An Introduction to Google Scholar Part Two: How to Navigate Google Scholar.

In this tutorial we'll highlight some of our favorite Google Scholar features.

Limiting Search Results.

At first glance, limiting search results within Google Scholar is--well--limited. On the search results page you've probably noticed you can filter your results by date: either by using the predefined options or by creating your own custom date range. You can find Google Scholar's advanced search capabilities if you click on the horizontal bars in the top left corner. This gives you a little more flexibility that can be helpful when you're trying to sift through a large number of results. For example, searching for selective attention returns over 3 million results, way too many for anyone to weed through.

So, let's say we're only interested in articles that discuss both selective attention and the gorilla video. You can combine these queries by simultaneously searching for selective attention as an exact phrase and gorilla video. As words. Now we're down to just over 1,200 results. Now, let's say you're interested in selective attention, but don't want any results that mentioned the gorilla video. You can exclude these articles by moving gorilla video into the find articles, without the words, field. From the dramatic increase in the number of results here, you can surmise that most researchers investigating selective attention aren't discussing the infamous gorilla video.

Advanced search also allows you to look for materials written by a specific author, or that appeared in a particular publication. Perhaps you'd like to see if any articles on selective attention that also mentioned the gorilla video have been published in the journal of experimental psychology. Suddenly we've gone from our original search with over 3 million results to less than 20--not bad!

Citation Features.

Google Scholar can also help with citations. Once you've found your source, click the double quotes to see the citation in APA, MLA, and other popular styles. You can copy the citation to your own list of references or export it to your favorite citation management tool, such as RefWorks or Zotero. Be on the lookout for errors. Google Scholar makes a lot of mistakes when it comes to citations, Always double check the citation before you submit your work.

Found an article that's especially helpful, but need something more current? Google Scholar can help with that! Notice the cited by link at the bottom of each search result. This shows us how many times the current article has been cited or referenced by other researchers. Take for example, this 1964 article Selective Attention in Man, written by psychologist AM Treisman. According to Google Scholar, it's been cited over 600 times. Click the cited by link for access to all of those citing articles. We can use the date ranges on the left to find the most recent citations. Or, if you check the search within citing articles box, you can limit further to citing articles that discuss a term you're interested in, such as the gorilla video.

For more information about Google Scholar, check out the other tutorials in this series.