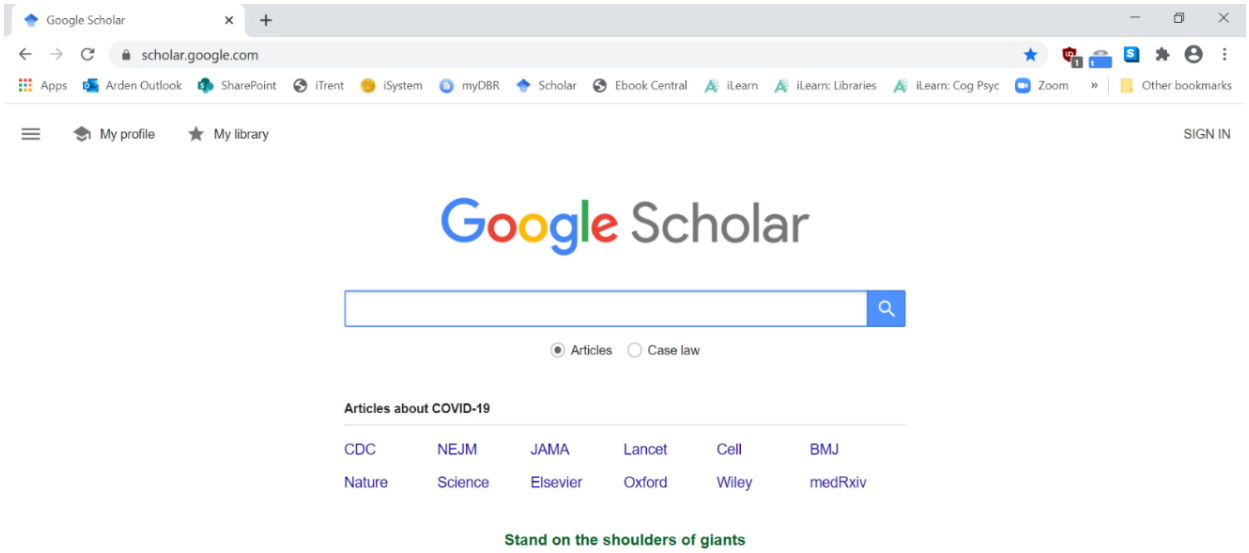
By Dr Rachel Marchant (Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology)
and the Arden University Learning Success Hub (updated in Sep 2024)

How to use Google Scholar

This document outlines the basics of using Google Scholar, a great tool for searching for academic papers/journal articles and other resources.

You can access Google Scholar at: https://scholar.google.com/

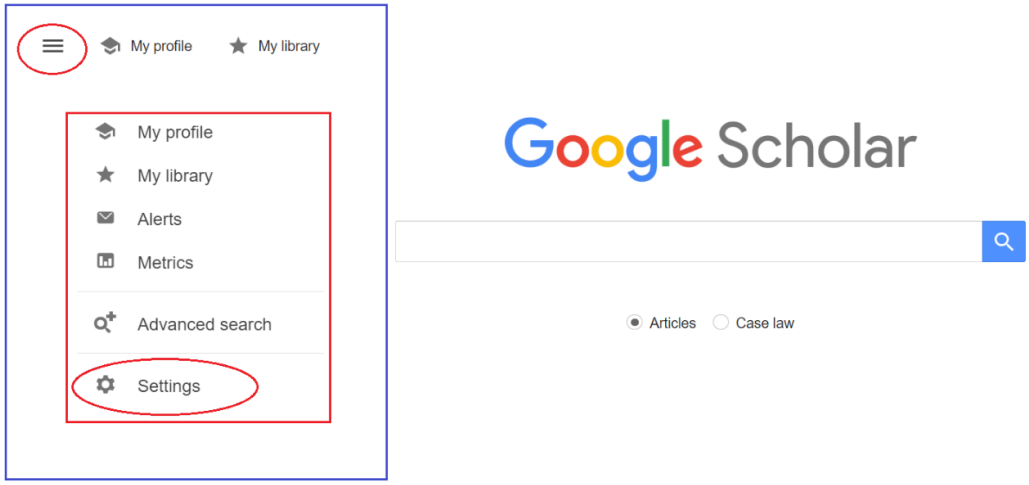


Simply enter your search terms into the search bar and hit Enter!

