

How to find *free* full-text scholarly and professional information on the Internet

Jacquelyn Coughlan, M.S. M.L.S. 3/28/06

I. Search Engines:

- A. Search **Google** for a known item by numerous access points i.e. name of journal, publisher, author, title of article, or by the type of resource you are looking for i.e.. Bibliography, ERIC Document, Government document, Gray Literature, Handbook, Manual, PDFs and other file formats, White Paper, Position Paper, Preprint, Working Paper, Draft, Technical Report. <http://www.google.com>
- B. **Scirus** for “Scientific Information only” <http://www.scirus.com>
- C. **Specialty search engines** such as **SMEAL Search**, a specialized search engine that searches the Academic Business Literature Digital Library for business documents that are in either PDF or PostScript (PS) formats. <http://smealsearch1.psu.edu>

To find out more about specialty search engines go to Search Engine Watch at <http://searchenginewatch.com>

See also <http://searchenginewatch.com/links/article.php/2156351>

II. Web Directories:

- A. **Google Directory** (select topic, then “news & media” or “publications” or “journals” <http://www.google.com> See also Google Scholar.
- B. **Librarian’s Index to the Internet** (select media, magazines -276) www.lii.org
- C. **Internet Public Library** (select magazines, then a discipline) www.ipl.org
Also for online newspapers from around the world
<http://www.ipl.org/div/news>
- D. **SciSeek** is a focused web directory for information in a specific scientific areas. <http://www.sciseek.com>

III. Aggregate Journal Sites

These are sites that have a *collection of full-text journals* usually organized by subject areas but sometimes multi-disciplinary. You might also find the most current issue or back issues of a journal by going directly to the publisher's web site. You can find the publisher by doing a Google search by the title of the journal or the publisher's name if known. Here is a list of aggregate journal sites:

DOAJ Directory of Open Access Journals publisher of peer-reviewed, open access journals <http://www.doaj.org/>

American Educational Research Association Open Access Journals in the Field of Education-links to electronic journals that are scholarly, peer-reviewed, full text and accessible without cost <http://aera-cr.asu.edu/ejournals/>

PubMed From the National Library of Medicine -free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/front-page/fp.fcgi>

FreeMedicalJournals.com

<http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/>

Highwire Press free online multi-disciplinary full-text journals

<http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freart.dtl>

PloS Public Library of Science (Nonprofit organization of scientists and physicians)

<http://www.plos.org/>

FindArticles.com (millions of articles from leading academic, industry and general interest publications from 1984 forward) <http://www.findarticles.com>

Scholarly Journals Distributed Via the World Wide Web

University of Houston Libraries-provides links to established Web-based scholarly journals that offer free access to English language articles.

<http://info.lib.uh.edu/wj/webjour.html>

NewJour Electronic Journal & Newsletter archive A master list of e-journals but not necessarily full-text. <http://gort.ucsd.edu/newjour/>

IV. Selected full-text resources by academic discipline or topic:

Higher Education:

ERIC Full-text of many ERIC documents at <http://searcheric.org/>

Biology:

Arxiv.org at Cornell University Library, open access to 361,067 e-prints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Quantitative Biology <http://arxiv.org/>

Business

BNET(white papers and case studies in Business), free but registration required (you'll get email about offers and services).

<http://www.bnet.com/whitepapers.html>

CasePlace.org is an online database of business case studies and contains cases and teaching notes, teaching modules, journal articles, course syllabi, books, etc.

CasePlace.org is a free service of the Aspen Institute Business and Society Program.

<http://www.caseplace.org/>

Library of Congress:Business Reference Services:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/techreps/techrepshome.php>

Olin School of Business (Washington University, St. Louis)

Library of National and International Working Papers Working papers are at

<http://www.olin.wustl.edu/library/other/wp.cfm>

Stanford Graduate School of Business, Center for Electronic Business and Commerce

<http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/cebc/cases.html>

The Times 100 case studies, website for students for the

UK <http://www.thetimes100.co.uk/>

Chemistry (first see list on journals in ChemWEb then use ScienceDirect database)

<http://www.chemweb.com/>

Also <http://www.abc.chemistry.bsu.by/current/fulltext.htm>

Computer Science:

Caltech Computer Science Technical Reports

<http://caltechctr.library.caltech.edu/view/>

Cornell University Library, Open access to 359,541 e-prints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Quantitative Biology <http://arxiv.org/>

Computing Research Repository (CoRR) An online repository from ACM for computing research and reports <http://arxiv.org/corr/home>

DRUM Tech Reports in Computer Science and Engineering (select DRUM, then DRUM Techn Reports at the bottom of the page.
<http://www.lib.umd.edu/index.html>

NCSTRL Networked Computer Science Technical Reference Library
<http://www.ncstrl.org/>

Engineering:

The GrayLIT Network searches U.S. Federal Agencies without having to know the sponsoring agency. <http://graylit.osti.gov>

