

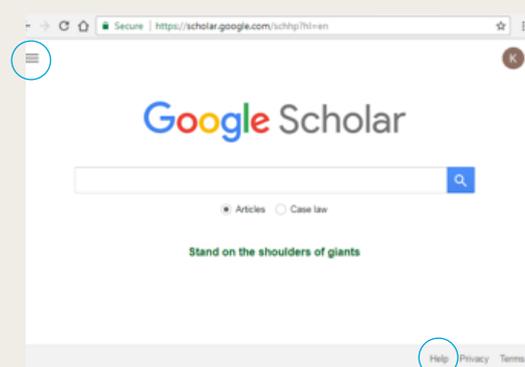
11 GREAT TIPS

for accessing educational research

1 Google Scholar

[Google Scholar](#) is a great way of doing a broad search for relevant journal articles. There is a 'Help' link on the bottom right of the Google Scholar search page. The Help page provides lots of great tips for improving your search. There is also an Advanced Search option which you can access from the menu on the top left.

Of course many of the articles you find on Google Scholar will cost money to download, but you can at least read abstracts and get an idea of what research is out there and narrow your search to a few articles that look like they will be most helpful in answering your questions.



2 Take advantage of the CEM Subscription OECD Education iLibrary

Staff in CEM schools have access to the [OECD Education iLibrary](#), which includes journal articles, papers, e-books and databases. The OECD produce some excellent materials on a whole range of education topics, enabling staff to keep up-to-date with international research and evidence in education. The subscription works via our IP addresses, so all staff will be automatically logged-in when visiting the site from their work computers. Many items can be downloaded as a pdf and everything you find can be read online.

3 Access Individual Journals

Browse individual journal sites that offer free access to published research findings. Most of these sites have search capabilities, although some harder to find than others! Take advantage of free subscriptions for alerts or notifications of new articles on a topic of interest to you.

[Australian Journal of Educational & Developmental Psychology](#) (Aus)

[Issues in Educational Research](#) (Aus)

[The Australian Journal of Teacher Education](#) (Aus)

[Consortium for Policy Research in Education](#) (US)

[The Journal of Educational Research](#) (US)

[Journal of Curriculum Studies](#) (UK)

4 Browse research repositories

[Australian Teaching & Learning Toolkit](#)

[Department of Education and Training \(DET\) Research and Publications](#)

[University of Melbourne Minerva Access](#) – Go to the Melbourne Graduate School of Education Collection via the Browse menu on the right and go to 'Communities & Collections'

[Australian Association for Research in Education](#)

[ACEReSearch](#)

ACER host the [Australian Education Research Theses database](#)

The Australian Open Access Strategy Group (AOASG) maintain a list of [open access repositories](#) in Australia and New Zealand. Many universities and government departments provide access to their research via these repositories.

5 Read reports from research institutes and other organisations

[Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership \(AITSL\)](#)

[Grattan Institute](#)

[Learning First](#)

[Centre for Independent Studies](#)

[Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation](#)

[OECD Education GPS](#)

[Education Endowment Foundation \(UK\)](#)

[Education Development Trust \(UK\)](#)

6 Learn the art of a good search

Brainstorm different terms/phrases that researchers around the world might use for each of your key topics. For example, don't limit your search to 'literacy development in primary school students'. Each of these key words or phrases could have numerous alternatives. Only a few examples are listed below:

Literacy	Development	Primary school	Students
Reading	Learning	Elementary school	Pupils
Language	Progress	Preparatory school	Students
Comprehension	Improvement	Grade school	Children
	Growth	Early Years	Schoolchild

Look for an Advanced Search function on any search engine or Journal search. This will enable you to experiment with AND/OR searches. You could search for 'literacy' AND 'development'. Or you could search for 'literacy' OR 'reading' AND 'development' OR 'learning'.

To learn more about the search artform, check out:

- [Google Scholar help page](#)
- [ACEReSearch help page](#)
- Deakin Uni Library Research resources on doing a [literature search](#)

7 Subscribe to alerts

Try subscribing to the newsfeeds of one or two journals or organisations that focus on topics of interest or relevance to you. Then when a new addition is published or a new paper is released, you will hear about it. Subscribing as a follower to Blogs is also a great way to find out about new research from many like AARE and ACER. Subscribe to the weekly newsletter from the [National Catholic Education Commission](#) which often highlights new and relevant research findings.

8 Don't reinvent the wheel

It is easy to feel like Alice falling down the rabbit hole when you start searching literature! The descent feels endless and you can feel like you will never find exactly the evidence or conclusions that support your needs. Therefore, don't underestimate the value of investing in an up-to-date text book or a published collection of papers that provide a summary of a topic or theme if it covers the kinds of questions you are asking. Some papers provide a 'systematic review' of research in a given area, so these are worth hunting down. Just include terms like 'systematic review' as an AND in your search.

9 Make friends in high places

Searching for relevant, useful and accessible research papers can take a lot of time. As a teacher, you have a limited amount of time to commit to finding and then reading the papers, let alone thinking through how you can apply it to your classroom and your students. So if you ever go to a conference or a professional learning activity or you read something that you connect with and enjoy, try and find out if there is a way to keep in touch with the researcher e.g. on Twitter or Facebook or even by email. They may open up the way to other relevant research or programs that meet your needs. They might even be happy to send you their papers or other materials of interest.

10 Share, share, share!

There may be other teachers at your school who have already hunted down the research papers that you are after. Ask around. Create a culture of generosity of knowledge with your colleagues and let people know when you have found something you think may interest them. Try and build research sharing into team meetings or staff newsletters.

11 Enrol in postgraduate study

Perhaps the most extreme way to access educational research would be to enrol in a Graduate Certificate/ Diploma, Masters or PhD! Then you will have unlimited access to a vast amount of research through your university library.