To Google or Not to Google?

Do you use Google to search for everything? Are you "satisficed"*, rather than satisfied, with the answers you find? We often use Google first because it is convenient and easy to search. However, it's not always the best source for the information you're seeking.

Don't start at Google if you need specialized information. When deciding where to begin your search, consider the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use a web search engine when you:</th>
<th>Use a library resource when you:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Have forgotten the URL for a website</td>
<td>• Need high quality information</td>
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<td>• Need a quick fact or two</td>
<td>• Need to be assured of the accuracy of information</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Are more concerned with speed of retrieval, than with the accuracy of information</td>
<td>• Need variety of types of documents (books, journals, guidelines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Need a webpage, but not other types of documents</td>
<td>• Need to be comprehensive</td>
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<td>• Need a resource that is from the ‘grey literature’ (reports, white papers, meeting abstracts)</td>
<td>• Need specialized information</td>
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<td>• Need user support (librarians, classes, tutorials, handouts)</td>
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*Satisficed - a conjunction of satisfied and suffice; You are satisficed when you decide on and pursue a course of action satisfying the minimum requirements to achieve a goal. The term was coined by H. Simon in *Psychol. Rev.* 69 : 129 1956

Most Google users tap a tiny percentage of the tools offered by Google. Look deeper by clicking on the “more” link by the the Google search box. Some of the resources you will encounter include:

**GMail** ([http://mail.google.com/](http://mail.google.com/)) Relatively easy to use, large storage capacity, filtering, and organizing features. (Sign up for GMail to use the Personal Home Page feature below).

**Google Sites** ([http://sites.google.com/?pli=1](http://sites.google.com/?pli=1)) Create a website for club or organization, class, or company and share it with a few people or the world.

**Google Book Search** ([http://books.google.com/](http://books.google.com/)) Search full text books, or find books from the collections of major international libraries. Click on the title to view more detail on the book, then click on the link on the right “Find this book in a library”. If the book is available in a nearby library, try the Prospector catalog to find and order the book to be delivered to the Health Sciences Library for pickup.


**Google Scholar** ([http://scholar.google.com/](http://scholar.google.com/)) Search peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts, and other scholarly literature. Find out who’s citing a scholarly work, and find related materials. Set up a link to the Health Sciences Library by clicking on “Scholar Preferences” and typing Colorado into the Library Links box. Check mark the listing for University of Colorado Health Sciences Center to link to the library’s full text articles.

**Local Listings**
- italian 80206
- weather 80241
- borat 80262
- oats (lower case only)
- define meta analysis
- 80206

**Translation**
- translate hello in french

**Weather**
- weather 80241
- Area Code 719

**Movies**
- Q&A
g b bush birthday

**Stock Quotes**
- oats (lower case only)
- price Panasonic FlashXpress

**Glossary**
- translate hello in french
- Q&A
g b bush birthday

**Zip Code**
- 80206


In addition to the above searches, you can also search:

**Driving Directions**
- pasadena CA to 94043

**Web Snippets**
- g hubble telescope

(Web snippets provides brief summary info from the first four or five results from Google.)

**Google Desktop** ([http://desktop.google.com/](http://desktop.google.com/)) Search your computer as easily as you search the web with Google; Find and launch applications and files with just a few keystrokes

**Google Groups** ([http://groups.google.com](http://groups.google.com)) Search the public discussion forums, join and share information with a forum, or create your own forum.

**Google Maps** ([http://maps.google.com/maps](http://maps.google.com/maps)) Uses interactive technology to make it easier to view maps. Get directions and print or email maps.


**Google Products** ([http://froogle.google.com/](http://froogle.google.com/)) Comparison shop for a variety of consumer goods, apparel, furniture, and other novelties, to buy online or at a local store. Sort by relevance or by price. Other shopping gateways may be better, but if you’re already at Google, this is a great resource.

**Google Mobile** ([http://mobile.google.com](http://mobile.google.com)) Stripped down webpage links to popular Google resources for smaller screen, wireless pda use.

**Google Reader** ([http://www.google.com/reader](http://www.google.com/reader)) Read all your blogs and news sources in one reader.

**Google Realtime** ([http://www.google.com/realtime](http://www.google.com/realtime)) Get live updates from popular social sites, news sources, and blogs

**Google Toolbar** ([http://toolbar.google.com/](http://toolbar.google.com/)) Download a toolbar that works with Internet Explorer or Firefox to provide convenient access to Google searching.

**Google Documents and Spreadsheets** ([http://docs.google.com/?pli=1](http://docs.google.com/?pli=1)) “Park” and then open and edit documents or spreadsheets from any internet connected computer.

**Calendar** ([http://www.google.com/calendar](http://www.google.com/calendar)) Create and maintain your own calendar.

**Picasa** ([http://picasa.google.com/](http://picasa.google.com/)) Download this image manager and editor. Create an album of photos.

**Blogger** ([http://www.blogger.com/home](http://www.blogger.com/home)) Create your own weblog to maintain an online diary, a place to showcase photos, or a place to add links to favorite websites.

**Google Talk** ([http://www.google.com/talk/](http://www.google.com/talk/)) Internet messenger chat using your Google account name.

**Google Voice** ([http://voice.google.com/](http://voice.google.com/)) One number for all your phones, online voicemail and cheap calling.