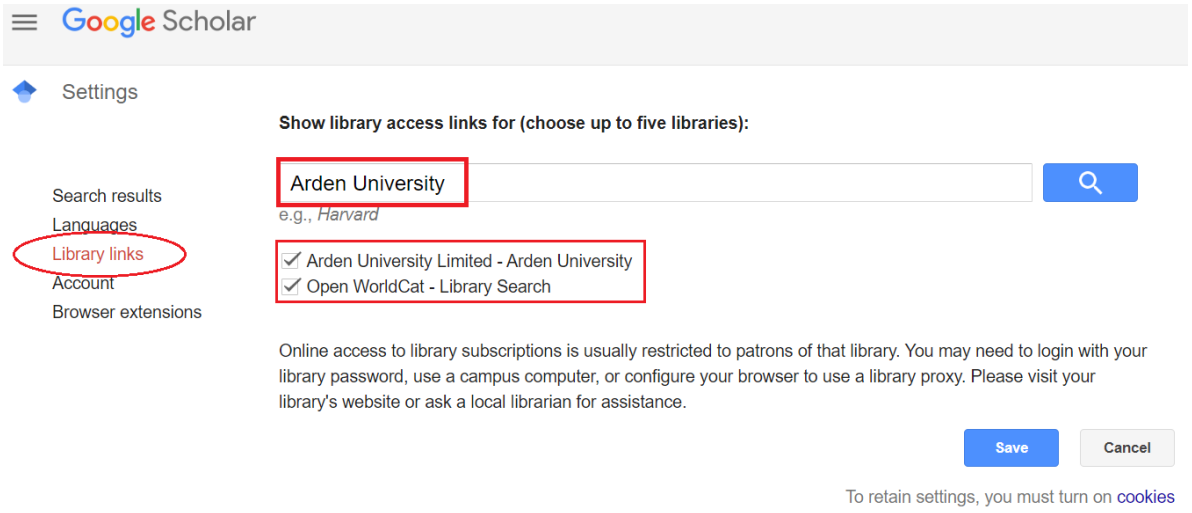
You can use Google Scholar to search across many disciplines, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other websites. You can also adjust your settings to ask Google Scholar to take you back to Arden's library if there is full text availability.

Linking Google Scholar to Arden University

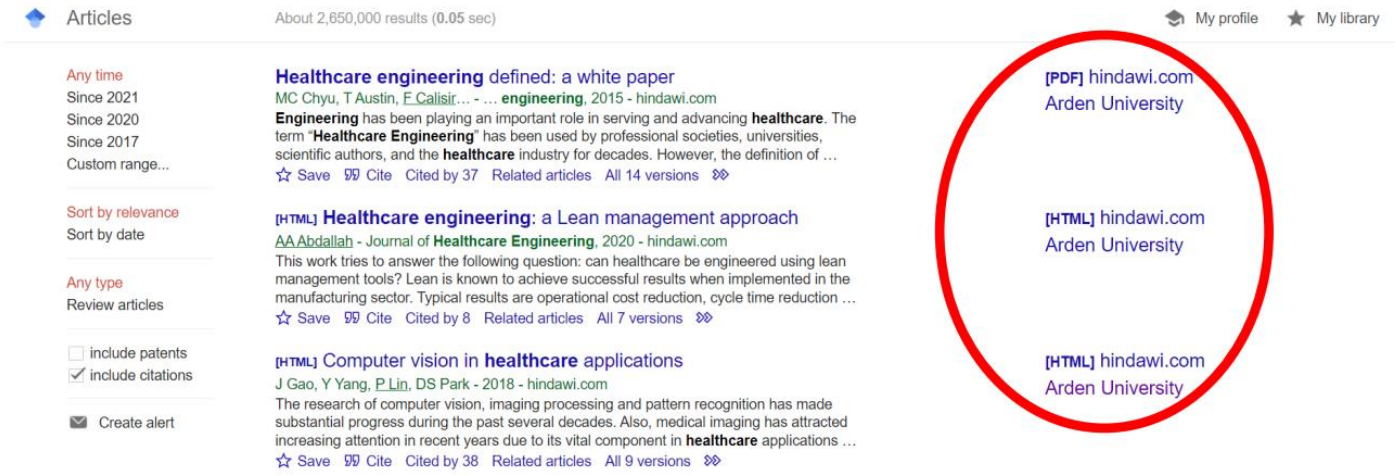
Library When linking Arden University's library provision to Google Scholar, you will need to select "settings" in the top left-hand corner:



