Using Google, Wikipedia, Google Scholar, and an Academic Database for Research

Video Transcript

Intro: This transcript was created to make the related video more accessible.

Total Time: 07:14

00:00:00–00:00:44
Narrator: In this video, we are going to talk about when to use Google versus Google Scholar versus Wikipedia versus the academic database that the library has, when you are doing the research for your papers or any of the other work that you are doing while you are in school. So let us start off with Google we have all used it it’s pretty simple you type in what you want and you see what the search and it gives you. I am going to be looking up the topic of women in computing. I read an article recently that said that women are really underrepresented in computer science and I think that is kind of interesting so that is what we use for our example in this video.

00:00:45–00:00:25
Narrator: So I am just going to Google women in computer science, as you can see, and as you are as you are used to, you get a bunch of different hits and Google and then what Google does is it just pulls anything from the internet that uses search terms that you give it. It really does not filter out anything so that you know whether or not it is credible, if it is a source that you can actually use, whether it is academic or just somebody’s blog or a news article. So it really just pulls everything. It is kind of an overwhelming place to start and I would not just start clicking through the articles pick the top five and use those for your sources. But it is a good way to get a good overview of some of the things that are out there based on your research search terms.

00:01:35–00:02:40
Narrator: The other cool thing about Google is if you look at the footnotes that it uses and you click on them, it will take you down to the bottom of the page. It will highlight the source that the author used. You can click on the source in a lot of cases and it will take you to the original source that the author used when they were writing the Google article. A lot of times, these sources can be much more credible and they can be peer-reviewed academic sources that you can use and sight in your research. For example, this is probably an article that you could actually cite in an academic paper because it is from a computing research association; it is a much more credible group than Wikipedia is.
So the next thing I am going to talk about is google scholar. Now to use google scholar to its full potential, I guess you could say, you really need to be connected to the campus network. Now that means you either have to be on campus and connect it to their wireless network or you need to VPN into the campus network from off campus. I will put a link at the bottom of the video that will take you to the site on Georgia State's website, that will show you how to actually VPN to campus. But what google scholar does is, it is just like google but instead of pulling everything on the internet that has your search terms, it filters them out or filters the sources out. It only pulls the things that are scholarly hence the name google scholar. So let us use our search terms women and computer science, then the hits that come up in google scholarly are actually going to be scholarly articles. So for example if we click on this one, let us see that was a bad example, let me grab another one. Alright this is good google books.

It will actually pull up articles, full text articles from academic sources and these you definitely can use in the papers that you write in your college courses. So a lot of times I use google scholar because I just find it sometimes easier to navigate the academic database, it's not as large and it's just a good place for me to start. For the library's database that is the next place we are going to look, if you go to the library website and under the discover tab you type in your search term. The great thing about the library's databases is that the library has access to many different academic journals, so you will have a much broader and wider variety of articles that you can search within.

Usually the library place is the last place I go when I am working on a research project. After I've used Google and I've gotten a fairly general idea of the topic that I'm interested in. After you have used Wikipedia and I have kind of been able to pull out some key search terms or some overarching issues that I’m interested in learning more about as far as my topic is concerned. After I have used google scholar, it's just a personal preference for me. When you use the library's database, you want to make sure that after you've entered your search term, you go here to the left and you click on full-text. You check this box to make sure that all the articles that the search yields are complete articles and not just abstracts or source previews of articles. You want to click scholarly peer review to make sure that all the articles that are pulled up are from scholarly journals and sources. You can play with the search terms and you can find a lot of different resources using the library’s database. So I hope this video is helpful if you have any questions feel free to leave a comment below the video, we would love to hear what you think. Good luck with research!