



A. Googling for (Academic) Gold




Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)

Retrieves citations and (if you're lucky) full-text of peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, dissertations, and other scholarly resources.

Generally, EBSCO's *Academic Search Premier* is a better bet than Google Scholar for full-text journal articles. However, if you have not gotten good results from EBSCO (and have asked a librarian for help to be sure!) give Google Scholar a try – it does cover material not in EBSCO.

A few tips:

- Scholar may put very dated articles at the top of your results. Use the **Recent Articles** link to choose a cut-off date. 
- No time for interlibrary loan? Include “**free full text**” (with the quotation marks) in your search. NOTE: some publishers require users to register – for free – before letting you view the text. Look for this if the full text doesn't pop right up.
- Note the **all X versions** link – try them; one might have free text!
- Before requesting an article on Interlibrary Loan, please make sure it is not already full-text in EBSCO. If you don't know how to do this, just ask a librarian.



Google Books (books.google.com)

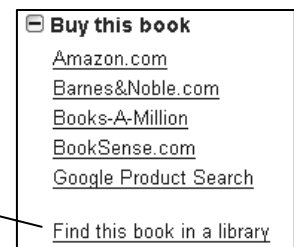
This is essentially a vast library catalog. Out-of-copyright books are often provided in full text.

For copyrighted material, the publisher decides whether to provide:

- Full view - the full text (rare, but it happens)
- Limited preview - a set of selected, scattered pages
- Snippet view – a sentence or two that occur around your search words
- No preview – information about the book only

Google is a commercial search engine, and will display prominent ads from bookstores to sell you the book. Notice the **Find this book in a library** link.

It will show you libraries that own the book listed nearest first – and will even tell you how many miles away it is. If we have it, it shows that, too!



Precision Searching in Google

Use these features to improve your “bait” when fishing in the Web’s ocean of information.

exact phrase	Use quotation marks: “assisted suicide” “war crimes” “light pollution”
site:	Specify a domain type: anthrax site:.gov adoption site:.org “animal rights” site:.edu
Intitle: / Allintitle:	the word(s) must appear in the webpage title allintitle: endangered species allintitle: iraq antiquities theft
Related Terms (~)	~islam ~finance
OR	indigenous people australia OR “new zealand”
NOT (-)	“martin luther” -king
Define:	Retrieves definitions from free web dictionaries define:postmodern define:synchronicity
Calculator	Type in something that Google recognizes as a calculation or conversion: 1.5 meters in inches 8531*12 1000 yen in dollars

B. Beyond Google: Academic Search Engines

These search only websites that have already been evaluated and found useful by academics or librarians. For many topics, they’ll take you straight to high-quality information. Give them a try!



www.intute.ac.uk



www.lii.org



infomine.ucr.edu

C. Wikipedia – start (but don’t stop!) here



Wikipedia is an “open-access encyclopedia” – it is open to the general public to write articles and edit existing articles. It is not authoritative (this is basically self-published information, and the authors’ qualifications, if given at all, are very hard to track down). Wikipedia is therefore **not** generally a source that should be cited in college-level work.

That said, a Wikipedia article will often give useful background information and lead you quickly to further sources more appropriate for citing in a term paper – follow the references and links!