Under 'settings' you will find an option for 'library links' – this will then produce a search bar where you will need to search for 'Arden'. A tick box for 'Arden University Limited – Arden University' should appear. Select this option and save your settings:



Once the link has been made with Arden's Library, you will see 'Arden University' next to any articles included in the Library collection. Clicking on this will take you to the full-text options. You can see this in the basic search results below:

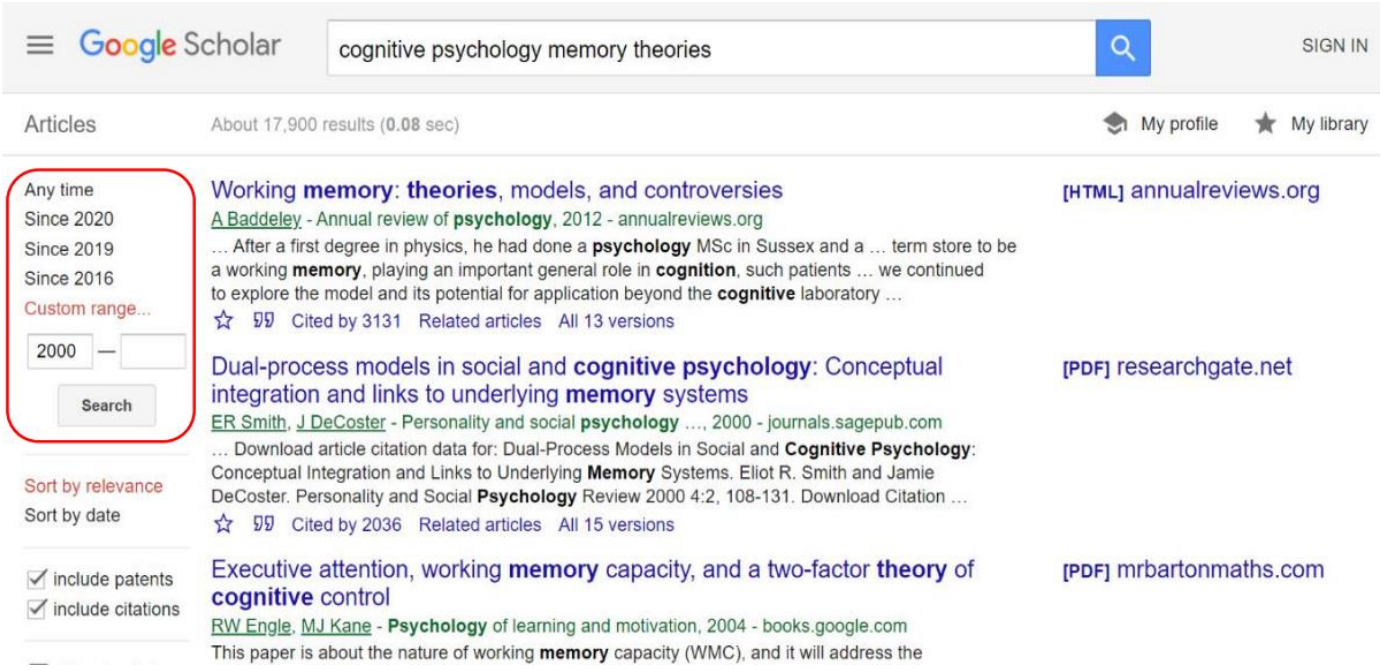


Useful search tools

In addition to the basic search, Google Scholar has lots of very useful tools you can use to make your search much more efficient and accurate!

Custom date range

You can tell Google Scholar only shows you journal articles and resources for specific dates. In the left-hand bar, click "Custom range…" and two boxes will appear. Enter your preferred date restriction and hit Enter.



Here I have asked for papers published from 2000 onwards, but you can restrict your search however you want. This is particularly useful for finding very recent papers e.g., try entering "2015" in the first box and "2020" in the second!

