

Google and Google Scholar

Google



www.google.co.uk

Google is one of the largest search engines. A search engine automatically finds, stores and indexes websites using computer software. Google indexes billions of websites.

Although Google is large, it does not cover all of the Web, and it selectively indexes the sites that it does cover. It is not usually a good idea to rely on Google exclusively when you are searching for information. There is no filter for quality of information.

Google searches a range of types of website, including academic and educational sites, commercial and organisation sites, personal web pages, news sites, other databases or catalogues, etc. It ranks the results that you get, trying to put the best sites that match your search terms at the top of the results list.

Google Scholar



scholar.google.co.uk

Google Scholar aims to find results from 'scholarly', or academic sources. This can help to focus your search, or can be useful if you are searching for peer-reviewed material, for your course work or dissertation. Results may include journal articles, papers, theses, books, abstracts, etc.

The full-text may be available directly via Google Scholar, or you may need to find the full-text documents elsewhere. Google Scholar does not currently provide information on what is included, or not included, in its database.

Google – the basics...

An example of a search for information on whether HIV positive mothers in Kenya should be advised to breastfeed.

Choose some search terms that describe your main concepts and type them into the box and click on search, e.g.

breastfeeding hiv transmission Africa

Try not to type in terms that are too general. Google is a very large search engine and you will get a lot of results.

The image shows a Google search interface with the search term "breastfeeding hiv transmission africa" entered in the search bar. The search results page displays "About 202,000 results (0.43 seconds)". A box on the left points to the result count, stating "202,000 webpages found". The search results are ranked, with the most relevant at the top. A box on the right points to the top results, stating "Results are ranked – Google tries to put the most relevant at the top of the list." The first result is "Scholarly articles for breastfeeding hiv transmission africa" with a URL "www.southafricanjournalofnursing.com". A box on the right points to the URL, stating "The web address (or URL) can give you clues about the nature of a web page." The second result is "WHO | Breast is always best, even for HIV-positive mothers" with a URL "www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/1/10-030110/en/". A box on the right points to the title, stating "Click on a title to go to that web page." The third result is "Pregnancy, childbirth & breastfeeding and HIV | AVERT" with a URL "www.avert.org/hiv-transmission.../pregnancy-childbirth-breastfeeding". The fourth result is "HIV & AIDS Information :: Mother-to-child transmission ..." with a URL "www.aidsmap.com/Breastfeeding/page/1321393/".

You may want to refine your search by using [Google's Advanced Search page](#).

Some features of Google that can help you to get better results...

OR – searching for similar words or synonyms

You can use the word 'OR' to search for web pages that include any of the words, e.g. **vaccines OR immunisations**

Automatic stemming – searching for variants of a word

Google will automatically look for similar words to the ones that you have typed in, e.g. typing the word **vaccines** will also find results that contain the word **vaccinations** or **vaccination**.

Alternative spellings

Google may suggest alternative spellings for the words that you have typed.

Searching for a phrase

If you want to use an exact phrase, you can enclose it in quotation marks, e.g. **“millennium development goals”**

Excluding a word

You can use '-' to exclude a word, e.g. **Gulf States –United States** (if you are wanting to search for the Persian Gulf States)

Numerical ranges

You can use '...' to search for a range of numbers (can be used to search for date ranges, although not very accurately). e.g. 2012...2020

Searching within a particular web site

You can type 'site:' to search a particular site, e.g. **disability site:www.who.int** to search for disability information on the World Health Organization (WHO) website

(Warning – Google selectively indexes web sites. If you use this option, you may not actually be searching the whole web site.

Finding how many other websites link to a particular site

You can type 'link:' to find out how many other websites have linked to the site you are looking at, e.g. **link: www.who.int** shows that around 3,720 million sites link to the WHO site.

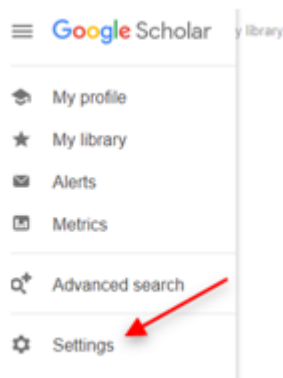
This can indicate how important the site is (although a large number of links doesn't guarantee the quality of the site - it could contain controversial information, for example).

