

# 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 It searches for journal articles, academic books, and unpublished thesis (among other resources), and it's a brilliant jumping off point for beginning your research.

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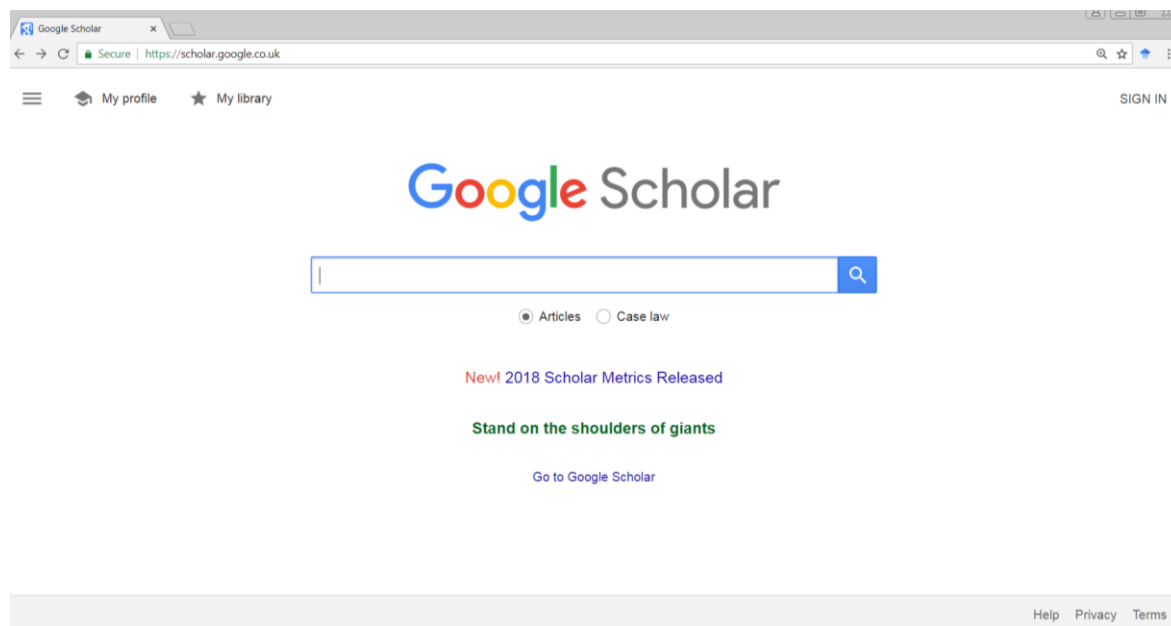
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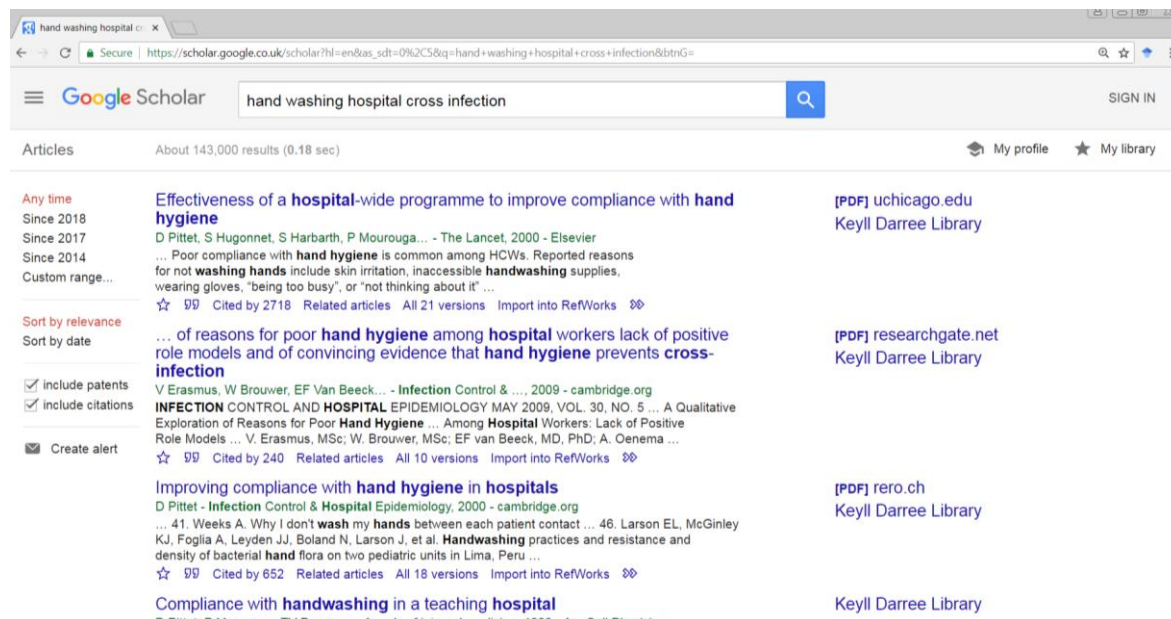
## Basic Searches

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?”)



