**Google Scholar**

Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com) is a version of Google which only searches scholarly information such as articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and similar web sites. Since its launch in 2004, Google Scholar has firmly established itself as a critical resource for those conducting academic research.

The major features of the Google Scholar are listed below.

1. **Ranking by Relevance**: Google Scholar uses computer algorithms to choose which results to display and how to rank them. There is no information on how articles are weighted or how relevancy is determined.
2. **Subject Coverage**: It is more complete in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and medicine) literature. It is also fairly comprehensive in the Social Sciences (such as Education and Counselling). But has the fewest indexed articles in the Humanities, including Religion and Biblical Studies.
3. **Content Types**: It is very good at locating official reports and other grey literature, which are often hard to track down using other methods.
4. Bibliography Manager: If the researcher is using bibliographic management software (e.g. EndNote, Reference Manager, RefWorks), he can export results from Google Scholar in a recognised format, which will help him keep track of results.
5. Searching: The google scholar facilitates both basic and advanced.
6. Refine search results: The search results can be refined by choosing whether to exclude patents, restricting the results to items published since a certain year, or a range of dates, and to include citations.
7. Cited by: This facility allows the searcher to find other articles which have cited the articles in the given search results. Search can also be done within articles citing the paper that you select.
8. Related Articles: This facilitates searches for articles which are on a similar theme. This can be useful if the searcher finds an article which looks very relevant to his search.
9. All … versions: Google Scholar groups all the versions of a particular research paper that are available on the web, such as conference paper, or preprint.
10. Cite: This facility allows the searcher to add citation of the article to a bibliographic software of choice.
11. My Library: The searcher can create a personal library on the Google Scholar which allows to save the reference. A google account is necessary to use this service. Once created, the google account can be used across all the google products such as gmail, youtube and chrome. If you use Google Scholar often, the My Library feature is a great way to keep track of important research and access it any time you're online.
12. Advanced Search Features: In common with most databases, Google Scholar has advanced search features. A searcher can use them to narrow or expand search, which will improve the results. The advanced search option allows to find articles with all of the words, with the exact phrase, with at least one of the words, and without the words in the search query. In addition, it allows to search for keywords anywhere in the article or in the title of the article and to to search by authors, journal, and date.
13. Alerting: Google Scholar has an alert option. This will email the searcher whenever new results are found for the research. The searcher need not have a Google account to use the service.
14. Linking with Institutional Resources: This facility permits the Institutions to link their subscribed resources as part of Google Scholar search results.
15. Scholarly Coverage: The Google Scholar covers academic papers from sensible websites. Untitled documents and documents without authors are usually not included. Also, websites that require to sign up for an account, install a browser plugin etc. are not included.
16. My Citations: This facility provides a simple way for authors to keep track of citations to their articles. They can check who is citing their publications, graph citations over time, and compute several citation metrics.
17. Locating Incomplete citation: The google scholar serves as a useful resource to identify articles where only a partial or incomplete citation has been found.
18. Free Resource: Perhaps the best elements of Google Scholar are those inherent to its mission and purpose: the product is free, and it provides researchers with a way to search for academic citations. As is the case with many Open Access publications, Google Scholar can also help researchers find items that are freely available in full text. Google Scholar requires no login and can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection.
19. Ambiguous Information on coverage and size: The Google Company is not providing information about the actual size and coverage of Google Scholar. Google don’t say specifically how they select which material is scholarly. There is no authoritative information on potential overlap between Google Scholar, Google Books, and regular Google.
20. Lack of Controlled Vocabulary: Complete lack of controlled vocabulary frustrate experienced searchers and result in noisy searches that are almost impossible to narrow down.
21. Incompatibility with Standard Database Search Options: The lack of a controlled vocabulary along with unpredictable handling of Boolean operators, and incompatibility with standard database search options such as word truncation are challenges for more experienced researchers.
22. Numerical Errors: The google scholar provides search results are with a lot of numerical errors.
23. Coverage Confusion: Google Scholar’s coverage of Open Access and scientific and medical literature was fairly strong, but it is much weaker in other academic areas, including the social sciences, humanities, and business.
24. Shortfall in Indexing: There are lengthy delays between an article’s publication and its indexing in Google Scholar. It also tends to include more recent literature rather than pre-1990 literature because this older literature has often never been digitized and put on the web. Also, Google Scholar does not index entire journals or replicate entire databases. It indexes individual articles, particularly ones that have a dedicated web page for individual articles. So there are many journals for which there is no coverage or incomplete coverage.
25. **Limited Search Options**: With a Google Scholar search you cannot: a. search by peer review b. sort/search by disciplinary field c. limit search results in as many ways as you can with our subscription databases (only articles, only books, only full-text, etc.)

In short, the Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.co.uk) is intended as a complementary, rather than as an alternative resource to the subscription databases and e-journals available

**Advantages**

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

**Assignments**

1. Select a topic of interest and formulate different search strategies and statements using the following tools/techniques.
2. Truncation
3. Wild card
4. Phrase searching
5. Boolean logic
6. Select a topic of interest and create an alert in Google scholar
7. Create a profile in Google Scholar