**Google Scholar**

Google Scholar is the scholarly literature database provided by the Google Incorporation. It provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites. Google Scholar helps you find relevant work across the world of scholarly research.

**Features of Google Scholar**

* Search all scholarly literature from one convenient place
* Explore related works, citations, authors, and publications
* Locate the complete document through your library or on the web
* Keep up with recent developments in any area of research
* Check who's citing your publications, create a public author profile

**Searching Google Scholar**

Google Scholar search results usually exclude popular media content like magazine, newspaper and Internet articles. Some articles in search results may not be peer-reviewed, may not be full-text, and some articles may require payment before you can view the full-text.

Google scholar provides both basic and advanced search options. The advanced search option gives you more control over factors like publication date, author name(s), search terms and phrases, and words to exclude from search results.

**Search Tips**

**Re-arrange search terms for different results**: In Google, word order affects search results. Changing “*India 2015 drunk driving deaths*” to “*drunk driving deaths 2015 India*” will alter the number of results and order of results.

**Eliminate useless or unwanted results with a minus sign**: A search for “*communication disorders india”* turned up many results that included hearing disorders. Changing the search to “*communication disorders india -hearing”* eliminates the unwanted material from search results.

**Limit results by file type:** Included a file type limit in the search statement to limit results to one type of media file; try “*filetype:pdf*”, “*filetype:ppt*”, etc.

**Use AND to search within search results**: If the initial search statement turns up too many results or seems imprecise, enclose the original search statement in brackets, then add AND along with an additional search term or phrase in quotes; *"drunk driving united states teenagers”* is revised to *(“drunk driving" "united states" teenagers) AND “annual fatalities”*

**Advantages of Google Scholar**

1. Google Scholar is familiar and relatively simple to use, much like Google.
2. Google Scholar allows users to search for a find a wide variety of materials including articles, books, "grey literature" like conference proceedings on a vast number of topics.
3. Google Scholar allows for you to see articles related to the one that might interest you, how many times an article has been cited and by whom, and provides citations for articles in a number of styles.
4. Google Scholar can display links to articles and books held through ECU Libraries.
5. Google Scholar allows you to save both citations and articles to read later.

**Disadvantages of Google Scholar**

1. Google Scholar's coverage is wide-ranging but not comprehensive. It can be a research source, but should not be the only source you use.
2. Google Scholar does not provide the criteria for what makes its results "scholarly". Results are often vary in quality and it is up to the researcher to determine which of the results are suitable for their purposes.
3. Google Scholar does not allow users to limit results to either peer reviewed or full text materials or by discipline.
4. Google Scholar does not provide notice of when its materials are updated.
5. Google Scholar's citation tracker can be difficult to use and inaccurate