Searching with Google Scholar

A Keyll Darree Library Guide

What is Google Scholar?

Fantastic! It’s basically Google, but just for academic resources. It searches for journal articles, academic books, and unpublished thesis (among other resources), and it’s a brilliant jumping off point for beginning your research.

Contents:

- Basic Searches
- Understanding your results
- Narrowing down your search
- Boolean Logic
- What if I don’t have Athens?
- Setting up alerts

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Basic Searches

Go to https://scholar.google.co.uk

Enter your search terms.

Tip: natural language searching is fine, but you don’t need to include connecting words – pick out the key bits of your query, don’t paste in an entire question. (Try “hand washing hospital cross infection” instead of “does hand washing help to limit staff transmitted infections in the hospital?”)
When you run the search you’ll be able to see how many results you’ve received.

Each result (unless it’s a citation) will have a clickable title which will take you to the abstract so you can read more about the paper.

**Tip**: Don’t rely on clicking the link to check your access! There’s other, more efficient ways to check if you can get an article (such as using Athens via Scholar or NICE Evidence Journals and Databases)

**Understanding your results**
Along the bottom of each result are multiple options for different processes.

- Add an item to your library. If you have a google account (gmail, youtube etc.) you can
- Get a citation for the item you’re referencing, or add it to Refworks
- A list of the papers which have referenced the item.
- Always worth a click to see the other articles which have been classified as relevant.
- If the first link is broken then you can see the other places it lives on the web here.
- You can add this button in the advanced settings section (three bars on the left)

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If you have an Athens login (all employees of the Department of Health and Social Care are eligible for a Keyll Darree login) then you can use it in tandem with Google Scholar – Library Shorts: Keyll Darree via Scholar. Scholar will check your results and see if your library/university has access to the resource.

Google Scholar

Articles

About 140,000 results (0.39 sec)

Any time
Since 2016
Since 2017
Since 2015
Since 2014
Custom range...

Sort by relevance
Sort by date

Check for patents
Check for citations
Create alert

Effectiveness of a hospital-wide programme to improve compliance with hand hygiene
D Pillet, S Hygomez, S Harthoul, P Mourougou – The Lancet, 2005 - Elsevier

Poor compliance with hand hygiene is common among HCW. Reported reasons for not washing hands include inattention, inaccessible handwashing supplies, wearing gloves, "too busy", or "not thinking about it"...

Cited by 2710 Related articles 21 versions Import into RefWorks

... of reasons for poor hand hygiene among hospital workers lack of positive role models and of convincing evidence that hand hygiene prevents cross-infection
V Esramso, W Brouwer, D Van Der Beek - Infectious Control & Hospital Epidemiology, 2009 - Cambridge.org

Improving compliance with hand hygiene in hospitals
D Pillet - Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology, 2000 - Cambridge.org

Compliance with handwashing in a teaching hospital
D Pillet, P Mourougou, TV Perrege – Annals of Internal Medicine, 1999 - Am Coll Physicians

Compliance with hand disinfection and its impact on hospital-acquired infections
D Pillet - Journal of Hospital Infection, 2001 - Journalofhospitalinfection.com

Tip: You can add multiple access options – so add any university affiliations as well as Keyll Darree.

Narrowing down your search

To start limiting your results you can use the built in options on the left hand side to limit by date, and to remove patents/citations if needed.

Google Scholar

Articles

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Tip: Sort by relevancy, not date – there’s often a lot of results, so something could be very recent, but not very relevant. If you want very current research, limit to the current year only.

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**Boolean Logic (AND, OR, NOT)**

To run the most efficient searches it’s best to consider how you’re searching. Boolean logic is the principle of AND, OR, and NOT and is automatically built in to most searches. This means that the word AND is included between each of the words in the search box. It’s looking for:

If you want to be more specific, you can use phrased searching.

Instead of AND-ing every word, you search for specific phrases instead by using speech marks.

Becomes:

It’s now looking for the phrase hand washing AND hospital AND the phrase cross infection together. The results are reduced, but the articles it brings up should be more specific.

The OR function can also help you search more efficiently. Many words have multiple terms, and therefore it’s quicker to search for both (or more) at once than run different searches for each.

In this case we can look for results which contain the term cross infection OR the term hospital acquired infection in one search.

**Tip:** You can also use this for alternative spellings – search tumour OR tumor, paediatrics OR pediatrics.
The NOT function is also a helpful tool for limiting your searches. This is used by typing a – directly in front of the word or phrase you want to remove (do not leave a space)

`hospital "cross infection" OR "hospital acquired Infection" -"antibacterial gel"`

About 7,430 results (0.17 sec)

This will remove all results containing the word or phrase, so make sure you’re very specific about what you want to remove – if you’re too general this can overly limit your results!

**What if I don’t have Athens?**

If you haven’t got an Athens account you can still find full text information. Add “filetype:pdf” to the search and you will only get full text results.

`ross infection" OR "hospital acquired infection" -"antibacterial gel" filetype:pdf`

About 1,520 results (0.61 sec)

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Setting up Alerts

Once you’ve used all these tricks and have a brilliant search with loads of great results, you can set up alerts to make sure you don’t miss anything new and relevant.

The create alert option will show you the search you’ll be setting up as an alert, and you can add any email address that you’d like the results to go to.
Thank you for taking the time to read this guide, and if you have any further questions then please get in touch with us at librarykeyldarree@gov.im or on 642993.

We’d also love your feedback on this training, please spare 2 minutes to fill out our Online Training Feedback Survey.