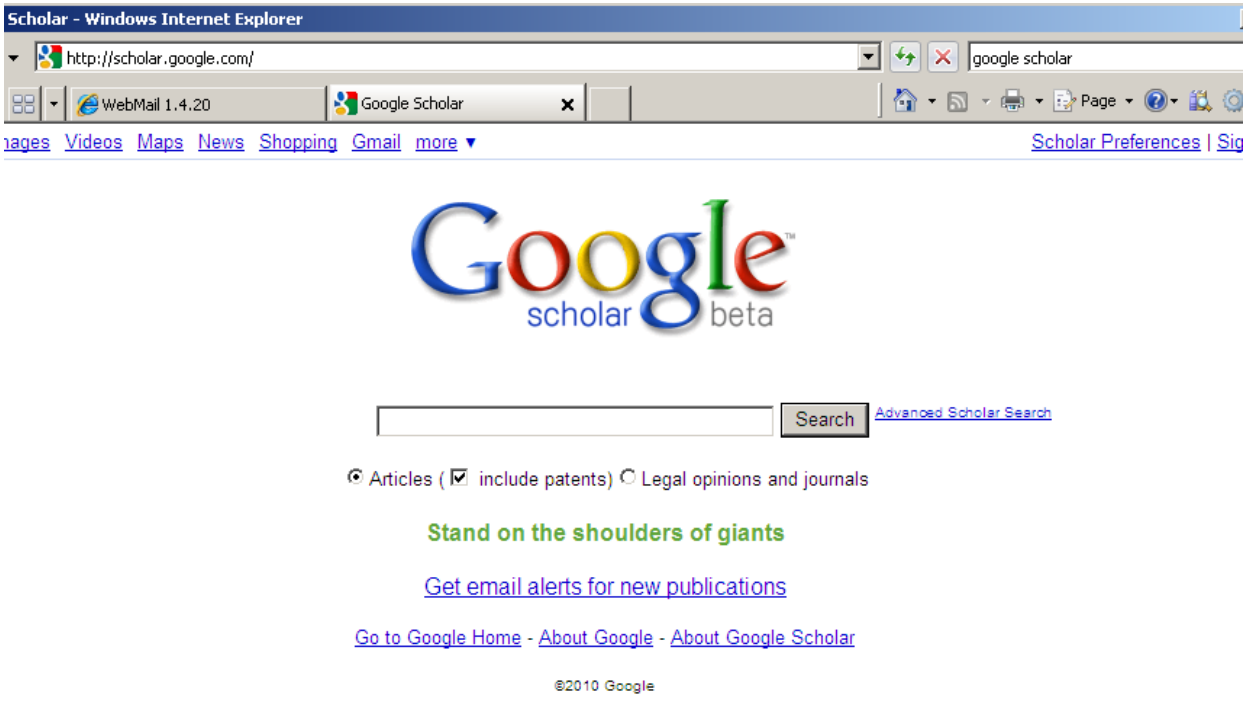
A brief tutorial on how to find articles

Choosing the database

There are many options for finding articles – my preference of late is google scholar, particularly if I want to cast a wide net. The advantages of google scholar are:

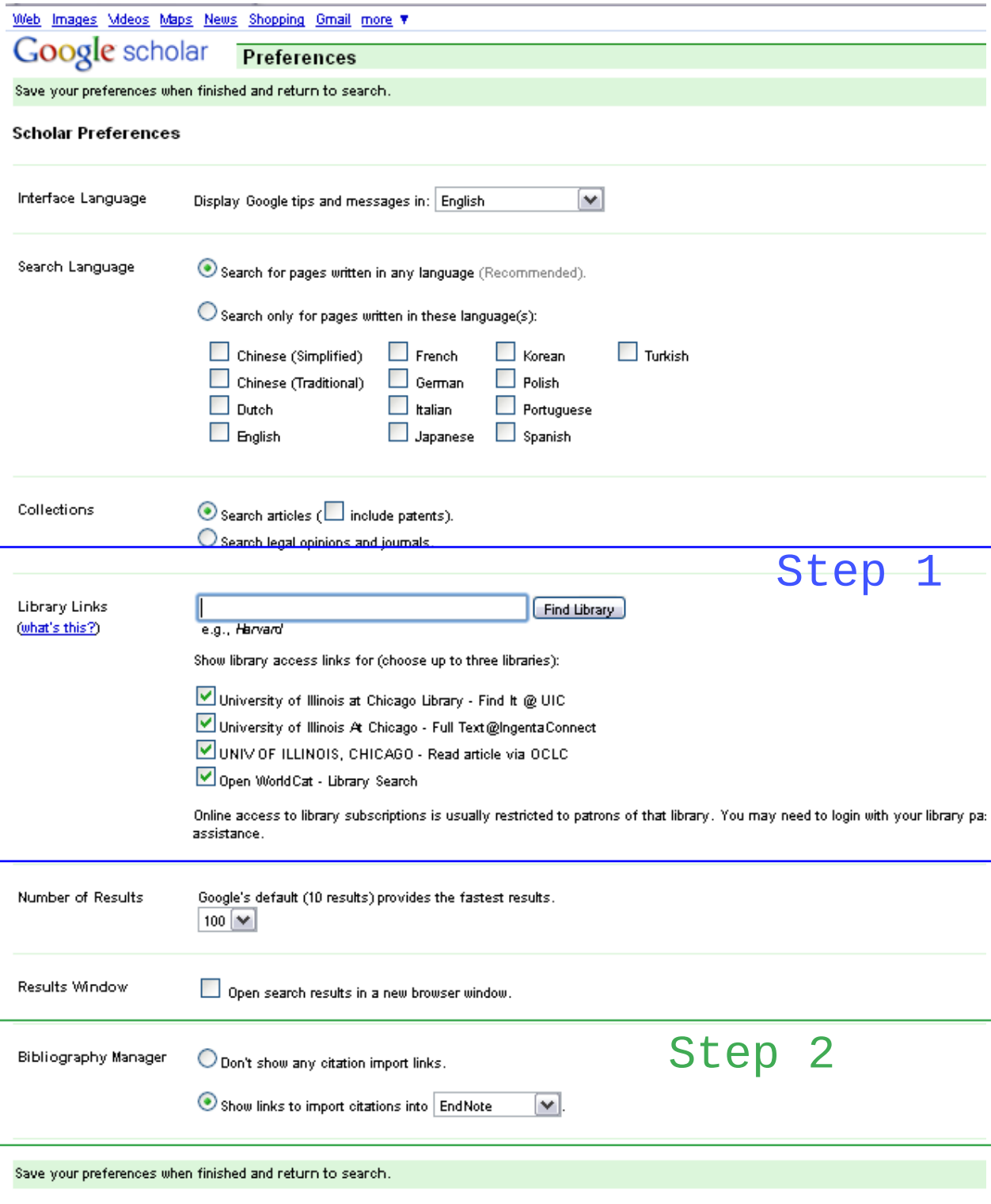
1. Ease of access from any computer
2. Can be set up to link to uic library
3. Can easily limit searches by year or discipline (like medicine)
4. Can easily add or subtract key words, authors, etc.
5. As noted above, it casts a wide net – so if you are searching for something on which there is little research, this will give you a lot of resources. I've tried doing the same search using medline, pubmed, and web of science – and end up with more, and better, matches to my search using google scholar.
6. And perhaps most importantly, it is the best gateway to finding on-line versions of articles.



How to set up google scholar

1. Click on scholar preferences and scroll down to library links. Click on Find Library to locate our library. If your previous universities/colleges give you alumni access to their collections, you may want to also list those. Below, you can see what I chose.

