

Increasing your publication visibility through Google scholar A step should be endorsed by all Iraqi medical Journal

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These days, almost all data searching is done online. So it is very necessary that our journals and articles are represented in the online search engines. Moreover, many authors rely on finding articles through abstracting and indexing services and when they come across quality articles during a search; they might consider that journal for publication and citations. This takes us to what so called journal indexation, which is considered as a parameter which reflects the journal quality when indexed journal compared to non-indexed journals. Historically Index Medicus has been the most comprehensive index of medical scientific journal articles since 1879. Over the years, many other indexation services emerged. These include but not limited to PubMed, MedLine, SCOPUS, EMBASE, SCIRUS and others.¹

Among the new sites which are used for indexation of scholarly work is Google Scholar which is considered as an academic search engine and not an academic database.² It provides a simple way to search for scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts.³ It can help the global visibility and accessibility of any scholarly work. Google Scholar works with publishers of scholarly information to index their peer-reviewed papers, abstracts, and theses from different fields of research and make them searchable on Google and Google Scholar.⁴ It contributes significantly to increased access to scientific literature. Users can browse using a particular search criterion and will have access to their relevant search items and can then access abstracts and links to the full text of the published work based on if it is an open access or required some registration requirements. Google Scholar, one of the largest abstracting and indexing services in the world. It is uniquely easily accessible for most readers. It provides access to various publisher and database sites as well as the open-access versions of articles. Google Scholar also provides the possibility of downloading articles into reference management software such as



EndNote. Getting open access versions of our work into Google Scholar is a key way to get visibility in our field and professional societies. Google Scholar prefers a full-text article which makes both the HTML and PDF versions publications find their way easily to this combined search engine and data base.⁵

Of course being a hybrid of search engine and data base not a traditionally designed data base have left it with few short comings like; it does not have the ability to focus search by subject area, it does not have an easy way to sort articles in your results list, it does not clearly specify what type of material (academic journal, magazine, newspaper) is in the results list.⁶ Also because of the way it works it does not guarantee that the document that appears now in your search will also appear in future searches.⁷ Yet having most of the biomedical data bases and journal indexation sites not free this makes Google Scholar the number one free resource to search, publish your scientific literature.

REFERENCES

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