

Graduate Center Library: 5 Things Every Student Should Know

1

Access E-Journals and E-Books Anywhere: The library's website (<http://library.gc.cuny.edu>) can connect you to a wide array of library catalogs and databases, including many thousands of e-journals and e-books. All e-resources are accessible both on and off site — when off site, simply log in with your GC network username and password when prompted. (Note: On the very rare occasions that the library's website is down, you can still access many library resources and services through our back-up site: <http://gclibraryisdown.org/>.)

2

Get One-on-One Help from a Librarian: Need help with your research? If you're at the GC, stop by the reference desk on the second floor of the library. If you're somewhere else, go to the library website and start a chat session — you won't always get a GC librarian, but you'll always get an academic librarian with lots of research experience, 24/7! And if you have a more in-depth or difficult research need, schedule an appointment with a librarian (<http://library.gc.cuny.edu/using-the-library/research-help/research-help-request-form/>) or contact your subject librarian (<http://library.gc.cuny.edu/contact-us/directories/librarians-by-subject-specialty/>).

3

A World of Materials, from All Over the World: GC students are not limited to the collections at the GC! You can request books from other CUNY libraries using the CUNY catalog and get materials from beyond CUNY by placing interlibrary loan requests. Also, GC students get special New York Public Library privileges: you can borrow books from the NYPL research libraries! (To activate these privileges, go to Library Card Services, Room 315, in the main NYPL branch at Fifth Ave. @ 42nd St.) Also, you can apply through the Manhattan Research Library Initiative (MaRLI, <http://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/MaRLI>) for borrowing privileges at NYU and Columbia.

4

Discover Dissertations: Not sure what dissertations in your field look like? Want to go beyond books and articles in your research? Check out Digital Dissertations, a database that includes thousands of full-text CUNY dissertations and over a million full-text dissertations from other universities. Access Digital Dissertations under the “Databases” tab of the GC library website.

5

Find More with Find It! When you're using library databases, you'll sometimes see an article citation accompanied by a “Find it!” button. Click the “Find It!” button to see if the GC library has the item in another database. If the full text of the item isn't available in any GC database, “Find it!” will direct you to interlibrary loan and will auto-fill the article request form for you. Learn more about “Find it!” at <http://library.gc.cuny.edu/help/find-it/>.

Do You Use Google Scholar? Use It Better!

Are you a fan of Google Scholar, Google's tool for searching for journal articles and other scholarly materials? If so, don't use plain old Google Scholar. Rather, use the library's customized version, available in the central search box on the library homepage (<http://library.gc.cuny.edu/>) and on the library's alphabetical list of databases. The GC-customized version knows the library's electronic journal holdings and links you directly to the articles in the library's databases. (If you're off campus, you'll be prompted to log in with your GC credentials before you can access library subscriptions.) It's a great way to save time and avoid publisher paywalls.

Also, Google Scholar is currently the single best tool for finding open access versions of journal articles. If an article is freely available — on the publisher's site, on the author's homepage, or in a disciplinary or institutional repository — Google Scholar will usually find it.

How many articles are freely available online? Probably more than you realize! For example, the NIH funds over \$30 billion of health research annually, and it requires that articles resulting from NIH-funded research be made open access in PubMed Central within a year of publication. And very soon, many more federal agencies will have similar requirements: in February, the Obama administration directed federal agencies with research and development expenditures over \$100 million to develop similar policies about the research they fund!

Whether an article is open access or locked up in a library database, the GC-customized version of Google Scholar can lead you to it!



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