

What is Google Scholar?

Google Scholar is Google's search engine for scholarly literature, which provides access to scientific and academic information in all areas of knowledge.

It allows you to search across the websites of universities and other academic institutions, academic social media accounts, etc. from one place.

In addition, it also grants you access to the full text of many documents.

What types of documents can you find in Google Scholar?

- Scientific articles
- Books
- Conference papers and presentations
- Reports
- Theses and other academic works
- Patents
- Etc.

How can you access Google Scholar?

You can access it via the library catalogue. There, you will find a brief description of the information you can find, as well as a link to the help guide. To access the search engine you must click on 'Resource'.

Google Scholar allows you to conduct basic and advanced searches.

Basic search

If you want to do a basic search, enter the terms in the box that appears by default. These terms will appear both in the description and within the full text of the documents that the engine will return. That's why you get so many results.

If you would like to fine-tune the search for a topic, you can choose to search by phrase.

You can also use the Boolean operators AND, OR or NOT.

Let's look at an example:

If you type in *sustainable development* you get thousands of results.

On the other hand, if you search by phrase you will get fewer results only those where the terms you type in are combined in that particular order.

Moreover, by using the filters you can:

- Sort results by date or relevance.
- Limit search results according to the following criteria: date of publication, type of document and inclusion/exclusion of citations and patents.

In many cases you will get full-text access to the document in PDF format.

Advanced search

Advanced search lets you link search terms and combine them by using different fields to narrow down the results returned.

To access it, click on the three horizontal bars at the top left of your screen, and then click on 'advanced search'.

This will open a window where you must enter the terms and set the limits for the search.

You must bear in mind that:

- typing the search words in the '**with all of the words**' box is the same as using the Boolean operator AND. Therefore, if you enter the words *sustainable development*, these will appear in the document description, and also within the full PDF text, where this is available.
- '**with the exact phrase**' is equivalent to searching by phrase. Here you will find documents where these two terms are combined to form a phrase, respecting the order in which you enter them.
- '**with at least one of the words**' is equivalent to the Boolean operator OR. If you use the same example you will find documents comprising the terms *development* or *sustainable*, or both.
- '**without the words**' is equivalent to the Boolean operator NOT. Finally, you can find documents where *development* appears, but *sustainable* does not that is, you can use the NOT operator to exclude terms from your search.

- You can also choose whether to search anywhere in the article or just in the title.
- In addition, you may also enter the author's name and/or a specific publication. We recommend entering this information in inverted commas to search by phrase, since this will narrow down the results.
- Finally, you need to enter the date of publication.

What results will you obtain?

Finally, results are sorted by relevance, considering the following aspects:

- title
- author
- full text
- place of publication
- number of citations.

And what information does each result provide?

- document type (pdf, book, .doc, html)
- title
- author
- source and year
- abstract
- save search
- how to cite the document in different bibliographic styles
- export to a specific format
- number of times cited and by whom
- related articles
- document versions
- full-text access.