Searching for information on the internet: A short introduction

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Internet Search tools

- The internet is full of information
- But the information is useless unless it can be retrieved
- Search tools are needed to retrieve the information necessary to you
- Which search tools are available?
 - Gateways
 - Databases
 - Search Engines

Gateway

 A node or network that serves as an entrance to another network, gateways organize information in a structured way in general or subject categories

> - INARI ACCESS TO RESEARCH

- WHO A-Z health topics list <u>http://www.who.int/topics/en/</u>
- HINARI
- AGORA
- OARE
- AJOL

Database

- A collection of information organized in such a way that a computer can be used to quickly access it
 - an electronic filing system
 - the program can quickly select desired pieces of data
 - Example:
 - PubMed a free search tool to over 16 million citations <u>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/</u>
 - CINAHL
 - EMBASE

Search Engine

- A program that searches documents for specified keywords and returns a list of documents where the keywords were found
- Search engines utilize automated robotics (called spiders) to gather and index information
- Search Engines:
 - Google <u>http://www.google.com</u>
 - Google Scholar (more focused) <u>http://www.scholar.google.com</u>
 - Bing <u>http:bing.com</u>
 - Yahoo <u>http://www.yahoo.com/</u>

About Google Scholar https://scholar.google.com/

- Google "harvests" information from full-text articles with publisher permission, then makes them fully searchable.
 - Not all publishers are included.
- Also includes non journal sources like books, free and "open source" resources, digital libraries, and other scholarly sources on the Web
- 2 different types of entries
 - Main entries for publication itself
 - Mini-entries for cited references that GS cannot find online.
 [citation]

About MEDLINE

- Largest database of indexed journal citations for health sciences literature
 - Indexed records = Organized records that include standard descriptors of topics
- >16 million citations from 5000 journals back to 1949
- Produced by National Library of Medicine (NLM), one of the National Institutes of Health

About MEDLINE

- Available with different interfaces developed by different organizations
 - Interface = screen you see + search engine in background
- Interphase include
 - PubMed
 - Ovid MEDLINE
 - Other versions which look different but have the same raw data.
 - ClusterMed
 - Web of Science
 - EBSCOhost

Medline Limitations

- New journals generally not included until they have proven themselves over several years
- Does not cover literature from many disciplines and from nonjournal sources
- Includes primarily journals related to the health sciences and a few major journals from related disciplines
 - Does not include health-related articles from journals in other disciplines

AJOL

- African Journal Online
- Repository of journals published across Africa
- Contains articles, many free, that are not obtainable elsewhere on the internet
- Will not allow you to download articles from journals domicile in your country.



Searching Strategy Overview

- Define your information need
 - What sort of information are you looking for?
 - Is it for specific information? from a data book, encyclopaedia, dictionary or textbook
 - Is it general information within a subject area?
 - Does the search require more thought and information?
 - Who is going to use the information?
 - Is it for a clinician, researcher, student or a member of the public?



Choose your search terms

- What are the key phrases and/or unique words that might appear in a website or article?
- Are there synonyms, alternate spellings, plurals or capitals that should be considered?
- What broader topic is the search part of or related to?



Decide which sources to use

- What sources are appropriate?
- This can range from organizations' websites and news articles to subject gateways and databases, journals, reference resources, ebooks or reports and grey literature.



Review and revise your search

- Be prepared to review and revise your search scope and strategy – by using other sources of information or other search terms or different combinations of terms or by using a different type of search
- Try new sources of information: PubMed vs. AJOL vs. Google Scholar vs CiNAHL etc
- Check the references of the journal articles you retrieved for even more relevant articles

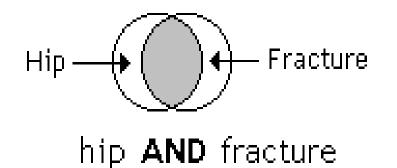
Boolean Operators

- Allow you to focus your search by linking search terms and defining the relationship between them.
- Some operators take precedence over others when searching a database.
- Not functional when they are at the beginning or end of a search expression.

