Google Scholar Tips

Google Scholar, as you know, is a great resource for scholarly articles. But have you ever found the perfect article and were asked to pay for it or couldn't access it? Or just couldn't find what you wanted? Here are a few tips that will help you get better results when searching Google Scholar.

Accessing sources

It can function as a back door into the Laurier Library catalogue and databases. To make this work, first go to your settings, choose "library links," type in Laurier, hit "search," and save the setting. You only need to do this once for Laurier to be saved. "Now the GetIt@Laurier" link will appear whenever Laurier has subscribed to a journal. This link gives you free access to articles otherwise unavailable to you.

But what happens if an article has no "Get It" button and you can't access it? Click on the "versions" link to see if there is a one that is open source or otherwise freely available.

Searching by title

Sometimes searches produce numerous results but not enough that are really pertinent to your topic. By default, Google Scholar searches every word in your sources. But you can change this. Go to advanced settings, and search within titles. This strategy that can produce more targeted results.

Finding related articles

Are you still having trouble finding enough good sources? If you find one good article, click on the "related articles" link to find more sources like it.

Finding current articles

Are the articles that you find dated? Clicking on "cited by" link will retrieve more current articles. You can also narrow down your results by date ranges. And note that if there are citations to your article in Web of Science they will show up here.

Citing

Do you need to cite an article? Google Scholar provides a handy quotations icon that links to an already formatted citation that you can copy and paste to your bibliography. It is always a good idea to proofread it for errors.

And keep in mind that not everything in Google Scholar is peer-reviewed.

Getting assistance

If you have any questions, just ask us at library.wlu.ca/help/askus.