Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com) is another search engine that looks specifically for scholarly literature online. Search results do not include websites but include articles and article citations, book citations, and theses. It is still being developed and the amount of information available is growing.

PROS:
- A free and easy way to search for scholarly material.
- Some of the information that Google Scholar provides may not be available to you anywhere else.
- The “Cited by” link connects you to other articles that have cited the article being viewed.
- Google Scholar Advanced Search allows you to limit your search by author, publication, and date.

CONS:
- Many searches lead to sites that require you to pay for articles.
- Google Scholar doesn’t index everything on a particular subject.
- It is difficult to determine exactly what is included in Google Scholar.
- Google doesn’t provide a definition of “scholarly” so not everything in their results list may be scholarly.

Google Scholar indexes the surface web – those web sites that can be crawled by robots and spiders. In order for Google Scholar to index the hidden web (e.g. licensed databases), they need to gain permission from the publisher.

Google Scholar expands access to what the library has to offer but doesn’t replace it, so use the library databases first and then expand your search by using Google Scholar.

Don’t pay for articles cited in Google Scholar. Check the library’s print and electronic journal holdings OR order the article through Interlibrary Loan.