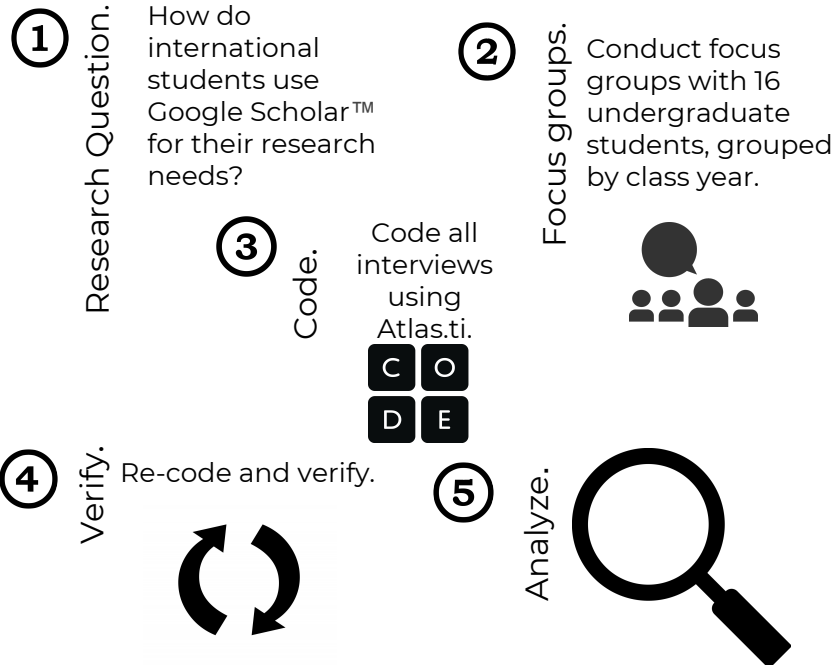


International Student Perceptions of Google Scholar™

Research Design



Key Findings:

- Easy access:** Students find that Google Scholar™ is easier to use than traditional library databases. The familiar interface and unseen IP authentication allow for seamless access to online materials. They also find that Google Scholar™ allows them to avoid placing an interlibrary loan request, which can seem like a tedious process.
- Discoverability:** Students find that Google Scholar™ retrieves more relevant and focused articles than traditional library databases. They view Google Scholar™ as a suitable search engine for their research needs.
- Faculty use:** Faculty and peer tutors discuss and promote the use of Google Scholar™ in the classroom. Students see these experts using Google Scholar™ and emulate their behavior.
- Timeliness:** Students find that Google Scholar™ is a quick and efficient tool to locate research materials.
- First and last stop:** Students who use library resources tend to use Google Scholar™ as a first and/or last stop in the research process to ensure that they found all the relevant information possible.
- Students of all levels use Google Scholar™:** Students from every undergraduate year reported using Google Scholar™ frequently.

Recommendations:

- Library instruction:** Librarians should teach Google Scholar™. Ignoring the resource is not beneficial to students.
- Source evaluation:** Teach students to authentically evaluate sources, for example using CRAP or BEAM.
- Open access:** Librarians must teach students about open access materials so students are able to identify these sources over illegal online resources such as SciHub.
- Library contribution:** Google Scholar™ works in tandem with library subscriptions to provide access to materials. Graduation affects future access.
- Teach the teachers:** Students learn from their professors and mimic their research behaviors. Librarians must partner with faculty members to educate them about library resources.

“I mean, I personally, I really like Google Scholar like I know that's not a very like accepted thing, but I feel like Google Scholar is a really easy interface to use.” -- 4th year history major