Boolean Operators

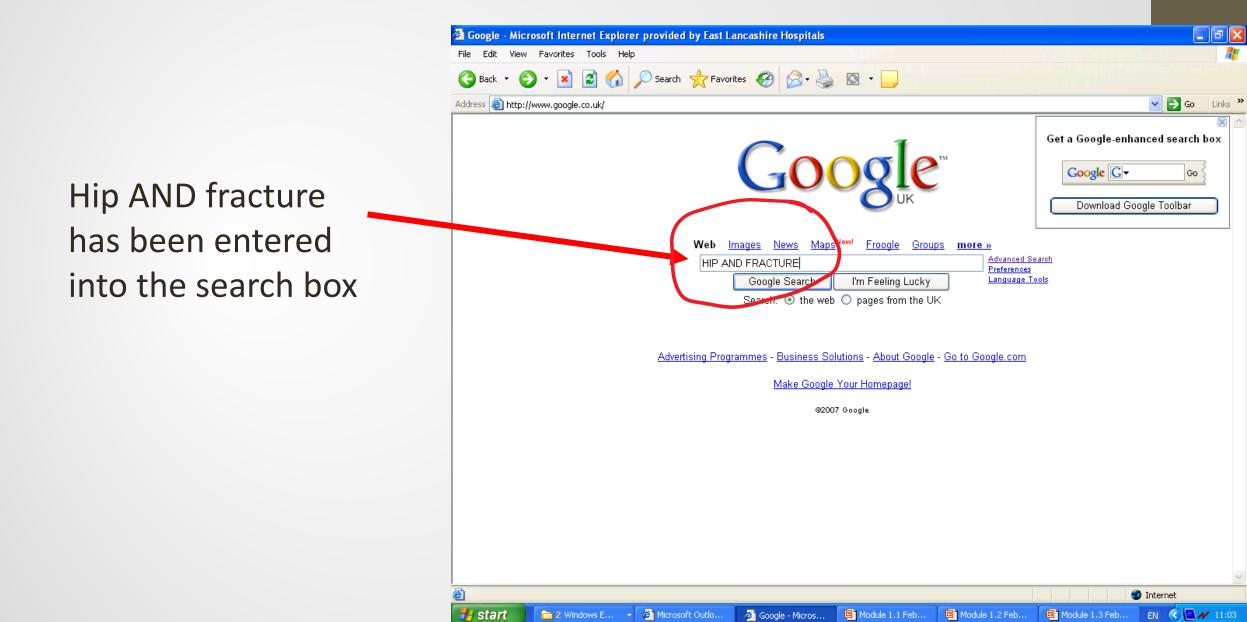
- These are connecting words used in text searches that allow the search engine to include or exclude terms.
- They are three
 - i. AND
 - ii. OR
 - iii. NOT
- Inserted in a search box.
- Must be in UPPERCASE when used.

AND Operator



- The AND operator is used to combine two or more search terms and narrow a search
- Only documents containing all the search items will be retrieved
- In the example above, only items in the shaded area will be retrieved
- It is the default search method for most search engines

