

Comparing Search Engines

Google

Pros

- Searches the entire indexed web
- Searching is free
- Google algorithm ranks relevance for you
- Useful for official and primary sources such as government websites

Cons

- Hard to determine the credibility of sources
- Results contain free and sponsored links
- Content not organized by experts
- Hard to find and identify scholarly sources

Google Scholar

Pros

- Indexes a wide range of scholarly literature
- Searching is free
- Easy to use if you're familiar with Google
- Google algorithm ranks relevance for you
- Can set up library access links in settings

Cons

- Can't search by subject area or material type
- No full-text access to most articles
- Very limited filters
- Content not organized by experts
- No easy way to identify peer-reviewed sources

Library Databases

Pros

- Search specialized academic databases
- Full-text articles are free to students and faculty
- Content organized and maintained by experts

- Can limit searches by a variety of criteria
- Easy to identify peer reviewed articles

Cons

- Not as easy to navigate for new users
- Not all databases share the same interface
- Need to choose the appropriate database to search
- Need to learn how to use limiters for best results

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Adapted from [Google vs. Google Scholar vs. Library Databases](#) (McMaster)

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