Medical Sciences Library

Finding the right stuff: Getting the most out of your literature searches

Speaker Notes

- There are Speaker Notes embedded in the PDF version of this presentation

- On slides with Speaker Notes, there will be an icon in the upper-left corner of the slide that looks like a dialogue bubble

- Click on the dialogue bubble to expand and read the Speaker Notes

On the road to finding literature citations,
all signs point to Google Scholar. Let's go there first.

Google Scholar

Google and Google Scholar
What they are and what they aren't

Google is a holding of Alphabet.

They are a publicly traded for-profit company.
Their purpose is to make money for their shareholders.

Their motto was "Don't be evil." (2004-2015)

Their motto is "Do the right thing." (2015-present)

There is a difference.

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Google Scholar
https://scholar.google.com

A component of Google

Indexes articles (and some article-like things)

Pro: Powerful search engine

Con: Repeating a search and retrieving the same results is unreliable to the level of being non-reproducible

Bottom line:
Do I search it? Yes, always.
Do I **only** search it? No, never.

Google Scholar
https://scholar.google.com

Proprietary, non-transparent search algorithm(s)
Change the search algorithm when it suits them

Can find articles other indexes/databases cannot find
Can only search what it can see at any given time

Limited Advanced Search function
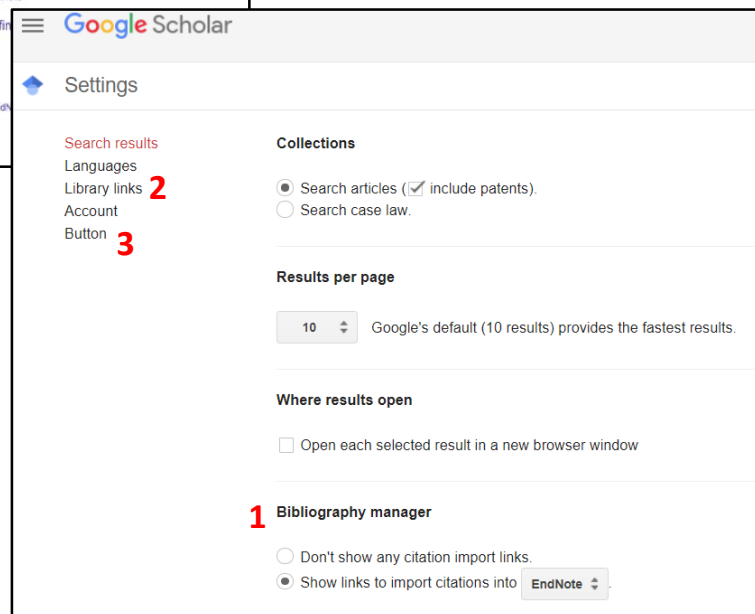Limited sort function for results

Provides enhancements to the article citations it provides

Google Scholar Profiles helpful for authors and searchers

Personalize Google Scholar
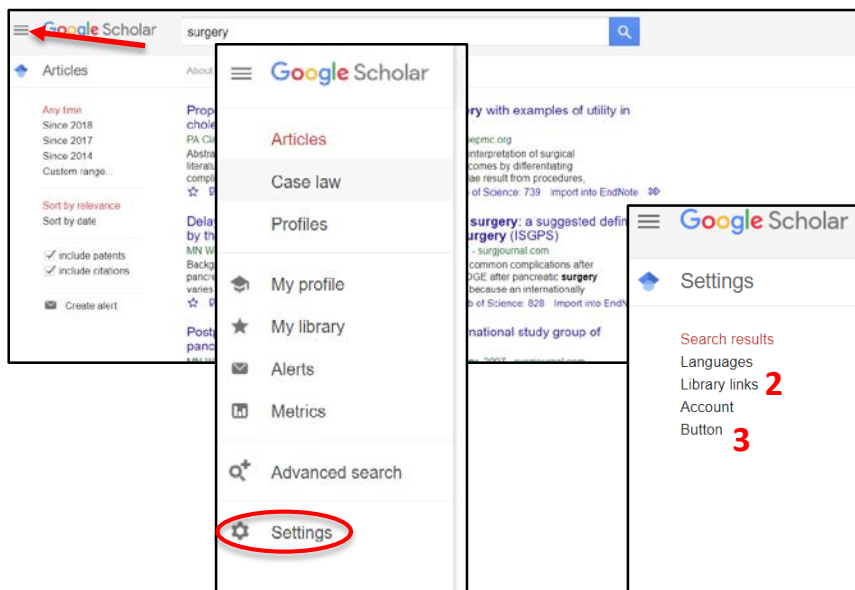
Customize your Google Scholar experience with 3 easy tweaks!

