

Tips on Using Google to Research

In the age of Google the question isn't finding enough information, but rather finding the right information, and finding it in a timely manner. Here are a couple of tips if you are using Google for yourself or for your students.

1. Google Scholar allows for search of scholarly papers (Google's sub-title is "Stand on the Shoulders of Giants.") On the Google toolbar under "more," and then "even more," scroll down to the bottom in the right hand column. Many of the articles are only accessible for a fee or through a University Library, but many others are linked directly. Here is a link to Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en>
2. Google Operators allow searches refined to particular domains. There are many operators, but some of the more valuable may be:
 - a. Site: Restricts the search to particular domains. For example, if you want a source that is only from an institute of higher education, you could refine your search with `site:edu`. You can get even more specific, say you want only Stanford research, with `site:Stanford.edu`. If a student is doing research on an international topic (say the Tsunami in Japan) and they want to search for information produced in that country, they can refine the search as `tsunami site:jp` (jp is the country code for Japan). For a list of country codes, and other operators see this site: <https://developers.google.com/adwords/api/docs/appendix/geotargeting>
 - b. Filetype: Restricts the search to a particular file type. For example, the student wants to see PowerPoint presentations created by college professors on the topic of photosynthesis, the search would be **photosynthesis filetype:ppt site:edu**. (This might also help you in your own lesson planning.)
 - c. MANY more – there are many operators to help refine searches. Google has produced a series of instructional videos called "Inside Search." The information on refining sites is little dry, but is quick and to the point. Here is a link to the "Advanced Web Techniques" class. I highly recommend it for you and your students: <http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/course/ps/lesson31.htm>
|
,