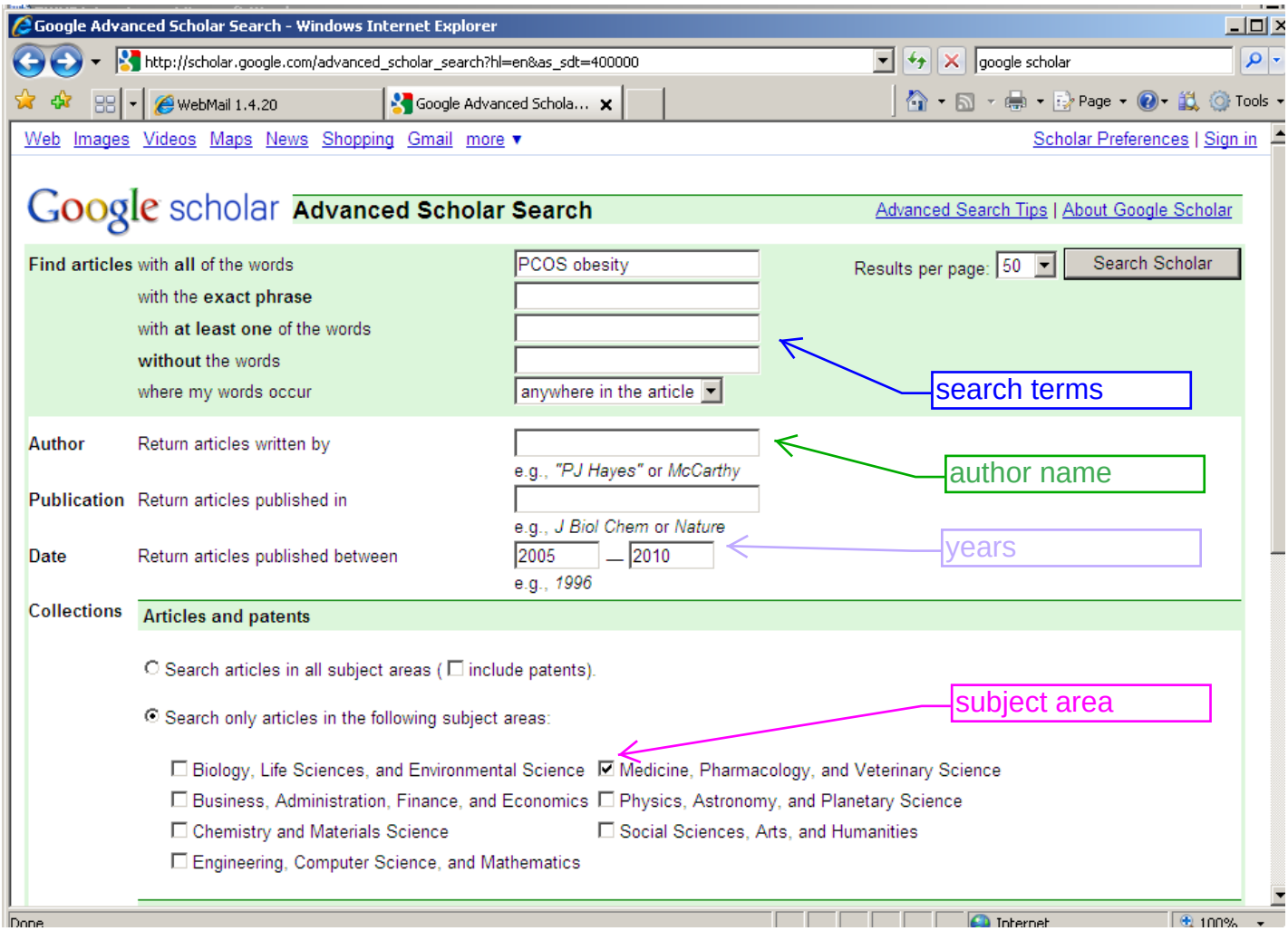
2. Under bibliography manager, choose to have it link to endnote (if you have it) or refworks (and then set up an account – you'll be glad you did – it will help you tremendously).