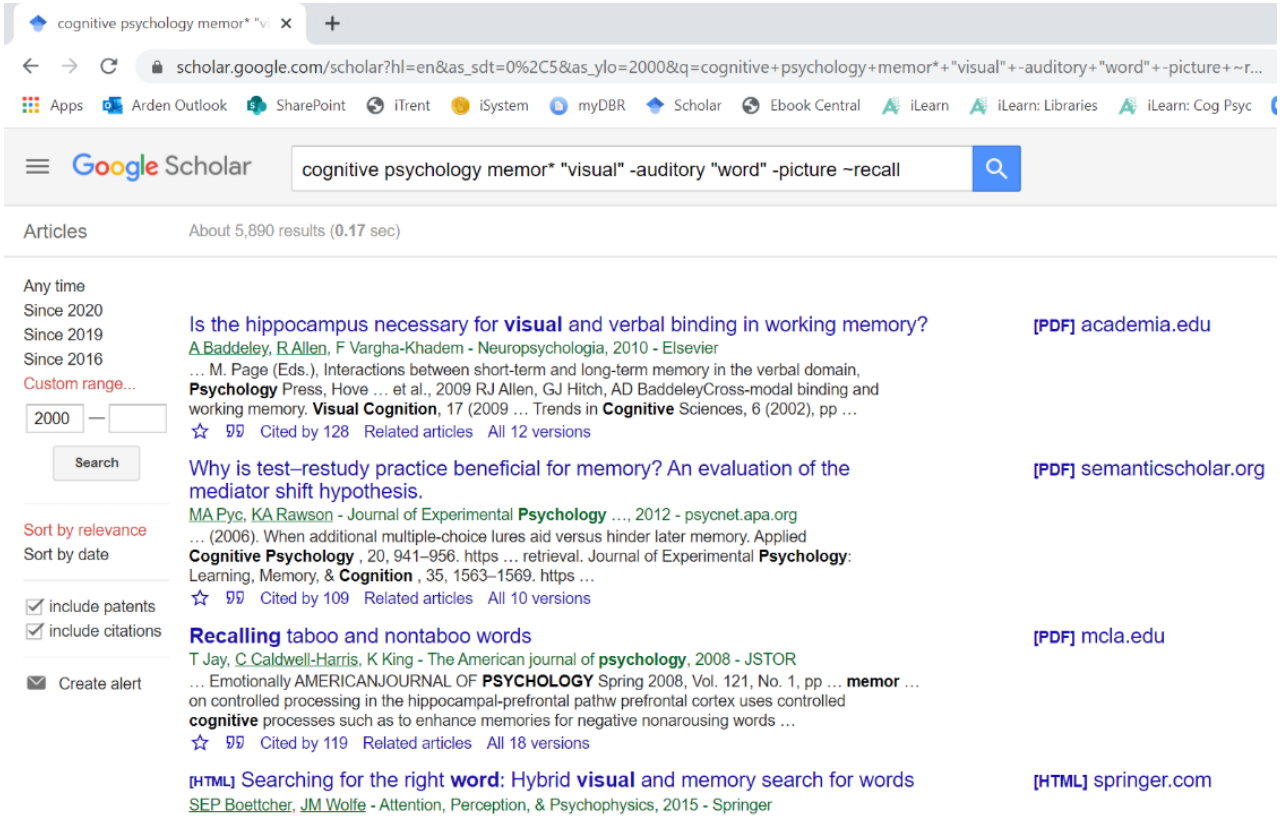
Search functions/filtering

There are lots of symbols (also called "Boolean operators") that you can use in Scholar to refine your search. Here are some of the most useful for academic searches:

Symbol	**Example**	**Function**
Quote marks " "	"cognitive"	This tells Scholar that all recourses it returns **must** include this specific word – here, cognitive. You can also use this for author names!
Dash or minus -	-auditory	This tells Scholar that none of the resources it returns should include this specific word – so here, none of the resources will include the word auditory. You can use this function to restrict your results, for example, here we might be interested only in visual studies and so want to remove "auditory" from our search. This is also useful if you keep seeing a pesky paper in your search that really isn't relevant – you can put a dash in front of the irrelevant word and remove it from your search!
Star *	psycholog*	* is a "wildcard" – this means that Scholar will return resources with variations of this word. For example, you might want to include papers that feature the words "psychology" or "psychological" or "psychologically", but not know which to pick. These two words differ after the letter g, so put the star after this letter and you can use the wildcard to include all of these in your search, without having to pick which one you want!
Tilda ~	~recall	This tells Scholar that you want it to search both the word "recall" and also any synonyms of this word, such as "remember". This will help to include papers in your search that don't necessarily use this exact word but may still be relevant to your search.

Her e's an example search using these **symbols**:

You can also use the operators AND and OR to refine your search:



Operator	Example	Function
AND	learning AND memory	This will tell Scholar to return results that include both the terms "learning" and "memory". This search wold be useful, for example, if looking for a review article on these processes and you wanted to read about them both in the same paper.
OR	pictures OR words	This will tell Scholar to return results that can include either the term "pictures" or "words". This search would be useful, for example, if you were looking for visual memory studies but didn't mind whether the stimuli were pictures or words.

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Using Google Scholar with Open Access Tools

Google Scholar alongside Open Access tools can be great for locating hard-to-find papers.

If you want a particular resource, but it's not available through EBSCO or a database on the Library Portal, you may encounter publisher paywalls when you try to access the full-text links.

Downloading a browser extension such as LibKey Nomad will help you to easily locate any content that is available Open Access or in the Arden collection, when you visit the article on the publisher pages, PubMed or Wikipedia.

Instructions on how to download LibKey Nomad are here: LibKey Nomad Instructions.pdf (arden.ac.uk)

Libkey Nomad works with a range of browsers including Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Brave and Vivaldi.

Once you are on the publisher's website for the article, the green LibKey Nomad icon will appear if there are options to access the article from the Arden Library or an Open Access source:

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Expanding your literature search

