

Many people use Google Scholar as a way to find scholarly sources. So it's good to know a few tips for searching it, because it doesn't work the same way as library databases, or even Google.com.

First, you should know that Google Scholar indexes most but not all peer-reviewed online academic journals & books. It also indexes conference papers, theses & dissertations, preprints, abstracts, technical reports, court opinions, and patents.

Google doesn't publish a list of journals they index, but one study estimates that it includes 90% of all scholarly documents on the web (of those written in English).

So here are some tips for searching. When you get search results, they will be sorted by relevance. For some topics it might be useful to sort by date to get the most current sources. You can find that option in the sidebar. You can also filter your results more specifically, by following links like this one: "since 2017." You can also enter a custom date range.

As you're scanning through your results, you'll notice that under each one there's a link called "related articles." Click on that if a particular article looks useful and you'll find more that are similar.

Another useful feature is the "cited by" link under each result. This link shows how many other sources cited it and you can click through to find those sources.

When you follow a link to get a particular article, you might see some options for purchasing it, especially if you're not located in the library or using CEU's VPN. Chances are, you won't need to pay for an article, because the library subscribes to most sources that you'll need. So be sure to turn on the CEU VPN when you begin your search in order to access our subscribed content.

You should also let Google Scholar know that CEU is your institution. Then it will display special links to sources that CEU Library subscribes to. Look for this option in Settings under "library links." Enter "Central European University" and save that option. Google Scholar will then display links to CEU's sources. The links will say "find it@CEULibrary" and they're found on the right side of the screen next to specific results.

If you would like to use the advanced search feature for a more specific search, you can find it in the upper left menu. Just click the three bars, then Advanced Search. This will bring up a screen that allows you to search by exact phrase, limit to a particular journal, exclude particular words, and several other useful features.

So that's Google Scholar. To get some tips about Google searching beyond Google Scholar, see our guide to Google Search Techniques. There you can learn to use advanced search, personalize your results, and get tips for adjusting your settings, including privacy settings.

Remember you can always contact the library for help with Google Scholar or with getting particular articles. Just email "contactLibrary@ceu.edu."