Google Scholar

Google Scholar is a web search engine that searches specifically for academic journals and books, conference papers, theses and dissertations, technical reports, and court opinions and patents. It is NOT a library database, meaning that search results may be less precise and links to full-text access sometimes require a fee or subscription. Nevertheless, this resource can be beneficial for searching a wide range of subjects at once and tracking the scholarly conversation around an article or topic.

Connecting to UMM FindIt

Before searching Google Scholar, it’s a good idea to set your preferences to connect to the UMM FindIt button. Doing so will allow you to access articles through the Briggs Library’s databases.

You can change your settings by clicking on Setting near the top of the page. Then, click on Library Links, which will be either on the left side or top of the page depending on which Internet browser you’re using.

Search for “University of Minnesota, Morris” in the search bar and check “University of Minnesota, Morris - FindIt@UMM” from the results. If you are using a UMM computer or the UMM wireless, this option will already have been selected. Then, click Save. Now search results that are not freely accessible will include a FindIt@UMM button.

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Search Tips

Searching Google Scholar is similar to searching Google. Use the basic search box on the homepage to search for the author, title of a paper or a keyword within the text of the paper.

Like Google, Google Scholar casts a wide net when searching which often means you will need to make your search more specific. Using the advanced search feature is the easiest way to narrow your results. You can go to the advanced search page by clicking on the arrow on the right end of the basic search box.
All searches are not case sensitive, meaning that keywords may be entered in upper or lowercase. The Boolean operator AND is automatically assumed for any search with more than one keyword, though the word order generally determines its importance in the results (e.g., the first word ranks higher than the second, etc.).

To make your search more efficient, you can use the following operators in either the advanced or basic search bars.

<table>
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<th>Operator</th>
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| “ “ (quotation marks) | Searches for words between the quote marks exactly as they appear.  
Example: “information literacy” |
| - (minus sign)      | Excludes all results that include a particular term.  
Example: library - school |
| OR                | Searches for all the search terms listed. The more terms listed the more results you get.  
Example: information OR literacy OR media |
| ~ (tilde)         | Searches for the word as well as its synonyms and alternative endings.  
Example: ~child returns child, children, kids |
| * (asterisk)      | Fills in the blank if an intervening word is unknown.  
Example: Martin * King |
| Nesting ()        | Groups similar terms together for better search results.  
Example: “information literacy” AND (college OR university) |
| intitle:          | Limits your search to specific words in the result title.  
Example: intitle:Shakespeare |
| allintitle:       | Searches for multiple words in the result title.  
Example: allintitle:Romeo Juliet |
| allintext:        | Returns results where all of the words appear in the text.  
This is different from the basic search, which will return results where only a portion of the words appear.  
Example: allintext: rising sea levels |
Search Results

After searching, limiters on the left side of the page allow you to further refine your results. Because Google Scholar's search options aren't as robust as in a database, these limiters are primarily focused on article type and publication date.

Inactive results marked [citation] are articles which other scholarly articles have referred to, but which Google Scholar has not found online. If full text is freely accessible, there will be a link to the right of the search result's title. Depending on what Internet browser you are using, the FindIt@ UMM link is available either to the right or below the search result's title.

Under the search result's title are additional options to help you in your research. **Cited by** shows a list of works that have cited the item. Many databases, such as Web of Science and Scopus, also have this feature, and Google Scholar will sometimes include links to them as well. **Related articles** directs you to articles on the same or a similar topic.