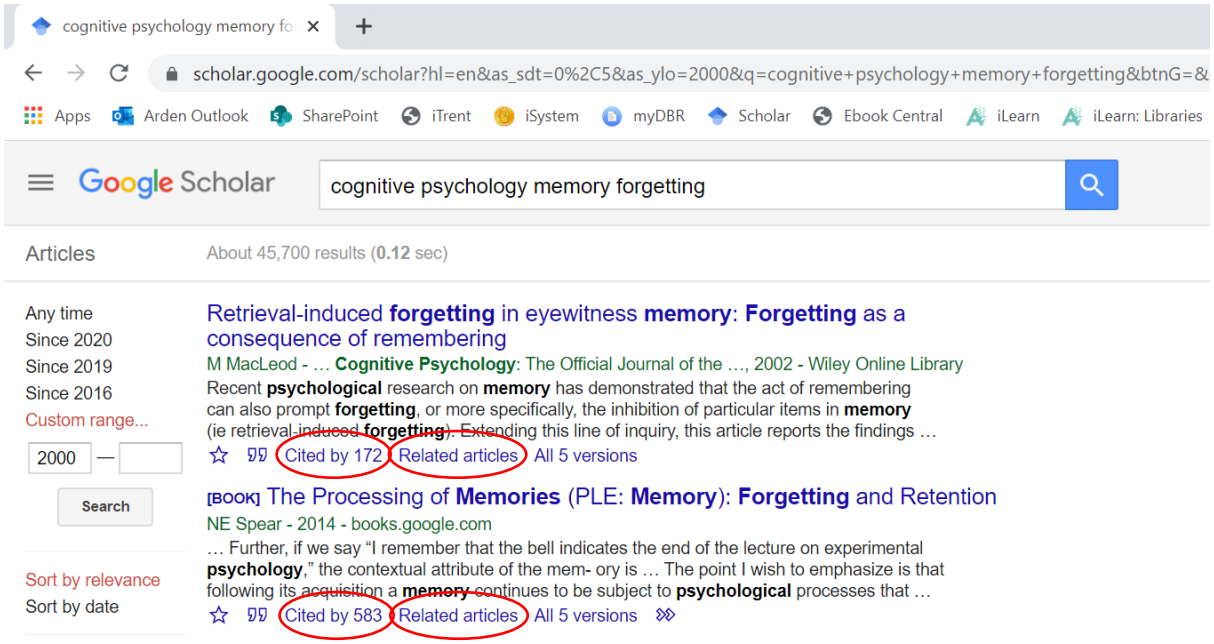
If you have identified a key paper for your literature review but are struggling to find similar ones, Scholar can be useful for helping you find related papers!

There are two tools to do this on Scholar:

1) **Click the "Cited by" link.**

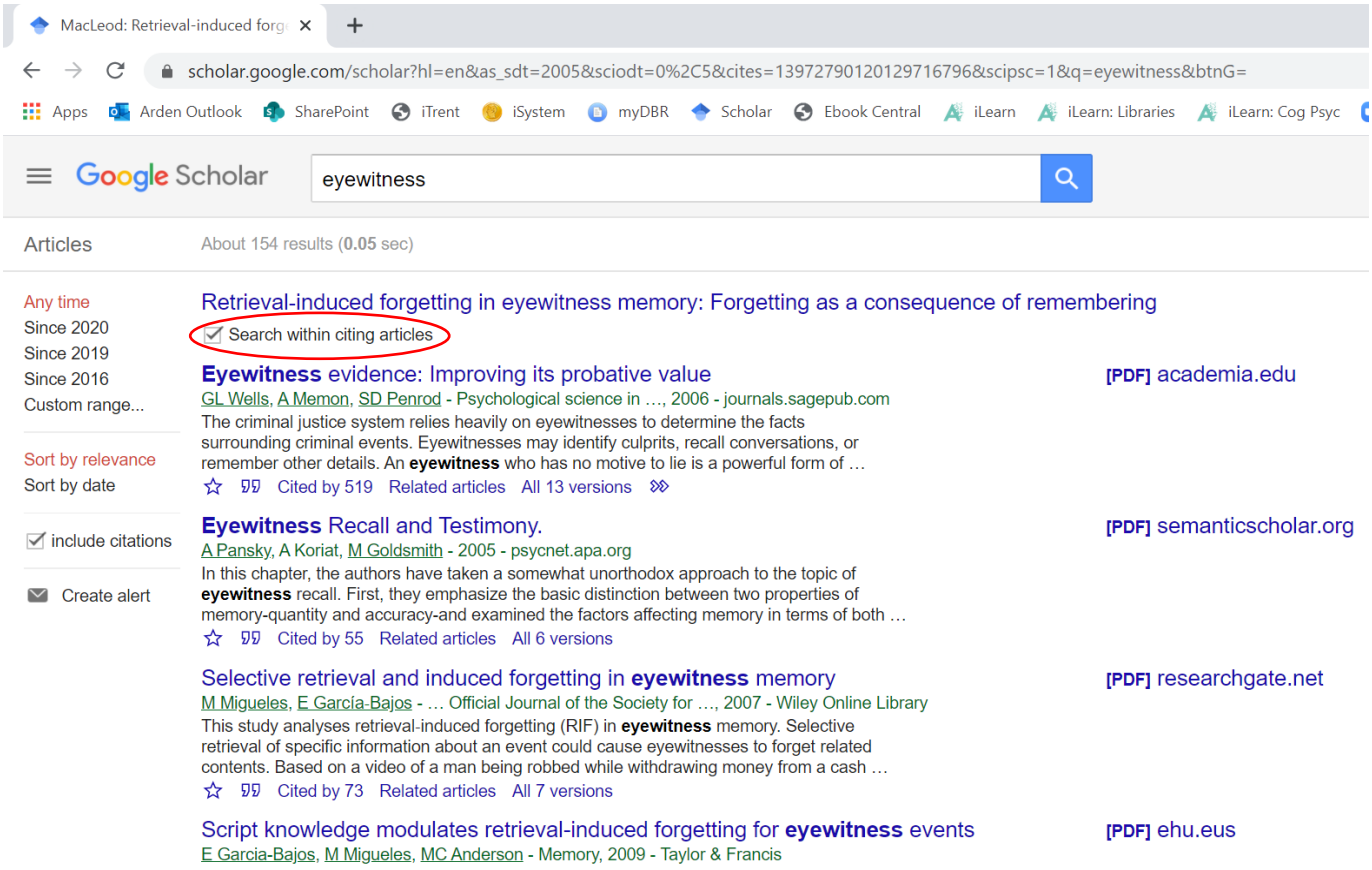
2) **Click the "Related papers" link.**

Here is where you can find these links:



The "cited by" link will show you other papers and resources that have referenced this study. Very useful for finding related more recent research on a topic!

You can also search within each of these cited articles to hone your search even further. When you have