
Using Google for Research

The Google search engine (<http://www.google.com>) is used extensively for Web-based research. Moreover, Google also offers a number of other specialty applications and tools that provide access to an even greater array of resources, including books, scholarly works, current and past news articles, videos, and more. This handout provides a quick overview of the Google search engine and its selected specialty components.

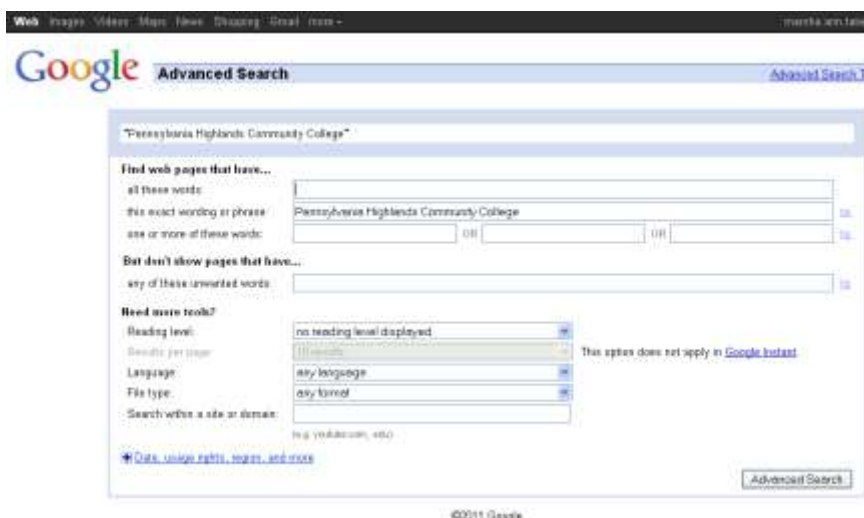
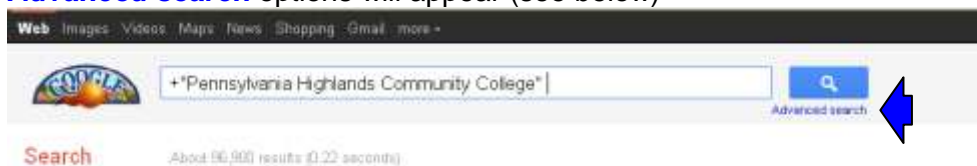
Google Search Engine (<http://www.google.com>)

The **Google** search engine provides access to billions of Web pages and other Web-based resources from throughout the world.



Search Tips:

- To search for a specific phrase in Google, enclose the phrase in quotation marks.
Examples: "Windows 7"; "Johnstown flood"; "National Institutes of Health"
- To limit a search to Web resources in a specific Web domain, type **site:** followed by the domain extension, such as **.org** (non-profit organizations); **.edu** (educational institutions); and **.gov** (government agencies)
Example: "red light camera" site:.gov (limits the search to Web pages within the .gov domain containing the phrase "red light camera")
- When you start typing terms in the Google search box, another screen that includes a link to Google **Advanced search** options will appear (see below)



