This is a tutorial from the librarians at Lone Star College – North Harris. The purpose of this tutorial is to teach users how to use Google Scholar.

Google Scholar is a free database of books, journal articles, and other scholarly materials that Google makes available to Internet users. It is often a useful supplement to the materials available in print or on subscription databases at the library.

Begin your search by visiting Google Scholar at scholar.google.com. Next, click on Scholar Preferences. This will allow you to customize your searches on Google Scholar. Among the most useful changes that you can make is to identify yourself as a Lone Star College library user. This will help Google Scholar find materials that are in your library. To set this preference, scroll down to Library Links. Now type Lone Star College into the search bar and click on Find Library.

When Lone Star College is added to the library list, select it and unselect the other options.

Now scroll down and click on Save Preferences.

Our preferences are now saved, so let’s begin our search. As an example, let’s look for information about the Native American nation known as the Aleut. Type Aleut Native Americans into the search bar and click on Search.

We have 16,200 search results. We can reduce the number of search results with these pull-down menus. These menus allow you to limit your search results to different types of information sources or a date range in which the source was published. The final menu allows you to exclude search results that offer only a citation.

Let’s reduce our number of search results by selecting “articles excluding patents”, “since 1991”, and “at least summaries”. Our search results have now been reduced to 10,400.

The titles to the resources are linked. To the right, you can often view information about what source you’re linking to or how you can get there. The first item, for example, is a US federal government website. The second is available to Lone Star College users through a database cooperative called Texshare.

After each listing is a link to a list of every resource in Google Scholar that cites that item.
Google Scholar is a work in progress. At this time, there is no way to exclude items that are not in full text. There is also no standardized form for printing, emailing, or downloading materials that you find.

Google Scholar is challenging to use, but if you desire to find everything ever published on a given subject, it is a useful tool for accomplishing that task.