Google Scholar

In the last few years, the Google search engine producers have used Google's searching technology to develop another search engine with the academic community in mind, called Google Scholar, which is at: http://scholar.google.co.uk

Google Scholar is more like a database than a search engine, hence its inclusion in this handout. It is also very popular but must be used with care.

You can use Google Scholar to search specifically for academic-type material such as peer-reviewed articles, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports. It will retrieve information from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as electronic journal articles.

When you use a campus-networked PC, Google Scholar will automatically link to the University Library Catalogue so that you can check whether the books and journal articles in your list of results are available in the Library. Where the Library has a subscription to the full-text electronic version of a journal article, a link will take you directly to that article. If you are using a PC off campus, it is possible to set your preferences within Google Scholar so that you can still see these links. To do this:

- Click on Settings (top right corner) and then on Library links.
- In the Library links section, type in university of york and click on search.
- Then click the tick box next to University of York – Full text @ York.
- Click on Save.

There are a few points to bear in mind about the results that you retrieve:

- The online documents which the search engine retrieves are not necessarily available to you: i.e. the University of York will not necessarily have full text access to the resources that Google Scholar finds;
- School websites are included in Google Scholar so the scope is not always appropriate for UK Higher Education.

Exercise 5: Using Google Scholar to find books and/or journal articles on a subject

For practice, imagine that you want to find books and/or journal articles on the subject of inequalities in higher education relating to race/ethnicity.

1. To get the best out of Google Scholar it is advisable to use the Advanced Search facility. Click on the drop-down arrow in the main Scholar search box to select the Advanced Scholar Search. Here you can carry out a more sophisticated search with dates, phrases, author names and other options. See the example on the next page.
2. Search Google Scholar, enter the search terms and select in the title of the article for where my words occur as shown in the example above.

3. When you have found some useful search results on Google Scholar, look for the Full text @ York link by some references. Full text @ York means the ejournal or ebook is subscribed to at York and therefore the article or chapter is available to you in full text to read online.

4. Make a note of two useful articles that your search retrieved. Note: You need to take note of the full citation (author/s, year of publication, article title, journal title, volume, issue, pages) to reference articles in your assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. How do the results compare to the ones you retrieved from your Search Everything search on the Library Catalogue (exercise 3)?