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Google Scholar

Features to Note

- **Star**

- **Quotation Mark**

- **Cited By**

- **Related Articles**

- **All XX versions**

Google Scholar

Features to Note

- **Allows Bulk Export of References**

- **Create Labels**

- **Search within your Library**
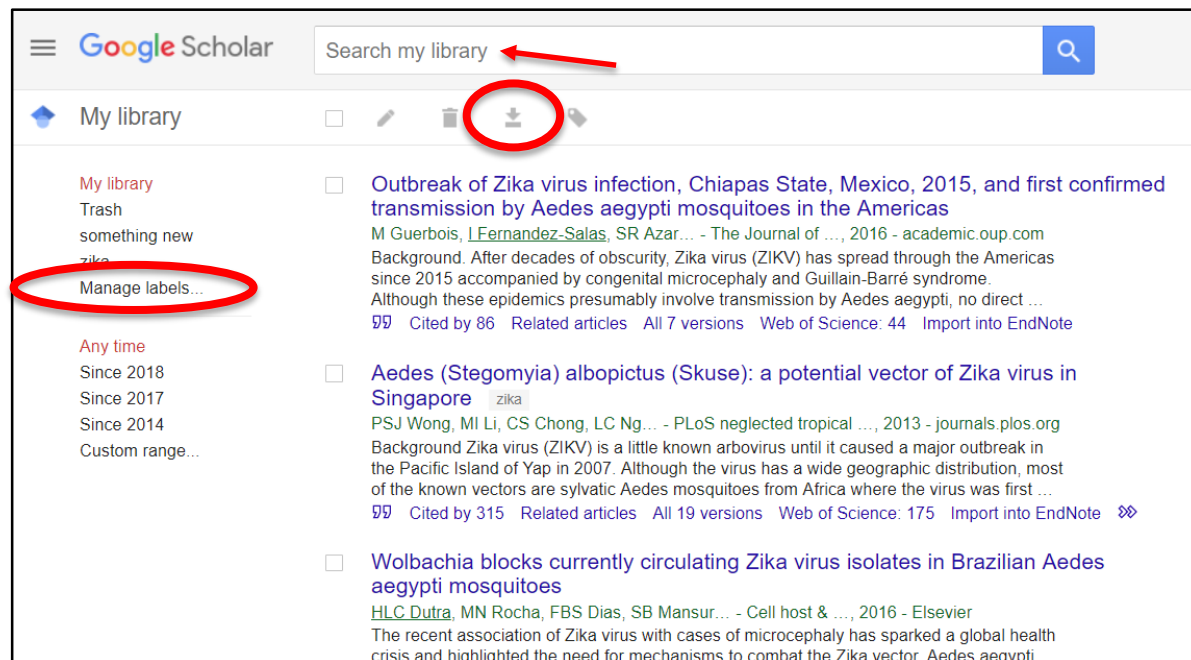
Finding the Right Database

Selecting a database

- What subject and how in depth?

- What resources do you have access to?
- Are you willing to pay to gain access?

- What kind of literature?
- What format of material?
- What time period?

- Delivered to you how?
- Delivered to you when?

Databases to consider

Science

- Web of Science
- Scopus
- SciFinder

Medicine

- Medline
- PubMed
- Embase

Veterinary Medicine, Nutrition, Life Sciences, Environment, Travel & Leisure, Recreation, Global Health

- CAB Abstracts

Look for specialties

For example:

Toxicology has Toxnet

Publishers can be searched like databases too ☺

Elsevier (ScienceDirect)

BioMed Central

Wiley Online Library

Springer (SpringerLink)

Finding the Right Search Terms

Creating Your Search

Think before you search

Break search into broad concepts that are required
Think about concepts that are nice but optional

Think through different ways to express your concepts:

Common phrases, scientific phrases, plurals, acronyms that are correct, acronyms that have multiple meanings, alternate spellings, synonyms

Strengthening Your Search

Using fewer search terms is generally better

Boolean Logic / Boolean Algebra is the key to a strong search. Use a mix- and match approach.

Break your search up by component. Get great results for each component. Then combine these.

Find your comfortable place between precision and recall. This may differ from situation to situation.

Finding full-text

If you are at an institution

Ask the library for the best ways to access full-text

Ask colleagues for their tips

These may include:

VPN

Single-Sign On system

Specially enabled services, for example Loansome Doc in PubMed

LIBRARIES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Browser Buttons/Extensions

Browser Buttons (aka Browser Extensions) are add-ons to your Internet Browser

They are browser specific

They allow you to do things in one click without leaving the webpage you are on

As with adding any code/program to your computer, you need to find your own comfortable place

Buttons to Consider for Full-Text

UnPaywall : http://unpaywall.org/

Kopernio : https://kopernio.com/

Open Access Button : https://openaccessbutton.org/

EZProxy Redirect : google for it and your browser. Doesn't have a general webpage describing it. Description will be with the page where it can be downloaded.

PubMed

PubMed Search

Automatic AND between terms in big search box

Automatic Term Mapping

Search Details

Phrases and Truncation

PubMed Results

Left side results filters

Custom right side results filters (use My NCBI)

Similar Articles

Sorting options

MeSH

Separate database of controlled vocabulary

Provides a scope note about each term

Provides context for your term, how and where it relates to other terms

Shows entry terms for Automatic Term Mapping

My NCBI

Free personal account for all NCBI products

Highlight search terms in bright colors

Customize PubMed display

Create alerts for new articles

Customize results screen

Create custom results filters

Save searches

Link to your institutional library

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

NNLM - Regional Medical Libraries (RML)

https://nnlm.gov/regions

NNLM South Central Region

Find Your Region

Visit the South Central Region

See all regions

- Serves Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

- The Regional Medical Library, aka RML, the regional office) for SCR is at UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas

- The RML "cascades" services and programs from NNLM to communities in their region

Questions

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