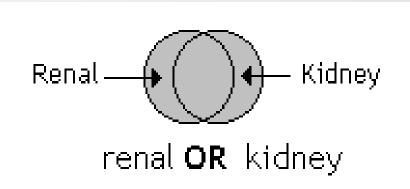
Boolean AND example



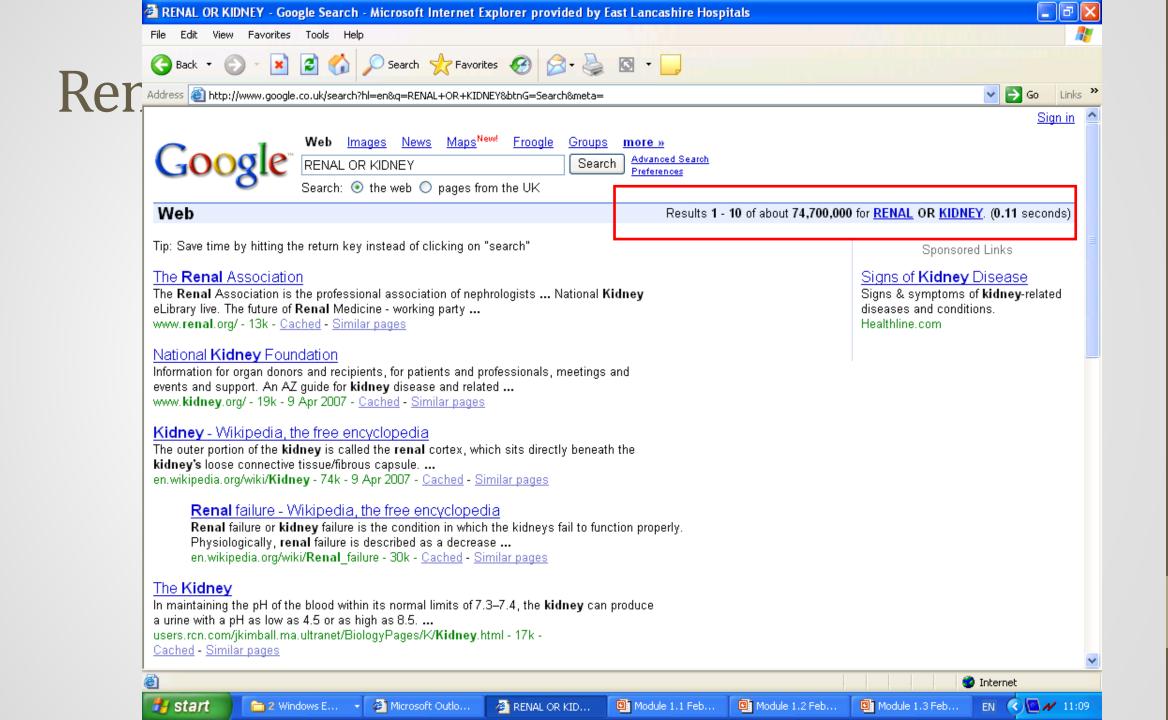
Boolean example AND results

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OR Operator



- The **OR** operator retrieves document containing one or other search terms. Will broaden a search
- Any documents containing any of the search items will be retrieved
- In the example above, all items in the shaded area will be retrieved
- It is most useful when you want to include all versions of the same word (synonyms): Renal/kidney, paediatric/children, cancer/neoplasm



NOT Operator (in one term or the other - will narrow a search)

pig NOT guinea



- In one term or the other will narrow a search
- In the example above, pig **NOT** guinea eliminates items containing guinea. So, item containing either guinea or guinea pig will be eliminated.

Phrase Searching

- Some databases and search engines allow searching of a phrase by enclosing it in single or double quotes (PubMed uses double quotes).
- Useful for searching for phrases.
- Example
 - Using the search term spinal anaesthesia will retrieve items containing spinal and anaesthesia anywhere in the article
 - Using "spinal anaesthesia" (with the quotes) will retrieve only articles containing the exact phrase.

Advanced Searching Techniques - Tips

Truncation or Wild Cards

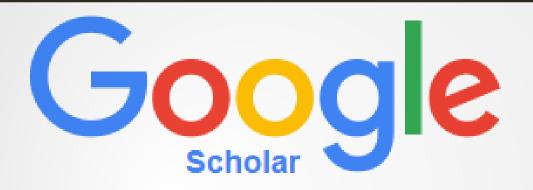
- * or \$ is inserted to find all alternative endings of a word
 - child* for child OR childs OR children
 - staph\$ will search for information on staphylococcus OR staphylococcal OR staphylococci
- ? can be used to substitute for a single letter anywhere in a word for alternate spellings
 - wom?n would search for "woman" and "women"

