

A quick and easy way to look for scholarly publications - especially in the early stages of your research process - is to use Google Scholar. It's a good complement to the more specialized library databases although it doesn't replace them. This tutorial will cover the basic search process and the "library links" setting.

You can get to Google Scholar by going directly to scholar.google.com or you can get there coming in through the library's database page. From this page click on "G", scroll through the list until you see Google Scholar, and click on that link.

Let's start by conducting a basic search using the topic "herbicides in groundwater". The results page looks a little different from the standard Google search. You see a list of sources which can include journal articles, books, case-law, charts, etc.

Each result has a title, a list of authors, partial citation information, and an extract with your search terms highlighted. There is also some valuable information at the end such as the number of times an article was cited in other publications, and a link to related articles. On the left side you can limit the results by date, or sort by relevance or by date, and you have the option of including or excluding patents and citations. On the right side you have links which generally lead you to the full text of an article in either HTML or PDF format. Clicking on a title will take you to that article page where, depending on the publisher and subscription, you may have access to the full-text. Look for the PDF icon or scroll down past the abstract to see if the full text is there in the browser.

A more direct way to reach the full text is to use these HTML/PDF links. Clicking on HTML takes you to the article page in the browser where the full text is available as we saw in the previous case. Clicking on a PDF link opens the file in a browser and you have the options of reading it there, or downloading it to your desktop or other location, or printing a copy.

For those articles which do not have a PDF or HTML option, select the "Get It" link. Oftentimes this will get you to the article page with full-text access. But when no full text is available use the: "Request a copy through Interlibrary Loan" link. Use this service whenever you come across an article that's not available or is requesting payment. Do not pay for articles! Your course fees already provide you with extensive library services.

If you are not seeing the "Get It" link you may need to check the "library links" setting. Configuring this setting allows Google Scholar to check for license access to articles and includes links in the results list. To check the settings go to the collapsed menu and click on settings. Next, click on "library links". If you do not see any check boxes do a search for University of Delaware. Check the appropriate boxes. Also search for WorldCat, and check that box as well. This will bring in results from the library catalog. These then are the correct settings to get links to the library resources into the Google Scholar results list.

If at any point in the process you run into trouble please feel free to reach out to the library for support.