clicked the "Cited by" link, tick the "Search within citing articles" box and enter some search terms into the search bar:



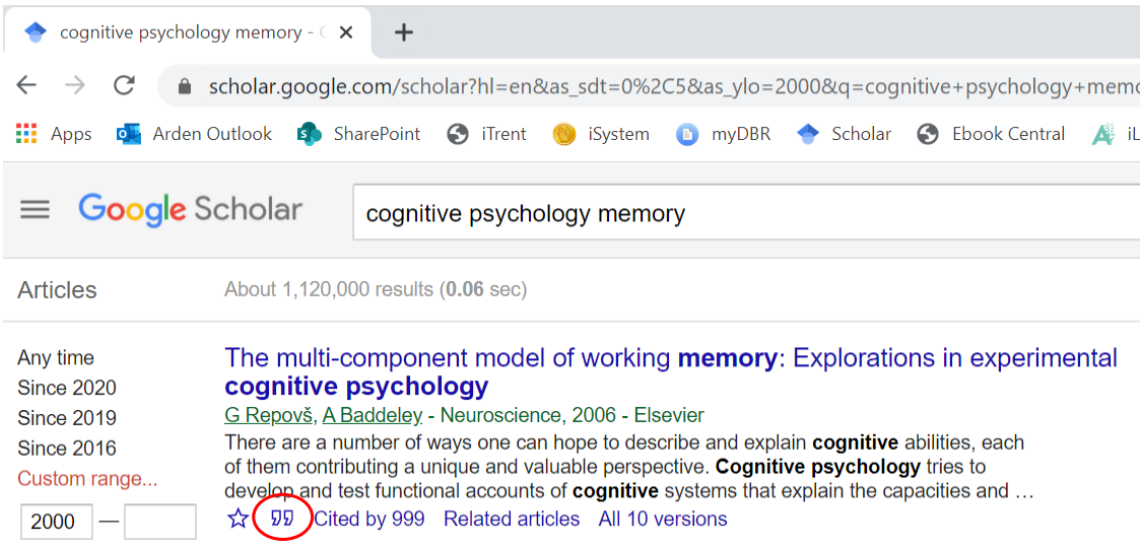
This search shows all papers that have referenced the original paper *and* include the word "eyewitness". The "related articles" link will show you other papers and resources that are similar to this one, and you can also search within these results too.