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- From just one website, you can search various disciplines and types of sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts etc.
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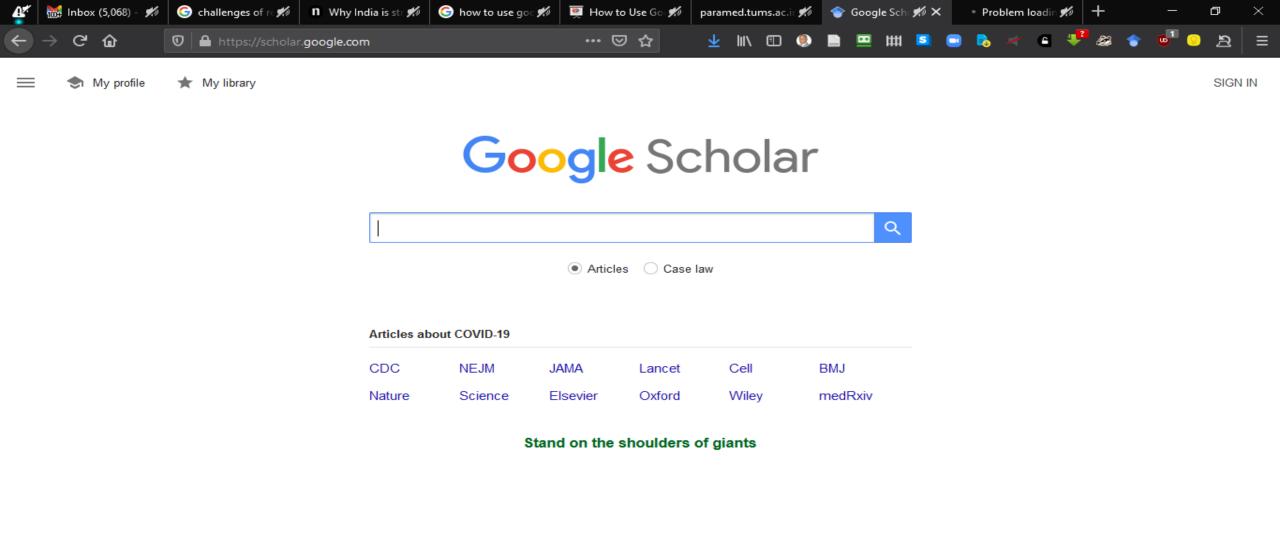
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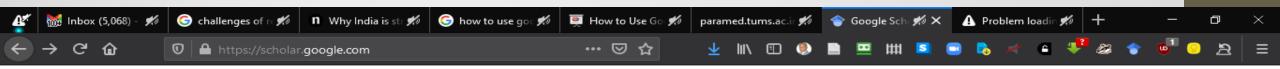
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O.N. Obuekwe, M. A. Ojo, O. Akpata and M. Etetafia

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Nigeria Reprint requests to: Dr. O. N. Obuekwe, School of Dentistry, University of Benin, P.M.B. 1154, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria

Abstract

Background: The incidence and causes of road traffic accidents (RTAs) vary with geographical location. The economic and social costs of RTAs are enormous. The knowledge of aetiologic factors and associated injury patterns may be important in planning for prevention and treatment. The aim of this study was to document the aetiological factors and the frequency of maxillofacial injuries due to RTAs.

Methods: Over a six-month period, 312 patients with facial trauma due to RTAs were prospectively studied. The demographic parameters, the cause of the RTA, the vehicle type, the use of seat belts, helmets, and other safety devices were recorded. Distribution of maxillofacial bone and soft tissue injuries by vehicle type as well as associated injuries were documented.

