Google Scholar – Quick Guide

COVERAGE
Google Scholar searches for literature from a range of publications including journal articles, conference papers, books, patents and theses and from a variety of sources such as academic publishers, professional societies and repositories.

Google Scholar’s limitations mean that it is not a reliable alternative to the Library’s scholarly databases.

ACCESS
- Log on to the Portal at http://portal.ulster.ac.uk using your Ulster Network username and password

This step is crucial when searching for subscription-based full-text articles. Logging in to Portal will mean that Google Scholar recognises your Athens authentication

- Open another tab on your browser and go to http://scholar.google.co.uk/

SEARCHING
Enter your search terms in the box provided.

Google Scholar automatically inserts an AND between each term. For example, by typing in the search terms climate change Google Scholar will retrieve all the records which contain the term climate and the term change.
• To search for an exact phrase place the terms within double quotation marks. For example: “climate change”.

• Use OR to search for one term or the other (note that OR must be typed in capitals). For example, river OR stream

• Use a hyphen (-) in front of a word to exclude that term from your results. For example: “climate change” –pollution will find articles referring to climate change but not pollution

  *Use this search with caution as it may exclude relevant results*

• Remember to include all word variants in your search. For example: pollute OR pollutes OR polluted OR pollution OR polluting

‘Fill in the blank’ Wildcard
Placing an asterisk (*) between two terms can be used to find one or no words between the terms. For example: climate * change will find results including climate change, climate and change, climate-related change, climate driven change, etc.

Google Scholar does not support the use of asterisks to replace a single letter in a search word.

Example search

![Search Example](image)

You can refine your search using the column on the left-hand side of the screen beside the results. Click sort by date to see the most up-to-date results.

An Advanced Search function is also available. Click the arrow on the right-hand side of the search box to access.

**VIEWING RESULTS**
Your results will be displayed as a list of references, with the total number of results found at the top of the results box. Clicking on the hyperlinked article title will take you to the article abstract on the publisher’s webpages.

**Full-text results via the** Fulltxt-Ulster University link
To view full-text articles off-campus covered by an Ulster subscription you must first link Google Scholar to your Ulster Athens permissions.
• From the Google Scholar home screen click on **Settings**, displayed in the top right of the screen
• Click on **Library links**
• Type *ulster university* into the search box and click 
• Click the boxes beside ‘**Ulster University – fulltxt-Ulster University**’
• Click Save (enable cookies to retain Google settings)

**Fulltxt-Ulster University** should now appear beside search results available through the Library’s electronic holdings:

Click on the article title to view the abstract. Look for a PDF link to view the full-text.

If you have not logged in to Portal you will still need to enter your Ulster University network username and password to view the full text document.

**HELP**
If you are having difficulty accessing full text off-campus take a look at the off campus guide [http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus)

For help with all aspects of literature searching, contact a member of the Life and Health Sciences subject team who will be happy to help.

**Contact Details**

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