Referencing

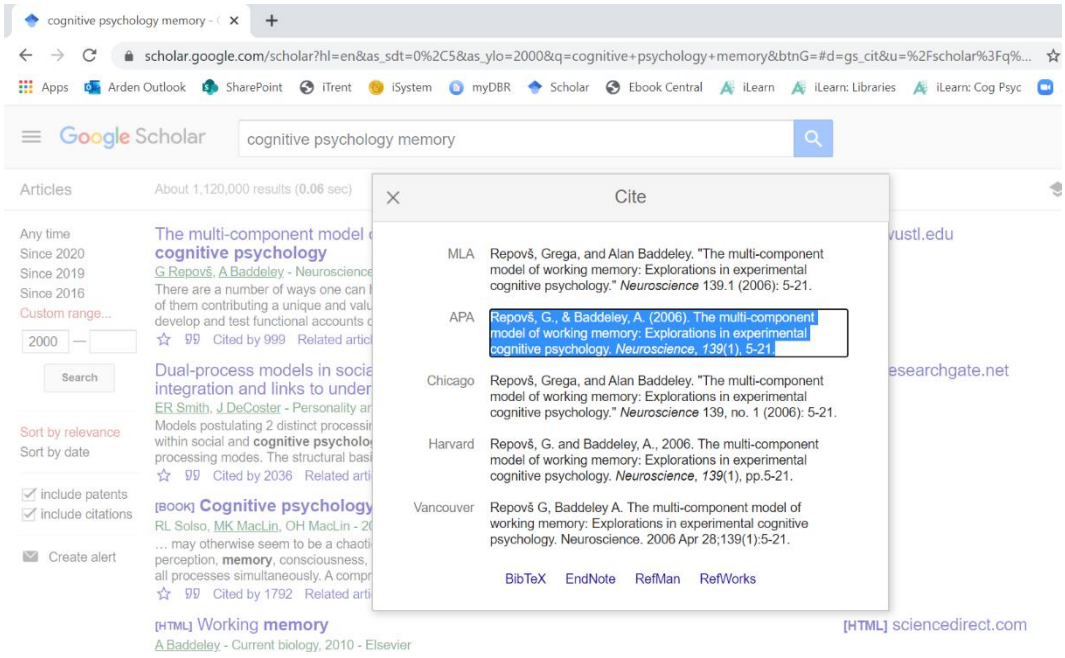
Google Scholar does provide a referencing tool, which allows you to export the reference for a paper quickly and easily. **However, please be aware that the format won't always be a perfect match to the official Arden University Referencing Guide for your subject.**

While using Google Scholar's referencing tool can be useful for keeping a quick record of papers you have read or want to read for an assessment, **we recommend you always check and refer back to your official Arden University Referencing Guide, which will be linked on your Subject Guide within the Library Portal**.

To use the Google Scholar referencing tool, under the search result that you want to reference, click the "Cite" button, which is a quote mark:



This will produce a list of citations for you to copy:



We hope you found this guide useful!

You can find more tips and tricks here: https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html

If you're struggling with your literature search or you can't find the resource you're looking for, please, contact our friendly Assistant Librarians for help: libraries@arden.ac.uk

If you need help with your academic study skills or would like to book a 1:1 with an Academic Skills Tutor, you can find more information and available workshops here, or you can email: study-skills@arden.ac.uk