , JF Fries, RA TREATMENT, T SEGMENT, L TREATMENT - J Rheumatol, 2002 - aramis.stanford.edu ... (J Rheumatol 2002;29:2084-91) Key Indexing Terms: METHOTREXATE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATMENT THERAPEUTIC SEGMENT LONGTERM TREATMENT ...'. Below this is a line of links: 'Cited by 8 - View as HTML - Web Search - jrheum.com - jrheum.com - ncbi.nlm.nih.gov - FindIt@GWU Libraries'. A large number '2' is positioned to the left of this line. Below the citation is another line of text: 'Rheumatoid arthritis: treatment which controls the C-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation ...'. Below this is another line of text: 'PT Dawes, PD Fowler, S Clarke, J Fisher, A Lawton, ... - Br J Rheumatol, 1986 - rheumatology.oupjournals.org ... ORIGINAL PAPERS. Rheumatoid arthritis: treatment which controls the C-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rate reduces radiological progression. ...'. Below this is another line of links: 'Cited by 21 - Web Search - jrheum.com - ncbi.nlm.nih.gov - FindIt@GWU Libraries'. A large number '5' is positioned to the left of this line, and a large number '4' is positioned to the right of this line.

1. **Title** – Links to article abstract, or if available on the web, the complete article.
2. **Cited By** – Identifies other papers that have cited the listed paper.
3. **Library Links** – Links to FindIt@GWU Libraries. Links appear automatically if you're on campus or using the VPN from home.
4. **Alternate Version** – Other versions of the article, possibly preliminary, which you may be able to access. Examples include preprints, abstracts, conference papers or other adaptations.
5. **Web Search** – Search for information about this paper on Google.

What should I do if the results of my search don't provide what I need?

Himmelfarb offers access to many article databases. Check with the Reference Desk to determine the most appropriate database for your research; the Reference Desk can be reached at 202-994-2850 or library@gwumc.edu

Does Google Scholar work with bibliographic management software?

Google Scholar does not work with bibliographic software like RefWorks or Endnote.

How can I get more help?

Search assistance is available at the Reference Desk. Stop at the desk, call 202-994-2853 or email library@gwumc.edu.

Citation: "Scholar Help" Retrieved from Google Scholar Nov. 23, 2005
<http://scholar.google.com/scholar/help.html>