

# Use Google Scholar to Search the Internet for Scholarly Materials Only

The search engine Google has just released a new version, Google Scholar, which only gives results considered to be scholarly. This tool can be of great help to start your research by pointing you towards scholarly sources for your research papers. It can be found at <http://scholar.google.com/>

**However, most of the Google Scholar results will not be available in full-text for free on the internet.** Most results will be a citation with an abstract of the article. To see the full-text, you will be asked to buy a subscription to the journal or website, or to purchase the individual article.

**Fortunately, you will be able to find some, but not all, of the full-text articles in Cambridge College Online Library (CCOL).** The CCOL provides hundreds of thousands of full-text scholarly articles and books, available to you for free as a registered Cambridge College student (or employee).

Use Google Scholar to identify articles you want to read, but if they aren't in full-text online, search the Cambridge College Online Library to see if the full-text is available there. If the full-text is not in the CCOL, you can use the WorldCat database to see which library near where you live has the article in print form.

Here is an example of a search that started with Google Scholar, then went to the CCOL to find the full-text of the article:

- I put the term "parent involvement" into the Google Scholar search box
- The third result looked good, because it was on my topic and it was in a scholarly journal, American Journal of Public Health. Here's how the Google Scholar result looked:

[Parent involvement with children's health promotion: the Minnesota Home Team](#)

CL Perry, RV Luepker, DM Murray, C Kurth, R Mullis ... - [Cited by 35](#)

... Public Health Association. JOURNAL ARTICLE. **Parent involvement** with children's health promotion: the Minnesota Home Team. CL Perry, RV ...

[Am J Public Health, 1988 - ajph.org - ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](#)

- I clicked on that result and got a complete citation with an abstract
- I wanted to read the whole article, but it was not available in full-text on the public internet
- I copied and pasted the citation into a Word document, so it would be handy
- I went to the Cambridge College Online Library, opened the Research Databases page, opened Wilson Select Plus database, copied and pasted the title into the Title box, and did a search. It was not in Wilson Select Plus
- I closed Wilson Select Plus and opened EBSCOHost. On the Choose Databases page, I kept Academic Search Premier checked, and also checked Health Source; MEDLINE; PsycInfo; and PsycArticles, in order to search all possible places that an article about both education and health might be found. I clicked "Continue" to get to the search box
- I copied and pasted the title of the article into the search box
- **I was very happy because the full-text of the article was available in EBSCOHost!**
- If the full-text of the article had not been available, but the citation had appeared, I would have clicked "Check Local Libraries." The result would show that the print version of the *American Journal of Public Health* is in several libraries which are open to the public and near my home (results vary according to where you live!)
- If there had not been a citation for the article in EBSCOHost or Wilson Select Plus, I would have gone back to the Research Databases page, clicked WorldCat, put the name of the journal (not the article title or author!) into the Title search box, and received a list of local libraries that have the journal in print form
  - Note: If it is in a local library, make sure they have the issue you need. Be sure to call the library to find out if and when it is open to the public, and what identification you will need to use the library

**When using Google Scholar, be sure to click “About Google Scholar” and read the complete FAQs. Here are the FAQs most relevant to Cambridge College students. As you can see, they advise you to check your library’s collection to find full-text:**

**What are some of the results marked [citation] and why can't I click on them?**

These are articles that we have seen references to in other scholarly articles, but we haven't found the actual document online. A large fraction of scholarly literature is still offline, and until these papers are available online, citation-only results help researchers find as much relevant information as possible.

**Do you include books?**

Indeed we do. You'll receive a book result when a document that we've scanned references a book. You can use Library Search to locate a library near you that has the book, or Web Search to find online stores where you can buy it.

**What version of an article will I be able to read?**

It depends on the source of the version you select and your relationship with its owner. You should be able to see the full text of articles from open access journals and preprint repositories, as well as preprints on the web. **For others, you should be able to get access to the full text if you or an institution you belong to has a subscription for the content.** Regardless of the source, you should be able to see an abstract for any article, with the exception of those that are offline and referenced in citations only...

**Why do I get an HTML abstract when I click on a result labeled [PDF]?**

You may need to be a subscriber or to access the article from a specific location (e.g., a university library) to read the full text on the publisher's site. You may see information on the abstract page about purchasing the content (or a link to such information). Google does not receive compensation if you decide to buy a subscription to a journal or access to a particular article.

**Is there any way I can read the full text without being a subscriber?**

Check a nearby academic library, which will likely have a copy. For books, click on "Library Search" next to the title to find a library near you that has a copy of the work in question (this service is provided courtesy of OCLC). **(Note to Cambridge College students: this is the same as our WorldCat search.)**

**What I meant was, "can't I read the full text online without subscription"?**

Well, maybe. Preprints, early drafts, and other versions of the article may be available online without a subscription. We often provide links to several versions, but beware: preprints may undergo significant revision before publication and you may be referring to a document that has been substantially modified.

**How do I cite articles I find in Google Scholar?**

Cite them the same way you would normally cite a scholarly article...

Google FAQs are copyright by Google, 2004

This handout was compiled by Maida Tilchen, Project Manager for Library Services © Cambridge College, 2006