



Using Google Scholar, identify the following:

1. What is the top ranked journal in Engineering & Computer Science?

2. What is the top ranked journal in the subcategory of Robotics?

3. Look up the article “Undergraduate women in computer science: experience, motivation and culture” by A Fisher, J Margolis and F Miller in Google Scholar. Without looking at the article itself, what are three characteristics you can tell about the article?

4. Do you think there is bias in the search results of Google Scholar? Discuss with a partner.

How Google Scholar Ranks Journals and Scholarly Articles

1. Academic Journals are ranked by H5-Index which only includes journals that have published 100 articles and been cited once within the last 5 years
2. Articles with high citation counts are ranked highest in results
3. Keywords that appear directly in the article title are ranked higher in results
4. Google is literal. Synonyms to your keyword are not included in results
5. The number of times a keyword appears in an article does NOT matter

Pros of Google Scholar

- Familiar interface
- When on campus, links directly to PDFs
- Includes articles LMU may not own/have access to
- Provides citation counts and links to references
- Citation tools

Cons of Google Scholar

- Overwhelming Results
- May provide links to articles LMU does not own/have access to
- May have broken links
- Popular over unique research
- Recent articles rank higher than older

Google Scholar is great at....

- Finding the PDF of articles when you have the title or citation already
- Finding digital copies of articles referenced in an article
- Multidisciplinary, advance research
- Finding popular and recent articles on your subject