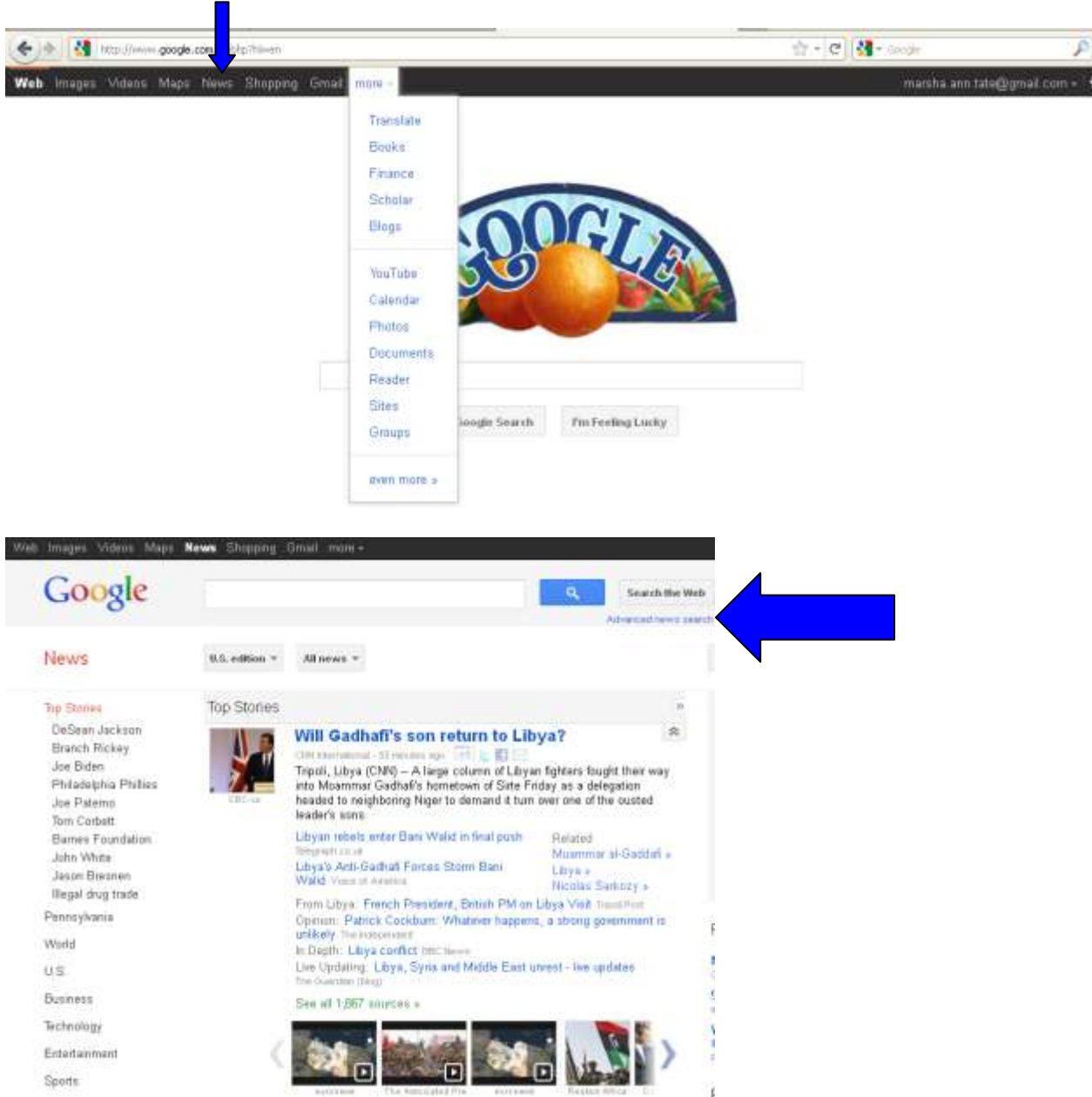
The Google **Advanced Search** options page allows you to narrow your search to specific words, phrase, reading level, language, file type, site or domain.

Also, clicking the plus (+) sign next to the "**Date, usage rights, region, and more**" link reveals additional advanced search options, including restricting the search to a specific date range.

Google also provides a number of specialty search engines and other tools, including Google News, Google Scholar, and Google Books.

Google News (<http://news.google.com>)

“**Google News** is a computer-generated news site that aggregates headlines from news sources worldwide, groups similar stories together and displays them according to each reader’s personalized interests” (“About Google News,” http://news.google.com/intl/en_us/about_google_news.html). A link to **Google News** is provided at the top of the **Google Home Page**; it can also be accessed directly at <http://news.google.com>.



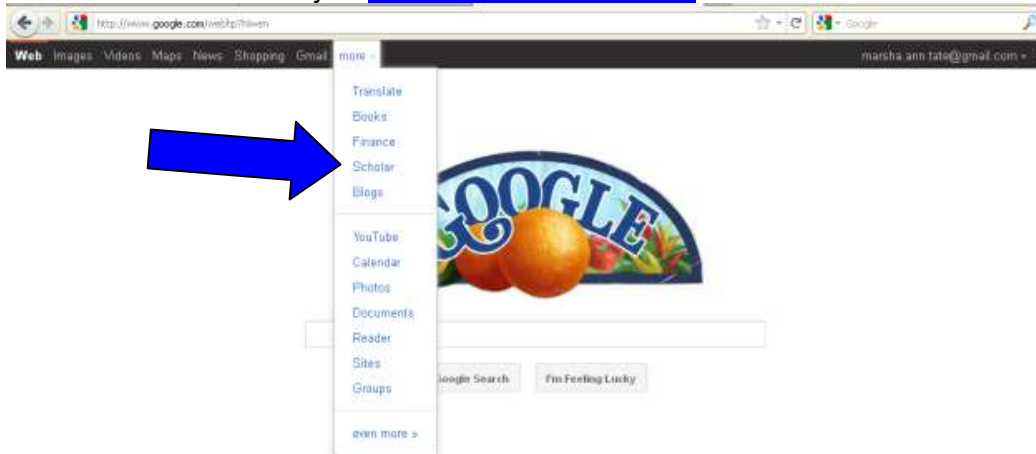
Search Tips:

Google News can be searched in the same way as the main Google search engine. Likewise, there is an **Advanced News Search** options page. One notable advanced search option allows you to “search and explore information from historical archives dating back over 200 years” (“About Google News,” http://news.google.com/intl/en_us/about_google_news.html)

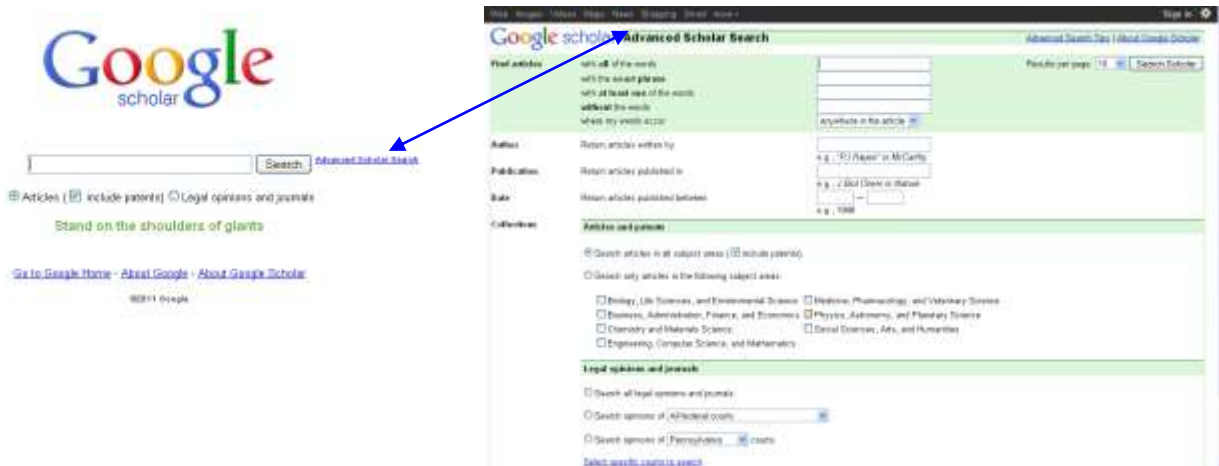
Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>)

Google Scholar provides a way to search for scholarly literature, including “articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites” (“About Google Scholar,” <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/about.html>).

Google Scholar can be accessed by clicking “**More**” and then selecting “**Scholar**” from the drop down list. It can be accessed directly at <http://scholar.google.com>.



Like its companion search tools, **Google Scholar** offers an array of advanced search options via the “**Advanced Scholar Search**” page. These options include narrowing a search to a specific author, publication, date, subject area, and more.



Google Books (<http://books.google.com>)

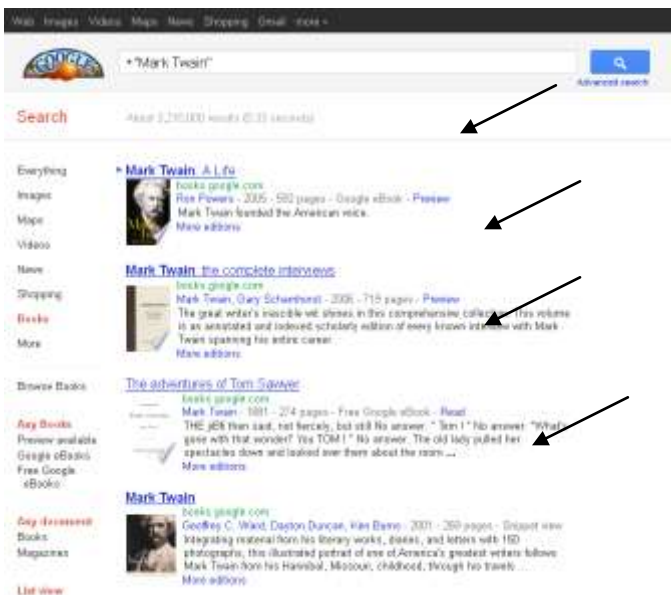
Google Books provides access to and/or information about books spanning virtually all subject areas. **Google Books** can be accessed by clicking “More” and then selecting “Books” from the drop down list. It can be accessed directly at <http://books.google.com>.



Google Books searches work just like the Google Web searches.



If a book is out of copyright, or the publisher has given Google permission, you will be able to see a preview of the book, and in some cases, its full text. If it's in the public domain, you're free to download a PDF copy.



For example, when “**Mark Twain**,” is typed in the search box, the first page of results includes a full-text book (i.e., labeled “**Read**”), as well as several multiple-page previews, and one snippet view. If the selected book is not available full-text via Google, links are usually provided to libraries that own the book, as well as book sellers who sell the book.