3. Click Save preferences, unless you have other changes (I usually want more results displayed).

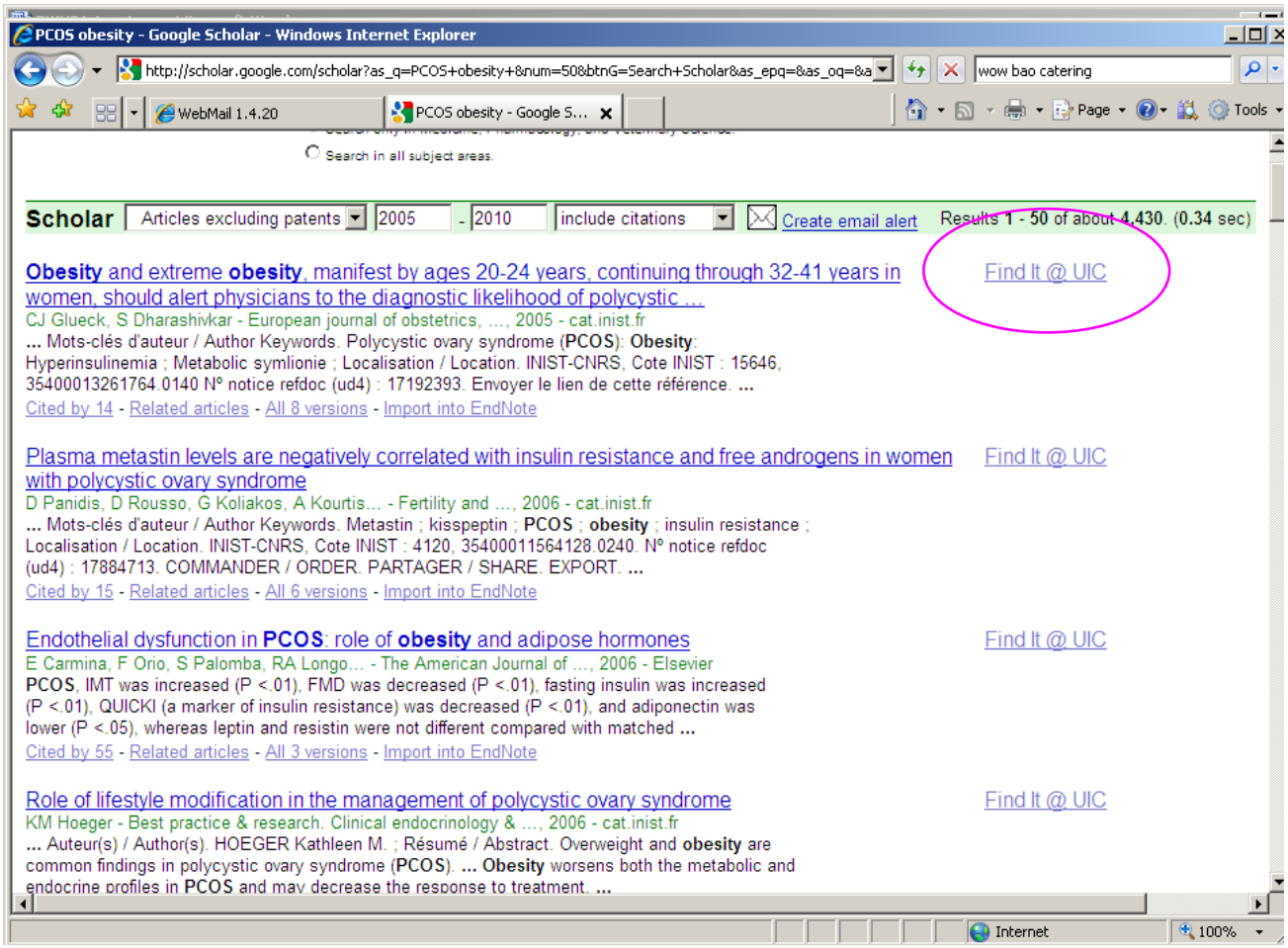
Doing a search

Next, choose Advanced scholar search to begin your search. Put your search terms in the fields you want, put in author names (last name and first and middle initials – like CB Veldhuis). Typically for date, I begin with a range like 2005-2010, and then adjust to a tighter or looser one depending on what I get. Then click medicine as the subject area and then the Search scholar button.