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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

Cited by - A list of the papers which have referenced the item.

Related articles - Always worth a click to see the other articles which have been classified as relevant.

All versions - If the first link is broken then you can see the other places it lives on the web here.

Import into RefWorks - 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.

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface with the search query "hand washing hospital cross infection". The left sidebar contains filters for "Any time" (with sub-options: Since 2018, Since 2017, Since 2014, Custom range...), "Sort by relevance" (with sub-option: Sort by date), and checkboxes for "include patents", "include citations", and "Create alert". The main results area displays several articles. Red arrows point from the introductory text to the following results:

- Effectiveness of a **hospital-wide** programme to improve compliance with **hand hygiene** [PDF] uchicago.edu Keyll Darree Library
- ... of reasons for poor **hand hygiene** among **hospital** workers lack of positive role models and of convincing evidence that **hand hygiene** prevents **cross-infection** [PDF] researchgate.net Keyll Darree Library
- Improving compliance with **hand hygiene** in **hospitals** [PDF] rero.ch Keyll Darree Library
- Compliance with **handwashing** in a teaching **hospital** Keyll Darree Library
- Compliance with **hand** disinfection and its impact on **hospital-acquired infections** Full-Text @ Chester

**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.

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the Google Scholar search results for "hand washing hospital cross infection". Red arrows point from the introductory text to the left sidebar filters:


- The "Any time" filter section.
- The "Sort by relevance" filter section.

**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:

Google Scholar  


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.



About 148,000 results (0.20 sec)


Becomes:



About 4,770 results (0.15 sec)

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.



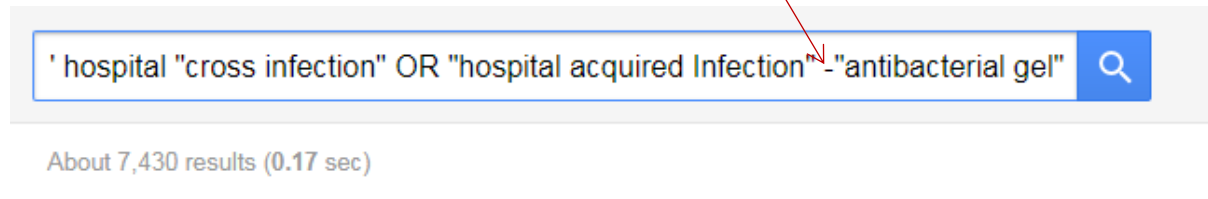
About 7,440 results (0.19 sec)

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.