Results: The minibus was the vehicle type most often involved (36.2%) and tyre blowout (21.2%) was identified as the most common contributory factor. Males 117 (37.5%) in the 21 - 30 year- age range were most

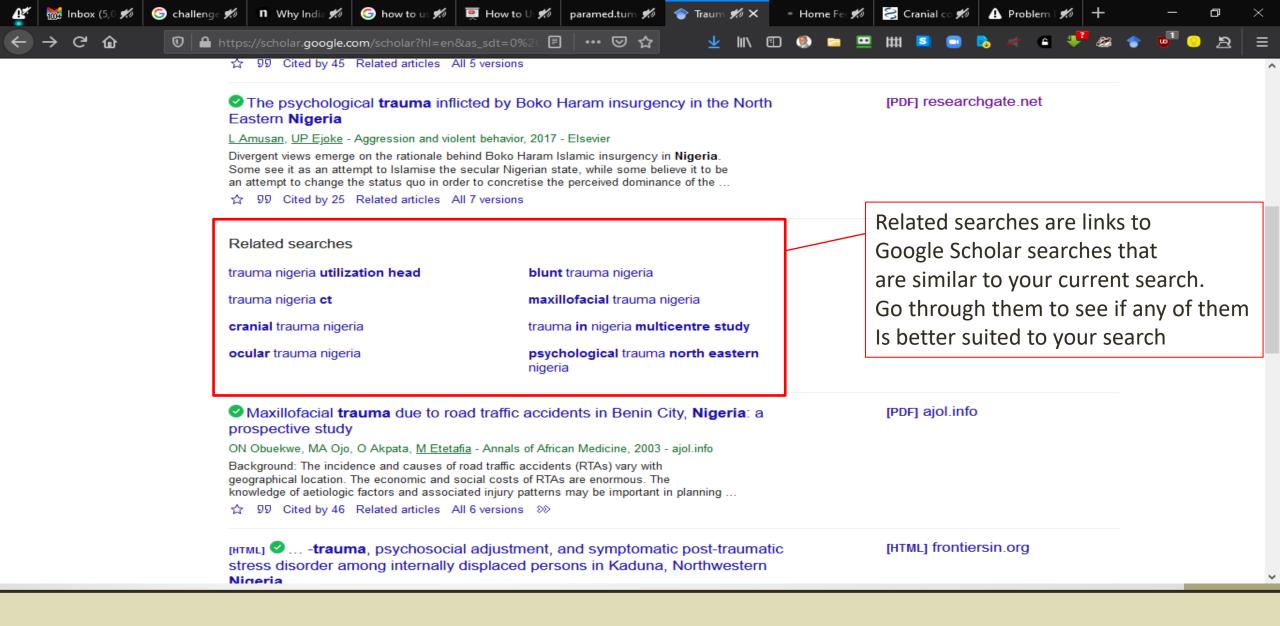
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- 2. Go to Google Scholar and click on 'My citations'
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- 5. Add a photo if you want to personalise your profile.
- 6. Click on 'Next step' to create your basic profile.
- 7. Add your publications Google will probably suggest the correct ones and ask you to confirm that they are yours. Be careful if you have a common name as publications by others may be included in the suggestions. There may also be some types of articles that you don't want to include (Google indexes lots of content such as newsletters, book reviews etc, not just scholarly articles).
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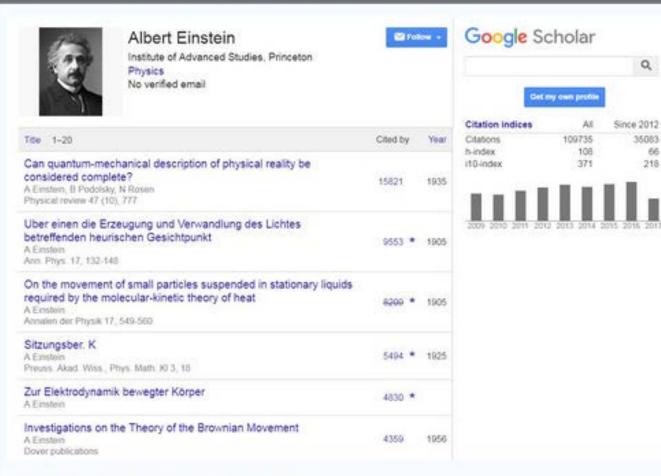
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What does a **Google Scholar** Profile look like?

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What does a Google Scholar Profile look like?



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This is an example of a Google Scholar profile.

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