Output

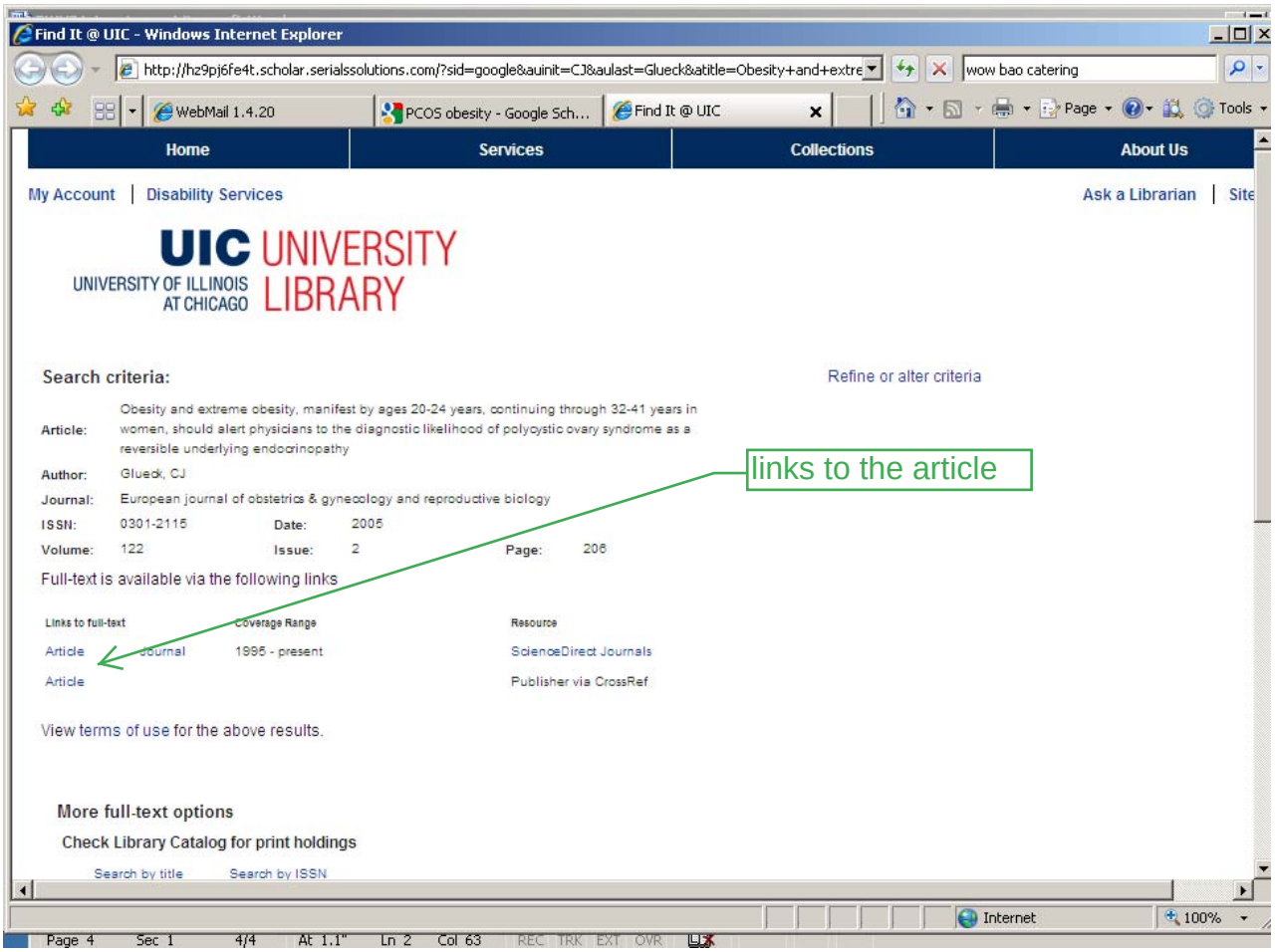
And here's what you get! If you click on the link that says, "Find it @ uic" you get sent to the potential link to the electronic version of the article.



Find it @ UIC

So if your article is available electronically through UIC, you'll get the screen below after you click the "find it @ uic" link. Click on the link to the fulltext article, and you are set. Recommendation: always choose to open "find it @ UIC" in a separate tab, if you are able. This makes it easier to get back to your original search.

