

# Alternatives to Google Scholar

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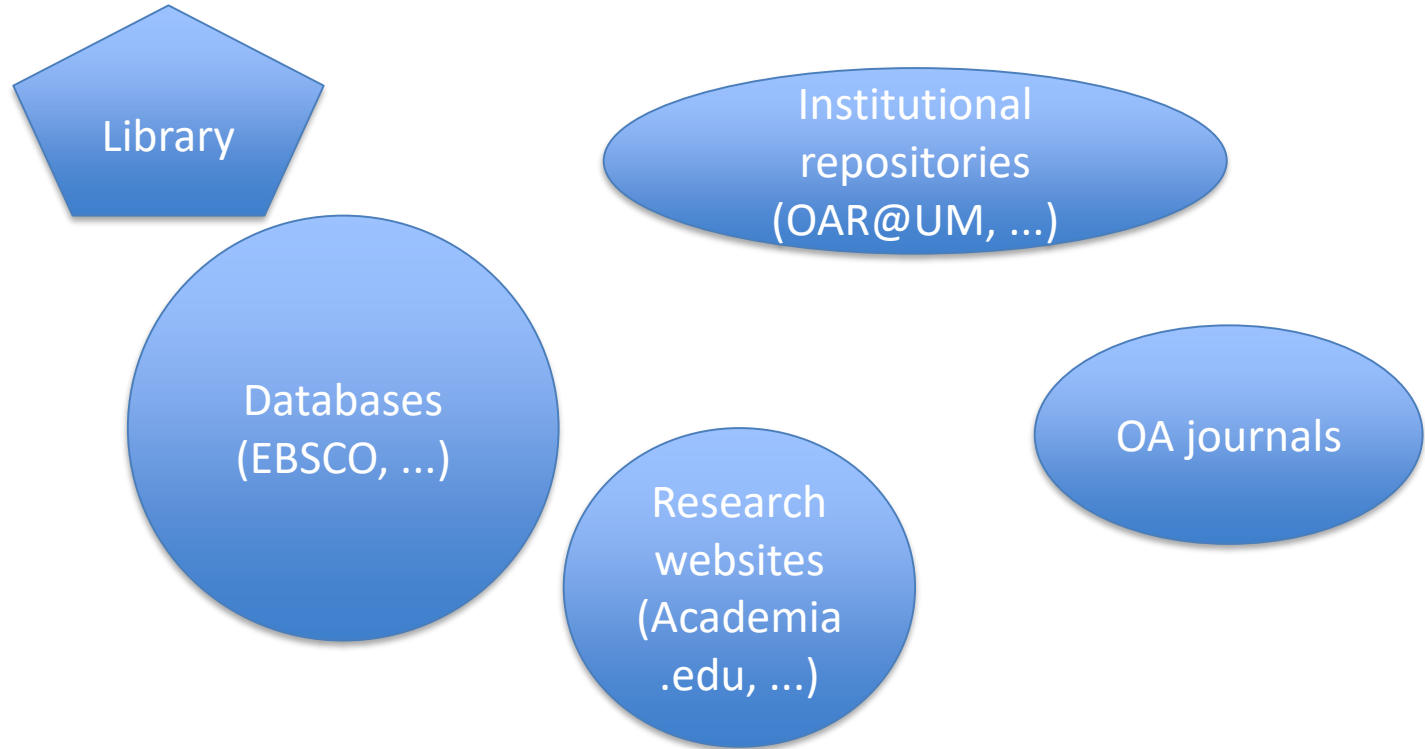
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# You



# The resources



# Your options

- Library resources
  - PRO: full text access to everything you can find
  - CON: limited scope
- Databases
  - PRO: extended scope (but still not ideal)
  - CON: incomplete full text access (unless you pay)
- Google
  - PRO: covers everything 😊
  - CON: covers everything ☹️
- Google Scholar?  
(GS is often suggested as a solution to fill in the gaps)



# Google Scholar



## The Good

- **Scope** (GS has without a doubt the biggest scope of any available search engines aimed at academic literature, indexing IRs, Publishers, Research websites, University websites, patents, citations etc.)
- **Search interface** (Simple/Advanced interface, Boolean operators, Truncation, ..)
- **Additional services**
  - Google Scholar Author Profile
  - Save retrieved articles, Tracking citations, Alert service
- **Full text retrievability** (can provide access to otherwise inaccessible resources)

## The Bad

- **Scope** (incomplete coverage, unpredictable algorithms)
- **Search interface** (almost no filters, no browsing)
- **Sources** (no list of indexed sources)
- **Accountability** (GS is a commercial product, no accountability to academia or public → can be shut down anytime)
- **Re-use** (doesn't allow for analysis, aggregation, bulk download, etc.)
- **(Customer support)** – virtually non-existent

# Metadata aggregators

- AKA: academic search engines, OAI service providers
- Websites that harvest and store metadata from data (content) providers
- Wide array of value-added user services
  - Search/browse, mobile compatibility, personal accounts, etc.
- General/document or subject specific
- Benefits:
  - **Scope** (Institutional repositories, Publishers websites)
  - **Accountability** (non-profit, run by academic institutions)
  - **Stability & reliability**
  - **Full text retrievability** (always link to the data provider)
  - **Increased visibility of scholars and institutions**

# BASE: Bielefeld Academic Search Engine

- Launched in June 2004 by the Bielefeld University Library in Bielefeld, Germany
- Classified as “academic Internet search engine”
- One of the most successful and voluminous metadata aggregators
- World-wide scope
- Stats: 275+ million records from 9.187 data providers (as of October 2021)
- Value-added services:
  - Personal account
  - Multilingual search with thesaurus
  - Mobile platforms compatibility



# CORE: COnnecting REpositories

- Younger, launched in 2011 by Petr Knoth at the Knowledge Media Institute (Open University, UK)
- Initially as a tool for easier access and text mining of research publications X developed into a national aggregator of open access content in the UK
- Harvests BOTH metadata and full text!
- World-wide scope (primary focus: UK)
- Stats: 218+ million records from 10.323 data providers (as of October 2021)
  - 24+ million fulltexts
- Value-added services:
  - CORE Mobile
  - CORE Recommender
  - CORE Dataset - download everything in bulk





# Paperity

- Launched in October 2014
- **first multi-disciplinary aggregator of Open Access journals and papers, "gold" and "hybrid"** (vs the previous ones)
  - Accessibility
  - Universality
  - Integrity
- World-wide scope
- Stats: 8,6+ million records from 16.528 journals (as of October 2021)
- Shares the aggregated metadata with other academic services (EBSCO, Altmetric, WorldCat, OCLC)
- Value-added services:
  - RSS feeds
  - Mobile application



**paperity**  
open science aggregated

# DART-Europe

- Pan-European portal for Open Access research electronic theses and dissertations
- Endorsed by LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) + the working group of NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations)
- European scope
- Focus on only 1 type of resource
- Stats: 1,1M+ OA theses from 570 universities (as of October 2021)
- Value-added services:
  - Search history
  - Marked list
  - Statistics (most downloaded)
  - RSS feed





Thank you for your attention!