Refilwe Matatiele

What you should know About Google scholar

“Standing on the shoulders of the Giant”
What is Google Scholar?

- Search tool that links to scholarly research materials
- Easy to search
- Increases visibility of scholarly literature
- **Peer-reviewed papers**, theses, books, **preprints**, abstracts, technical reports, **author web pages** that link their own research papers, **Universities' Repositories**
- Indexes a **subset** of scholarly literature in all fields.
- Search results include **cited** references
What is Google Scholar?

- Google has an agreement with Almost **29** scholarly Publishers
- subscription based databases such as Science Direct, JSTOR, IEEE, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts and OCLC’s open WorldCat library etc.
- Provides citation information about the article
- journal articles in different subject areas but mainly **science and technology**
  (example on the next slide)
Subject coverage

When can I use Google Scholar?

- When searching for scholarly literature
- When a particular article from a specific journal is needed
- When you quickly want to find a relevant article
- More use by junior level researchers
- Quick overview of a particular author's work
- Quick search undergraduate student projects and assignments
Google Scholar has a new face

Google slogan

Stand on the shoulders of giants
Other GS features

- My citations
- Hirsch index (h-index)
- I10-index (impact social science)
- Publish or Perish
- Scholar meter
- My Alerts
- My preferences (you can export from here)
Finding your h-index (Hirsch index) in Google Scholar

- What is the h-index?
  “An index that quantifies both the actual scientific productivity and the apparent scientific impact of a scientist”
  e.g. a h-index of 20 means the researcher has 20 papers each of which has been cited 20+ times.
Where to start:

Google Scholar has a variety of sites and programs that can help you calculate your h-index. They are free of charge and quality varies

- Scholar H-index Calculator
- Scholarometer (social tool for citation analysis)
  http://scholarometer.indiana.edu/
- Publish or Perish
  http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm
  (application that calculates a wide variety of metrics)
Example of Scholar metrics results

Ina Fourie
Associate professor of Information Science
Information and Knowledge Management - Retrieval - Information Philosophy - Law and Ethics
Verified email at up.ac.za
My profile is private

Citation indices

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>All</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>h-index</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i10-index</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Citations to my articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title / Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Librarians and the claiming of new roles: how can we try to make a difference?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Using portfolio assessment in a module in research information skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Should we take disintermediation seriously?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Empowering users—current awareness on the Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Follow-up on the use of portfolio assessment for a module in research information skills: an analysis of its value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using Google Scholar for the h-index

**Benefits**
- Covers a wider range of sources, especially conferences, technical reports and e-prints.
- Easier to calculate some of the less common metrics.
- Free.

**Disadvantages**
- May be considered a less authoritative than Web of Science.
- More difficult to search multiple authors with the same family.
- Name & initials – limited options to refine.
For your Information:

- In general you can only compare values within a single discipline.
- If you are comparing people’s h-index values you must use the same database, and use the same method.
- The h-index may be less useful in some disciplines, especially in some areas of the humanities.
- Relevance ranking takes into account the full text of each article, the article's author, the publication in which the article appeared and how often it has been cited in scholarly literature.
Is Google really a giants?

- Not Really Google admitted “Standing on the shoulders of the Giant”
- But we have to acknowledge that scholarly research involves building on what others have already discovered
- "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Sir Isaac Newton
- Thank you, Ke leboga, Dankie