Why should I go through the Library website to access Google Scholar?

Using the link to Google Scholar on the Library website (or using this URL: https://ezproxy.otago.ac.nz/login?url=http://scholar.google.com) allows you to see which results are freely available through the Library databases as a University of Otago student or staff member. If you are studying off campus, you may be prompted to log in to Google Scholar just like the Library databases. Articles available via the Library databases will have Otago Article Link next to them (see the screenshot below).

What is Google Scholar?

Google Scholar looks the same as Google but the results you get are filtered to academic / scholarly information, such as journal articles, books, books reviews and theses. This makes Google Scholar a good resource for getting a broad overview of research in your area.

Use Google Scholar to:

- get a broad overview of research in an area
- find related research
- check if an article is available online

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Accessing Google Scholar results with Otago Article Link

When you click on Otago Article Link, you’ll be redirected to the record for the article in Library Search I Ketu. To access the article, click on the Available online tab (see below) and then the link to the article in one of the Library database(s).
Google Scholar Search tips

- Like the Library databases, Google Scholar works best if you enter relevant words only and don’t try to put them in a sentence.
- The words you enter are considered to be in priority order — it can be worth playing round with the order of the words to see if the results change/improve.
- Google Scholar has an advanced search option - click the small arrow at the end of the search box.
- Enter intitle: before any words you want to turn up in the title of your results. There should be no gap between intitle: and the search word (e.g. intitle:self-esteem).

For more tips, go to: https://scholar.google.co.nz/intl/en/scholar/help.html

The Links under Google Scholar results

Under each result you will see the following links (as shown in the screenshot below):

- **Cited by** and **Related articles**: explore these links to view research on the same or similar topic to the result found. In the example below, 180 pieces of academic literature (found by Google Scholar) have cited this article in their research. Clicking on Cited by will let you view the details of those 180 pieces of research.
- **Cite**: click on Cite to see how to reference the result in a variety of referencing styles (e.g. APA). Be careful with this function because Google Scholar does not always cite accurately.
- **Save**: If you have a Gmail account you are able to set up a ‘Library’ in Google Scholar and save items you’ve found to it. (You’ll see a link to My Library near the top of the results on the left).
- **Versions**: Journal articles are often available from more than one database collection. If a result doesn’t have Otago Article Link next to it, it is worth viewing the other versions (there are six versions of the result below).
- **Web of Science**: This link appears if the research is included in the Web of Science database collection. Like Cited by, you can use it to find related research (in Web of Science).

![Citation: Physical activity and self-esteem development in children: A meta-analysis](image)

Doing long term research (e.g. a dissertation or thesis)? Well why not set up a search alert?

Google Scholar lets you set up an email alert so you can be notified of any new results that match your search words. The screenshot below indicates where the alert function is. Before you set up an alert, make sure your search is retrieving relevant results.