Google Scholar

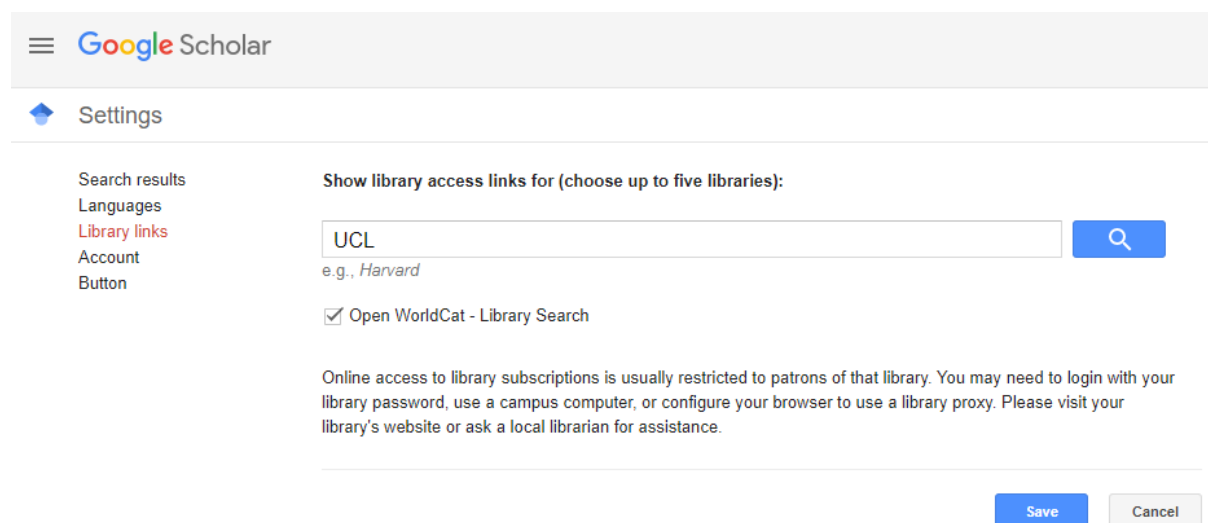
Google Scholar can be searched in a similar way to Google.

You can set up Google Scholar to link through to all the online resources that are paid for by UCL Library Services:

Click on the **Settings icon** at the top left-hand side of the screen and then from the drop down menu, click on **Settings**



Click on the **Library links** tab and search for UCL. Tick the check box next to UCL (University College London).



Then, once you have run a search in Google Scholar, click on the **findit@UCL** link next to each search result, to access online resources paid for by UCL Library Services, or to find the printed publication in one of UCL's libraries.

Click on the title to get brief details of the article, or other work, (often including an abstract). You **may** also be able to get to the full-text from the 'brief details' page by clicking on a link to 'full text' or 'PDF'.

The screenshot below shows the search that was previously run in Google.



[HTML] **Breastfeeding and HIV: experiences from a decade of prevention of postnatal HIV transmission in sub-Saharan Africa**
KMI Moland, MM De Paoli, DW Sellen... - 2010 - internationalbreastfeedingjournal ...
Infant feeding by HIV-infected mothers has been a major global public health dilemma and a highly controversial matter. The controversy is reflected in the different sets of WHO infant feeding guidelines that have been issued over the last two decades. This thematic ...
☆ ⓘ Cited by 53 Related articles All 20 versions ⓘ

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findit@UCL](http://biomedcentral.com/findit@UCL)

- Click Cited by for a list of articles, or other works, that have cited this article.
- Click Related articles to search for other articles on a similar subject.
- Click **findit@UCL** to find out whether you have full text online access, or to check print holdings in the UCL or other library.

Advanced Search

To access the **Advanced search** option in Google Scholar

- Click the menu option (three horizontal lines) in the top left hand corner of the screen
- Then click **Advanced search**. A separate window will appear displaying the advanced search options.

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Advanced search
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Find articles

with **all** of the words

with the **exact phrase**

with **at least one** of the words

without the words

where my words occur

anywhere in the article

in the title of the article

Return articles **authored by**
e.g., "PJ Hayes" or McCarthy

Return articles **published in**
e.g., J Biol Chem or Nature

Return articles **dated between** —
e.g., 1996

Further information

For more information, support or training on Google or Google Scholar, please contact the [GOS ICH Library](mailto:ich.library@ucl.ac.uk) at ich.library@ucl.ac.uk.

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ich.library@ucl.ac.uk

www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library