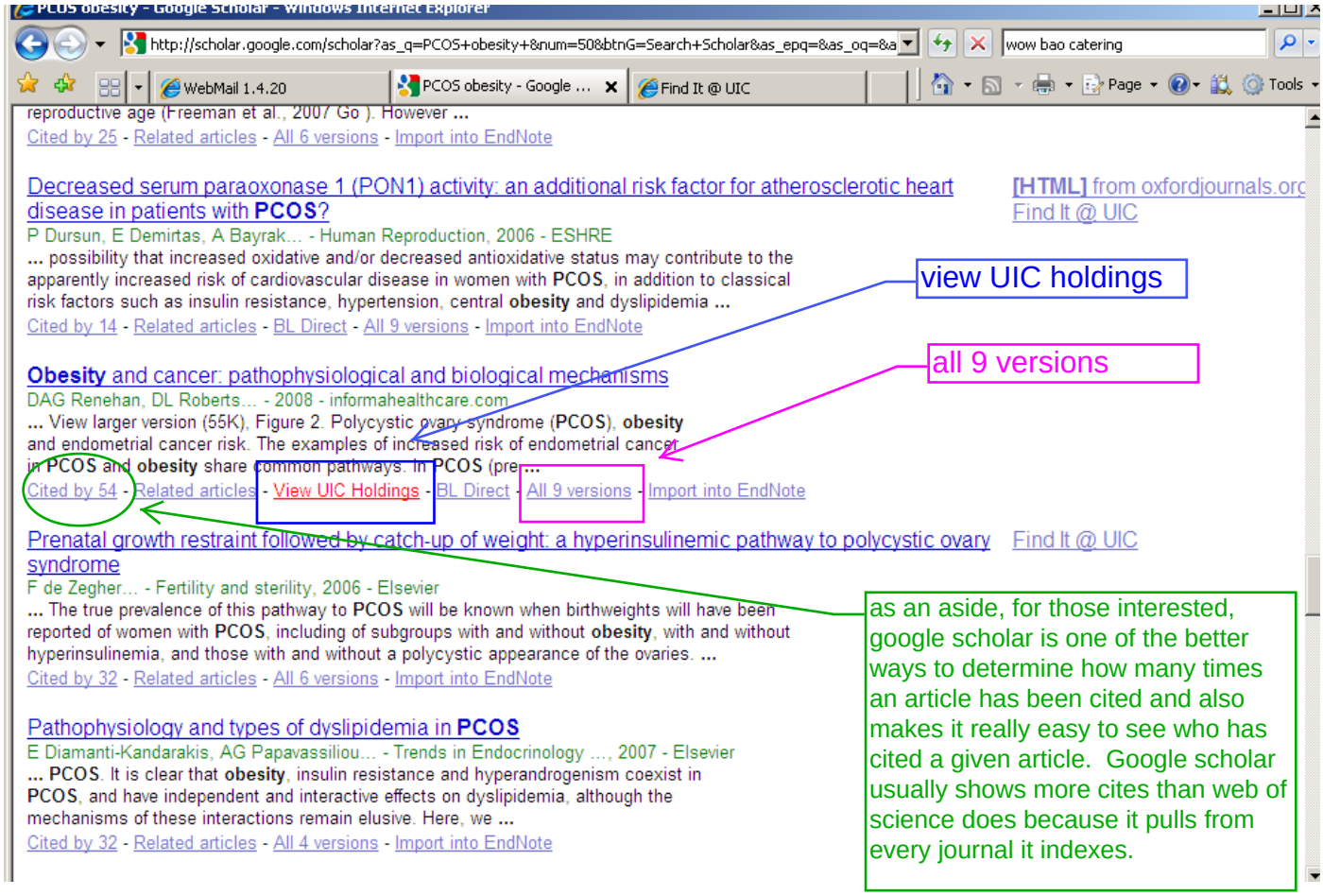
Your next step should then be to click on "import into endnote " or "import into refworks" so that the article you've gotten is safely stored in a database so you can easily cite it later on.



What if it's not at UIC?

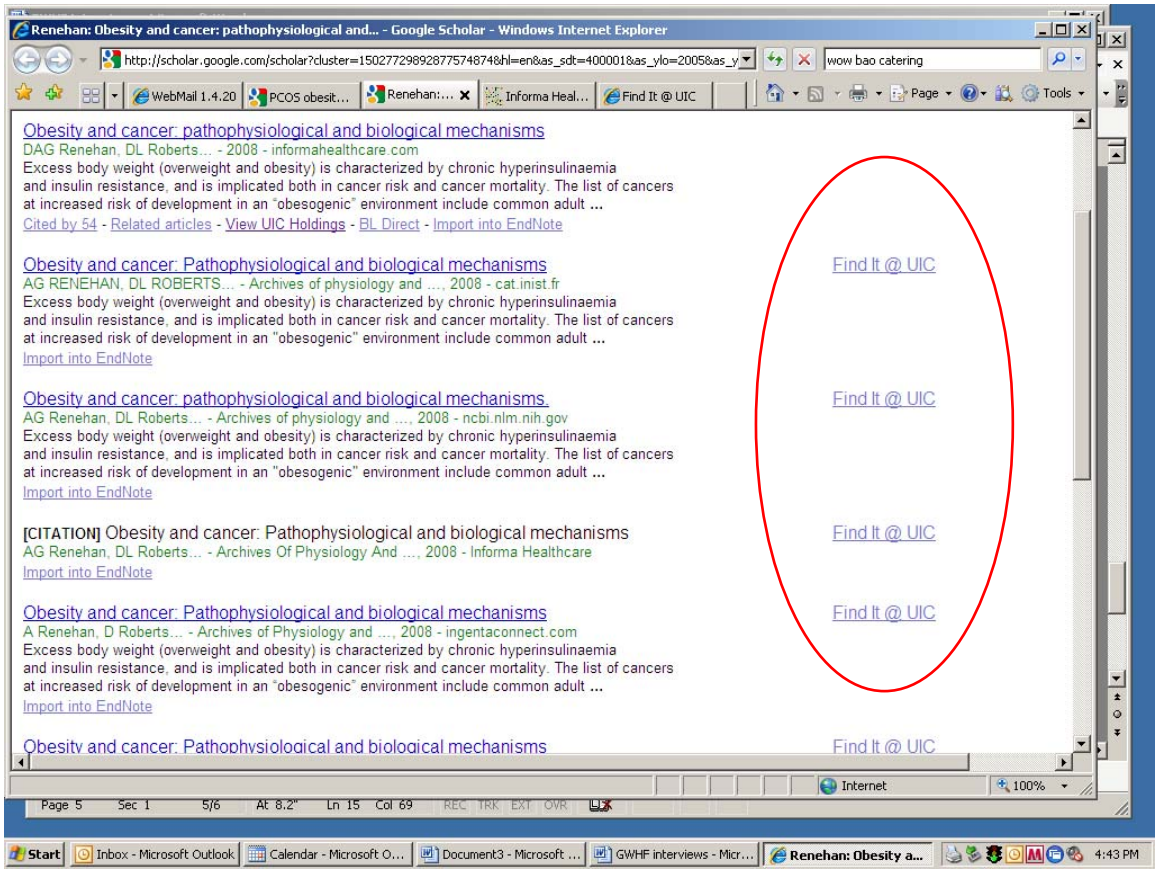
So what if you find an article you want, but it there is no "find it @ UIC" link? What do you do then? Here are a few tricks. As you can see below, the obesity and cancer article below has no "find it @ uic" link. It does, however, have a link at the bottom of the listing called "View UIC holdings." I don't know why those are different, but they are. In this instance, if you click that, it takes you to the UIC library and there is a link to the fulltext article.

