

## Podcast 6: Google Scholar

Do you use Google, but don't find the scholarly information you want? You need Google Scholar! Google Scholar searches a range of scholarly and other literature, including journal articles, conference papers, theses and books.

Accessing Google Scholar is easy. Go to Google at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), click on "More" and click on "Scholar" or go directly to <http://scholar.google.com>.

Google Scholar has a special feature where it will link you directly to a complete article via our databases when your search results are displayed on a CDU network computer. These links are identified by the phrase **Full text @ CDU**.

If you are accessing Google Scholar off campus you will need to activate this feature yourself. Do this by selecting **Scholar Preferences**, then **Library Links** and type in *Charles Darwin University* and save your preferences. Now you will have permanent access to articles which are available via CDU Library databases. When your search results display, if you click on a **Full text @ CDU** link, you will be asked for your CDU staff or student login and password.

Always use the [E-Journal portal](#) and the [library catalogue](#) to search by title for journals that do not link to the full-text through Google Scholar. At present, there are many more resources in the Library's collections, databases and e-journals than are currently accessible through Google Scholar.

The strengths of Google Scholar are that the search interface is straightforward; including an Advanced Search option. Search results may include links to full-text articles freely available on the Internet.

However, Google Scholar does have weaknesses. Coverage is predominantly medical, scientific and technical. It is not the best source for social science or humanities topics or Australian material. Google provides no information about which publishers or sites that are searched. Google Scholar may offer a number of versions of the same article depending on where it was found (such as the publisher website, the author's website or a pre-print service).

Things you should remember are: Google Scholar will not provide all the material you need and there are more scholarly resources available to you as a CDU student or staff member through our databases. Relying on just one source is not usually the best search strategy.

If you are serious about your research, you will want to search across all the relevant databases, varying your search strategy and taking advantage of the specialised indexing that databases can offer. To get the best results, use CDU Library databases which have been carefully selected to provide comprehensive and up-to-date access to scholarly literature. Google Scholar can be a useful place to start, but you can rely on the Library's databases as your best source providing extensive coverage of scholarly information.