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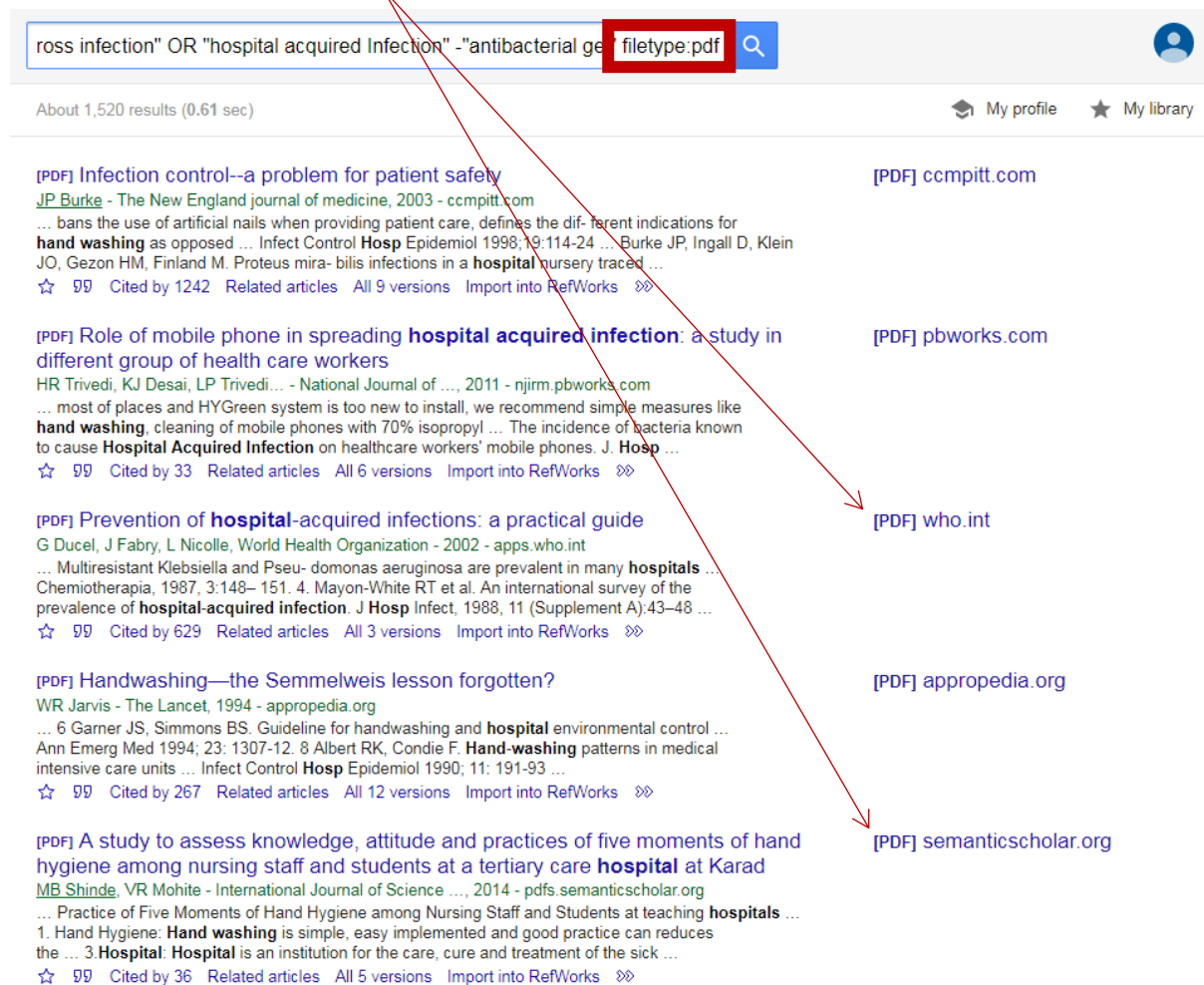
The NOT function is also a helpful tool for limiting your searches. This is used by typing a – directly in front of the word or phrase you want to remove (do not leave a space)



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.



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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 screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface. At the top, the search bar contains the query: "hand washing" hospital "cross infection" OR "hospital acquired Infection" -"ai". Below the search bar, the results are displayed under the heading "Articles" with "About 1,520 results (0.61 sec)". On the left side, there are filters for "Any time" (with sub-options: Since 2018, Since 2017, Since 2014, Custom range...), "Sort by relevance" (with sub-option: Sort by date), and checkboxes for "include patents" and "include citations". At the bottom of the filter section, there is a "Create alert" button. Two red arrows point from the text above to the search bar and the "Create alert" button. The main content area shows two search results. The first result is a PDF titled "Infection control--a problem for patient safety" by JP Burke, published in The New England Journal of Medicine in 2003. The second result is a PDF titled "Role of mobile phone in spreading hospital acquired infection: a study in different group of health care workers" by HR Trivedi, KJ Desai, and LP Trivedi, published in the National Journal of ... in 2011.

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.

The screenshot shows the "Alerts" setup page in Google Scholar. The "Alert query" field contains the same search query as in the previous screenshot: "hand washing" hospital "cross infection" OR "hospital acquired Infection" -"antibacterial gel". Below the query field is an empty "Email" field. There is a "Number of results" dropdown menu set to "Show up to 10 results". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Update results" and "CREATE ALERT". Two red arrows point from the text above to the "Alert query" field and the "CREATE ALERT" button.

### Sample results since 2018:

#### [PDF] Knowledge, attitude and practices of **cross infection** control among Dental Students of Punjab Pakistan

MW Tahir, A Mahmood, A Abid, MS Ullah, M Sajid - PAKISTAN JOURNAL OF ..., 2018  
... 71.6% students of this study know about them. The compliance with **hand washing** in this study was inappropriate as only 74.6% students wash their hands after every patient ... **Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory ...**

#### [PDF] Bacterial **Hospital Acquired Infection** in Port Sudan Teaching **Hospital**, Red Sea State, Sudan

AEMAE Osman, SO Hashim, MA Musa, OM Tahir - future, 2018  
... Gloves must not be used as a substitute for **hand washing**; they must be washed on glove removal ... [10] Movahedian AH, Mosayebi Z, Moniri R. Urinary Tract Infections in Hospitalized Newborns in Beheshti **Hospital**, Iran: A ...

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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 [librarykeylldarree@gov.im](mailto:librarykeylldarree@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](#)

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