Let's pretend like that didn't work, and you really want the article. Here's what you do next. Right click on the link "All 9 versions" and tell it that you want to open it in a new tab. I do the same thing with the link in the title of the article.



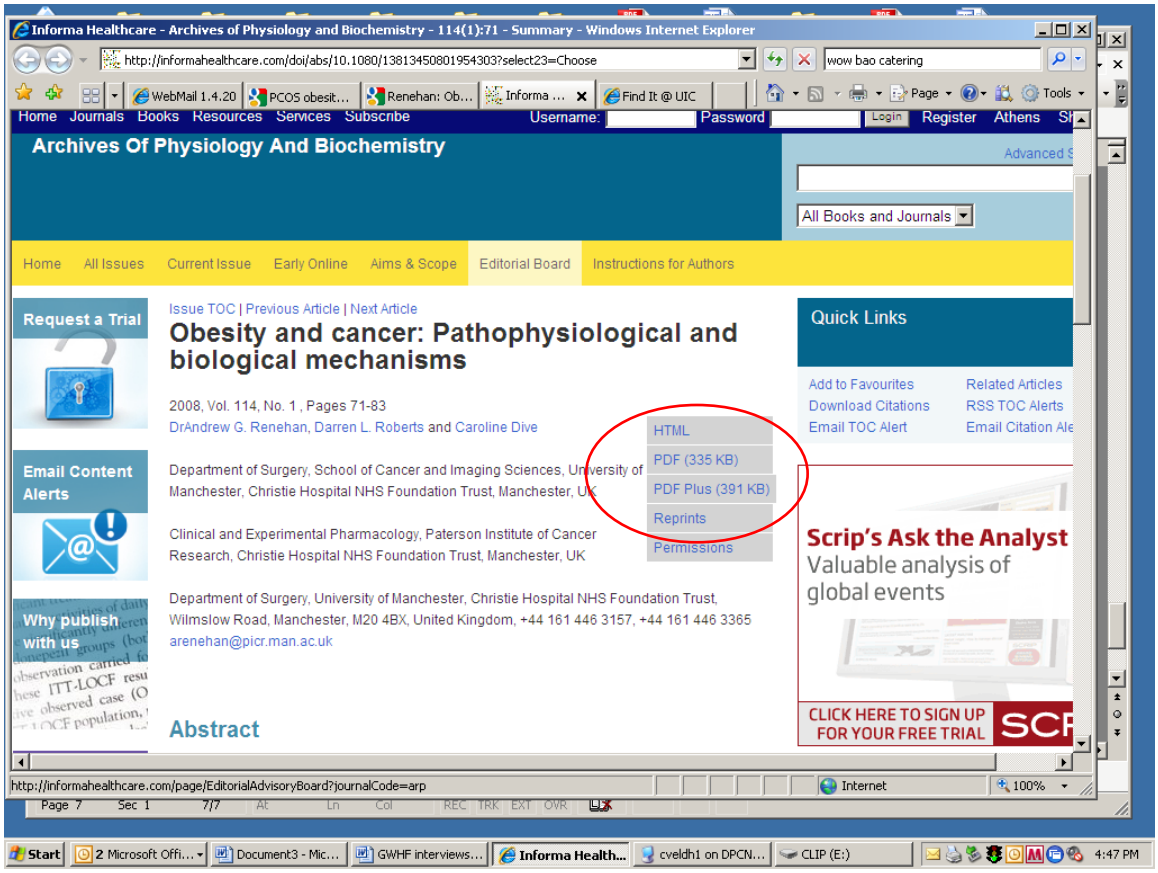
Option #1:

