Are you a Google Scholar fan? Me too! This quick tutorial will show you a few tricks to make sure you’re getting the most out of Google Scholar.

First, I’ll show you how to access the Marymount version of Google Scholar and then I’ll give you some pointers on using when to choose google scholar over a subject-specific database.

To access MU’s version of Google Scholar go to the library homepage, from there, click ‘articles and databases’, then click ‘g’ for Google Scholar, and finally, click ‘Google Scholar’.

Accessing the MU version of Google Scholar enables Google to recognize your credentials as an MU student and automatically grants you access to things that MU libraries subscribes to, which may have otherwise been behind a paywall. As an MU student, you should NEVER have to pay for access to scholarly articles.

Before we dive in, let’s talk about when to choose Google Scholar over a a subject-specific database, such as APA Psychnet, Education Complete, and so on.

Google Scholar is a great choice for for interdisciplinary research. Unlike subject-specific databases, which typically include materials on a targeted subject, Google Scholar has a bit of everything.

So, what’s interdisciplinary research, anyway?

According the the National Science Foundation, interdisciplinary research is research “that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge”.

For example, I’m going to use a topic from the education field.

Let’s run a search for ‘implicit bias’ and ‘teacher expectations’.

This topic is interdisciplinary because, in order to research it, you’ll need to look at articles from at least 2 disciplines- education and psychology.

In order to identify which discipline the author is writing from, check the title of the journal. If it’s not clear from the title you’ll need to either read the journal’s ‘about page’ or read a little about the authors.

As you can see, the articles in this set of results are coming from the disciplines of ‘education’, ‘gender studies’, and ‘educational psychology’.

Did you notice all the links to full text on the right? Those are coming directly from MU’s collection! You might not have gotten those direct links if you hadn’t used the MU version of Google Scholar.

Click on the first link and you’ll see the link directs you right back to Marymount’s databases.
If you have any questions about Google Scholar or interdisciplinary research, librarians are available via online chat, email or phone.