Information Bridge contains documents in physics, chemistry, materials, biology, environmental sciences, energy technologies, engineering, computer and information science, renewable energy, etc. <http://www.osti.gov/bridge/>

Information Technology:

ZDNet's White Paper Directory "is the Web's largest library of technical IT white papers, webcasts, and case studies". <http://whitepapers.zdnet.com/>

Law:

Internet Legal Research Group <http://www.ilrg.com/journals.html>

Nursing and Medicine:

PubMed Central free full-text journals
<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/front-page/fp.fcgi>

Physics:

PhysicsWeb <http://physicsweb.org/resources/index.cfm/Publishing/Journals>

Physics/Math:

Open access to 359,541 e-prints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Quantitative Biology <http://arxiv.org/>

Psychology:

Amoeba Web History and theory of psych prints and full-text psychology-related journals <http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/amoebaweb/index.aspx?>
Select full-text journals

CogNet -Full text of major reference works and over 250 MIT Press cognitive science books; full text of MIT Press journals in the field of cognitive and brain

sciences

History and Theory of Psychology Eprint Archive from York University, Toronto
<http://htprints.yorku.ca/>

PsychLine (guide to psychology and social science journals on the web)select by subject
<http://www.psychline.org/journals/psychline.html>

Social and Human Sciences Online Periodicals (full text) Free access to specialized articles from around 700 periodicals
<http://www.unesco.org/shs/shsdc/journals/shsjournals.html>

Science:

Washington DC Principles for Free Access to Science from the nation's leading not-for-profit medical/scientific societies and publishers
<http://www.dcprinciples.org/signatories.htm>

PNAS Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America
<http://www.pnas.org/misc/about.shtml>

Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG) the catalogue of Internet Resources for the Social Scientist <http://www.sosig.ac.uk>

V. Where to find dissertations and theses:

You can go directly to the institution that granted the degree and check to see if they have posted their students work online, for example see NC State University <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/etd/>

MIT Libraries: Digital Library of MIT Theses , a searchable collection of selected MIT master's and doctoral theses is available online at <http://theses.mit.edu>

FYI if you cannot find it free online and don't mind paying the full cost yourself, you can order it directly from **ProQuest Dissertation Express** at <http://wwwlib.umi.com/dxweb/gateway>

NDLTD Collection (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations Union Catalog) <http://zippo.vtls.com/cgi-bin/ndltd/chameleon>

Theses Canada Portal Access and search the full text electronic versions of numerous Canadian theses and dissertations <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/6/4/index-e.html>

The Virtual Technical Reports Center (University of Maryland) contains links to technical reports, preprints, reprints, dissertations, theses, and research reports of all kinds

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/TechReports/UMDTechReports.html>

VI. Where to find free online books:

A master list from **University of Hartford** libraries

<http://library.hartford.edu/lr/elecbook.htm>

Another great list of full-text resources from the **Nebraska Library Commission**

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nsf/fulltext.html>

University of Pennsylvania Library (25,000 free online books)

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>

The National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/>

Project Gutenberg

<http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/>

The National Academies Press- read more than 3,000 books online free

<http://www.nap.edu/>

GPO-Government Publications Office

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>

Internet Archive: Text Archive - Links to collections of online texts. They have recently announced plans to add the holdings of major research libraries around the world.

<http://www.archive.org/details/texts>

VII. Where to find preprint archives:

Preprint archives solve the problem of the length of time it takes for scholarly research to enter into print publication. Preprint use has been particularly important in the sciences. You may also find the most current issue or back issues by going to the publisher's web site.

Astronomy Smithsonian/NASA ADS Service

http://adsabs.harvard.edu/fulltext_service.html

CERN Document Server <http://cdsweb.cern.ch/>

Chemical Physics Preprint Database
<http://www.chem.brown.edu/chem-ph.html>

Economics Working Paper Archive
<http://econwpa.wustl.edu/wpawelcome.html>

International Philosophical Preprint Exchange
<http://cogsci.l.chiba-u.ac.jp/IPPE.html>

LANL Physics Information Server <http://mentor.lanl.gov/>

Stevan Harnad's E-Print Archive Includes connections to issues of Psycholinguistics E-Journal, one of the first of the electronic networked journals.
<http://www.princeton.edu/~harnad/>

E-Print Network from the **Office of Scientific and Technical Information** pre-publication drafts of journal articles, scholarly papers, technical communications, or similar documents relaying research results among peer groups in basic and applied sciences in physics but also chemistry, biology and life sciences, materials science, nuclear sciences and engineering, energy research, computer and information technologies <http://www.osti.gov/eprints/>

VIII. Where to find issue discussion papers:

Brookings Institution <http://www.brookings.edu/index/publications.htm>

RAND <http://www.rand.org>

Urban Institute <http://www.urban.org>