Google Scholar

Link Google Scholar to Foley's full text!

Google Scholar tries to find PDF and .doc full text when it can, but it mostly finds citations, not full text. However, you can connect Google Scholar to your Gonzaga account! This will allow you to almost instantly access the full text if we have it.

Google Scholar can be a great tool for some things, and a poor tool for others.

Things Google Scholar is good for:

1. Google Scholar allows you to see how many times an article has been cited, and by whom. Just click "Cited by . . ." in the search result listing for the article you are interested in to bring up a list of every citation Google can see.

   NOTE: this is not an exhaustive list of every time the article has been cited, but only of every citation visible to Google. See #1 below for more info.

   Why is this useful? Well, you already know that you can look at the works cited or bibliography page of an good article to find other useful articles on your subject. That's looking backward in time to articles and research that preceded the one you are reading. By looking up the article you are reading in Google Scholar, you can do the same thing but look forward in time, to articles and research that followed it and hopefully built upon it.

2. Google Scholar is great for getting a quick-n-dirty overview of a topic. We're all used to Google's keyword-heavy searching. Searching Google-style in Google Scholar is a great way to find relevant articles quickly, which can help you get a feel for the journals, terminology, and issues surrounding your subject of research. You can then use that knowledge to search more deeply in a subject-specific database!

3. Google Scholar can find "gray literature," like conference proceedings or unpublished works, that are often not indexed in scholarly databases.

4. Google Scholar is a good place to go if you have a partial citation: often Google's magic search algorithm can find the full citation for you.

Things Google Scholar is poor at:

1. Google Scholar cannot see anything that is not available or cited on the surface internet. This means that anything that is behind a paywall — like scholarly databases! — is invisible to Google. A majority of scholarly work is not visible from the surface internet.

2. Google Scholar has no subject headings and few ways to refine a search. This makes it more difficult to zoom in on just the right results.
3. Google Scholar has no way to search by discipline. Searching is almost entirely keyword based, and your keywords may apply to many disciplines.

3. Not everything Google Scholar finds is actually scholarly. Google's magic algorithm takes into account indicators like whether the article has been cited elsewhere, but at the end of the day it's just a guess.