

Six Things Every Student Should Know about the Library

- 1 Access E-Journals and E-Books Anywhere:** The library's website (library.gc.cuny.edu) connects you to a wide array of library catalogs and databases, including many thousands of e-journals and e-books. All e-resources are accessible both on and off site — when off site, simply log in with your GC network username and password when prompted.
- 2 Get One-on-One Help from a Librarian:** Need help with research? Stop by the reference desk or start a chat session on the library website — you won't always get a GC librarian, but you'll always get an academic librarian with lots of research experience, 24/7! If you require more in-depth research assistance, schedule an appointment with your subject librarian.
- 3 More than Meets the Eye:** You are not limited to the GC's library collections! You can request books from other CUNY libraries using the CUNY catalog and get materials from beyond CUNY by placing interlibrary loan requests. Also, GC students get borrowing privileges at the New York Public Library research collections — most NYPL users can't check out these items at all, but you can take many of them home for 120 days! (To activate these privileges, go to Library Card Services, Room 315, in the main NYPL branch at Fifth Ave. @ 42nd St.) Also, you can apply for borrowing privileges at NYU and Columbia via the Manhattan Research Library Initiative (MaRLI, <http://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/MaRLI>).
- 4 Discover Dissertations:** Not sure what dissertations in your field look like? Want to go beyond books and articles in your research? Browse recent GC dissertations in Academic Works (works.gc.cuny.edu), the GC's open access institutional repository. Also, check out Digital Dissertations, a database that includes thousands of full-text CUNY dissertations and over a million full-text dissertations from other universities. Access Digital Dissertations on the "Databases" tab on the library website.
- 5 Find More with Find It!** When you're using library databases, you'll sometimes see an article citation accompanied by a "Find it! @ CUNY" button. Click the "Find It!" button to see if the GC library has the item in another database. If the full text of the item isn't available in any GC database, "Find it!" will link you to interlibrary loan and auto-fill the article request form for you.
- 6 Free Subscription to NYTimes Online:** CUNY offers free access to the NYTimes.com website and smartphone apps. Register at nytimes.com/passes with your CUNY email address. Go to tinyurl.com/NYTPass to see all instructions and restrictions.

More tips on the other side...

Do You Use Google Scholar? Use It Better!

Are you a fan of Google Scholar, Google's tool for searching for journal articles and other scholarly materials? If so, don't use plain old Google Scholar. Rather, use the *library's customized version*, available on the "Other Searches" tab on the library website. The GC-customized version knows the library's electronic journal holdings and links you directly to the articles in the library's databases. (If you're off campus, you'll be prompted to log in with your GC credentials before you can access library subscriptions.) It's a great way to save time and avoid publisher paywalls.

Also, Google Scholar is currently the single best tool for finding open access versions of journal articles. If an article is freely available — on the publisher's site, on the author's homepage, or in a disciplinary or institutional repository — Google Scholar will usually find it.

How many articles are freely available online? Probably more than you realize! For example, the NIH funds over \$30 billion of health research annually, and it requires that articles resulting from NIH-funded research be made open access in PubMed Central within a year of publication. And many more federal agencies are in the process of developing similar policies!

Whether an article is open access or locked up in a library database, the GC-customized version of Google Scholar help you find it!



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