

INTRODUCTION TO GOOGLE SCHOLAR

<http://scholar.google.com>

WHAT IS GOOGLE SCHOLAR?

Google Scholar provides a broad Web search for scholarly literature including “peer reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations.”

DOES GOOGLE SCHOLAR SEARCH WITHIN ALL BOOKS AND ARTICLES PUBLISHED?

No. Google receives permission from journal publishers to index journal articles. Not all publishers participate. The books indexed by Google Scholar are either citations-only or those scanned in [Google Book Search](#).

CAN I READ THE FULL TEXT OF ALL BOOKS AND ARTICLES FOUND IN GOOGLE SCHOLAR?

No. Many of the books and articles indexed in Google Scholar are not in the public domain (without copyright restriction) and are not available to read free online. Also, many of the sources indexed in Google Scholar have not been digitized at all.

UAB students, faculty, and staff have online access to many of the articles indexed by Google Scholar because the UAB libraries subscribe to databases and electronic journals in which the articles are published.

WHEN SHOULD I USE GOOGLE SCHOLAR?

Use Google Scholar for a quick search to find a few articles on a topic, for searching scholarly journals across multiple subject areas, or for searching for information in the full text of journals articles, books, and other scholarly publications. Google Scholar also includes a **Cited by** feature that can be helpful in identifying relevant publications that have cited an article of interest.

The Google Scholar [Help](#) page has tips for searching and understanding results.

WHEN SHOULDN'T I USE GOOGLE SCHOLAR?

As an “I can’t find anything on my topic” excuse - Google Scholar does not cover everything ever published. Check the Sterne Library [local catalog](#) and [databases](#) for a more comprehensive search. Also, [contact a librarian](#) with questions about database searching or assistance with developing a research strategy.

HOW DO I LOCATE THE BOOKS INDEXED IN GOOGLE SCHOLAR?

Choose the **Library Search** link which appears under the citations for books. This searches library holdings in WorldCat.org, including holdings for Sterne Library.

If you don't see the **Library Search** option under the books listed in your Google Scholar results, complete the following steps:

1. Choose the **Scholar Preferences** link to the right of the Google Scholar **Search** button.
2. In the **Library Links** section, enter `worldcat` and choose the **Find Library** button.
3. Check the box for **Open WorldCat - Library Search**.
4. Choose **Save Preferences** from the top or bottom right of the page.

Some books indexed in Google Scholar are available online through Google Book Search. These online books have hyperlinked titles and are labeled **books.google.com**.

HOW DO I SET UP GOOGLE SCHOLAR FOR ONLINE ACCESS TO ARTICLES AVAILABLE THROUGH UAB LIBRARIES? (THESE STEPS ARE NOT NECESSARY FOR ON-CAMPUS COMPUTERS.)

1. Choose the **Scholar Preferences** link to the right of the Google Scholar **Search** button.
2. In the **Library Links** section, enter `university alabama birmingham` and choose **Find Library**.
3. Check the boxes for **University of Alabama at Birmingham – Find It @ UAB Sterne Lib.** AND **University of Alabama at Birmingham, Lister Hill Library – Find it@UAB Lister Hill**
4. Choose **Save Preferences** from the top or bottom right of the page.
5. After you search Google Scholar, choose **Find It @ UAB Sterne Lib.** OR **Find it@UAB Lister Hill** to connect to full text of articles in databases and electronic journals available through both libraries.

If you cannot retrieve the full text of a source listed in Google Scholar search results, don't forget to check the catalogs at [Sterne Library](#) and [Lister Hill Library](#) for journals or other publications that the libraries may have in print.

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