First, here's what you get when you click on "all 9 versions." As you can see, several of them now say "find it @ uic."



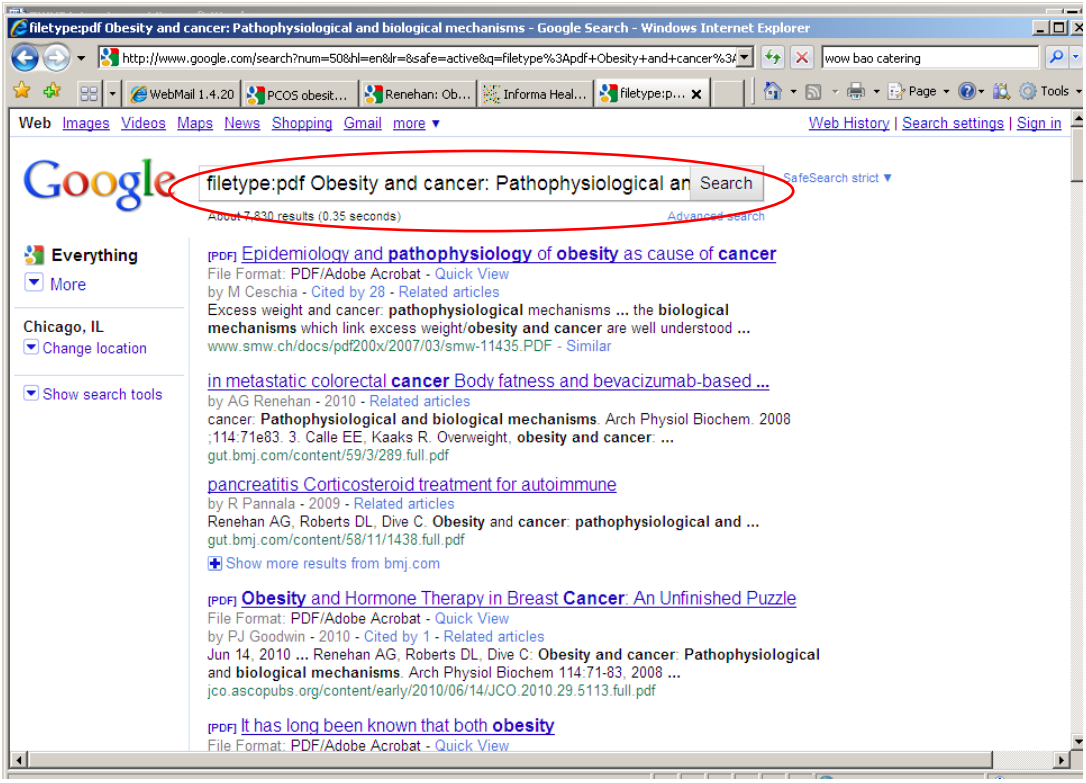
Option #2:

If they didn't, you can also try clicking on the titles – more often than not, one of them will link you to a full text version.For example, I clicked on one of the titles, and I got to the page below – which gives me access to a pdf version of the article.



None of those steps works!

Let's say you've tried it all and nothing worked. Before I resort to submitting an interlibrary loan (because when I want an article, I typically want it right now), I then do a google search for the article title and tell it to find a pdf of it. Sometimes, if you are lucky somewhere on the web a free pdf version of the article you want exists, and you can find it this way. In this case, when I put the article in quotes, and remove the filetype specification, I was linked to a fulltext version of the article.



Interlibrary loan

If none of those work, try interlibrary loan – you'll get an electronic version of the article delivered to you, typically within a week.
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