

How Do I Use Google Scholar Effectively?

Q: How can I find the most relevant and recent academic papers on Google Scholar?

A: Google Scholar allows you to search for scholarly articles and access citations across various disciplines. Here are a few helpful tips to improve your search:

Finding Recent Papers

- Click **“Since [Year]”** on the left sidebar to filter by publication year.
 - Use **“Sort by date”** to display newly added results in chronological order.
 - Click the **envelope icon** to receive email alerts for new search results.
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Accessing Full-Text Articles

While abstracts are freely available, full articles may require a subscription. To find full text:

- Click **library links** (e.g., “FindIt@IIUM”) next to the result.
- Look for a **[PDF]** link on the right-hand side.
- Click **“All versions”** to explore alternative sources.
- Use **“Related articles”** or **“Cited by”** to discover similar content.

Note: If you are affiliated with a university and don't see library links, contact your library to set up off-campus access or configure a proxy connection.

Getting Better Search Results

- New to the topic? Learn key terms from secondary sources like Wikipedia and use them in your search.
- If your results are too detailed, check the **“References”** in each article to find broader sources.
- If results are too basic, click **“Cited by”** to explore newer, more advanced work.

Tip: Keep Exploring

There's rarely one definitive answer. Use **"Related articles," "Cited by,"** or search an **author's name** to dive deeper into the topic.

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