Searching for information on the web.

The Internet can be a great resource, not necessarily because of the quality of the information we find in it, after all, **scholarly information** comes from books, journals and other research publications, even if we happen to find it on the web. The Internet is a great research tool because of how **easy** it is for us to find the information we need.

The web makes it very easy for us to find information, but we must be able to tell if information is coming from good, credible sources.

How to search on the web

For most of us, doing research on the web consists of "googling" something: using Google or another search engine to find information.

There are two main reasons why most of us prefer to google stuff on the web for research: one, it's virtually everywhere and within easy reach; and two, the search engine seems to come up with good information no matter how **underdeveloped** our topic is. Googling seems to give us relevant and useful information with very little effort.



(Google appears to give us the right answer to our question, regardless of whether or not our topic is well developed and explored)

Even if googling stuff seems to work, we can still tweak our searches and use specific tools to help us find the best information available. Here we will use two methods: using the **site:** feature and Google Scholar.

Searching the web using site:

Most of us are familiar with websites that end in .com, .org, .edu, .gov, etc., even if we don't know what this means. These different website endings are called **domains**, and a domain can tell us a lot about the website we are using. If the website is a **.com** website, we know it's either a personal or commercial website, **.org** means the website comes from a non-profit organization, **.edu** websites belong to universities, colleges and research institutions, and **.gov** means the website belongs to a government agency. There are other domains, but these are the ones we find more often.



Knowing that websites have different domains, and that the domain tells us what kind of website it is, wouldn't it be great to be able to search for websites by domain?

That's what the **site:** feature does. It allows us to search for information in websites with the same domain. To use the **site:** feature, we will type the keywords we want to find in the

browser's search box, just like we normally do. However, before we hit enter or click the search button, we will type **site:** and the domain or our choice, like .edu. See below:



This will give us a list of websites, all of them ending with an **.edu** domain, meaning most of these sources are colleges, universities, or research institutions, places we would want to get information for our research.

We can also use the site: feature to search for information within a **single** website or source. Using this feature we can look for articles within the New York Times website, for example, as shown below:



This will give us a list of articles, all from the New York Times and nowhere else.

Google scholar

Another way to make sure we access scholarly and academic information is by using **Google Scholar**. Searching Google Scholar is just like searching the Internet using Google, but limited to research articles from academic sources. To use it we either type scholar.google.com as a url or search google for google scholar. Google scholar also comes with its own, built-in citation generator, something you don't find in normal Internet searches.

Keep in mind that, just because you found an article in Google or Google Scholar doesn't mean you will get a hold of it. *While Google and Google Scholar can find the article for you, it doesn't mean you will always be able to access it or read it every time*. If you hit a paywall trying to access an article, talk to a librarian.

To use Google Scholar, go to <u>scholar.google.com</u>.

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		Examining mental health indices in students using Facebook in Iran		IPDFI sciencedirect.com

Regardless of how we find articles on the Internet, once we find it, we must have at the very least two things: a name and a date. We must be able to tell, at minimum, who wrote an article and when it was published. We must be able to tell who wrote the article and when it was written, otherwise the article is useless for scholarly research.

Exercise

Go to <u>scholar.google.com</u>

Type the keywords Ford F150, as shown in the picture below. Find the article **Design of an electric powertrain for a Ford F150** by **Kollmeyer, Lamb and Juang**, but **don't open it**.

≡	Google Scholar	Ford F150	
•	Articles	About 3,710 results (0.04 sec)	
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Click the **Cite** link at the bottom of the article's description. Click the **MLA** citation and do Ctrl-C or right click to copy (**only the highlighted part as shown below, otherwise it will throw an error**).

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Paste the citation in the **Exercise 5** field of the questionnaire. If you did everything correctly, you will find the flag.

Copy the flag and paste it in the flag field to unlock the section.

Congratulations! By now you should have unlocked all five sections. As a last step, Copy the last flag and send it to your instructor in an email to show you completed the game.