Helpful Hints for searching
(adapted from Google Scholar’s Search Tips)

Finding the most recent literature:

Your search results are normally sorted by relevance, not by date. To find newer articles, try the following options in the left sidebar:

- click "Since Year" to show only recently published papers, sorted by relevance;
- click "Sort by date" to show just the new additions, sorted by date;
- click the envelope icon to have new results periodically delivered by email.

Locating the full text of an article:

Abstracts are freely available for most of the articles. Alas, reading the entire article may require a subscription. Here’re a few things to try:

- click a link labeled [PDF] to the right of the search result;
- click "All versions" under the search result and check out the alternative sources;

Your GVSU login can get you behind the “paywall” that makes a lot of Google content inaccessible to most. When you see the Get It @ GVSU, you are able to access the article through the Library’s databases. Clicking that link will take you there. If you don't see the Get It @ GVSU link, check with the library about the best way to access online subscriptions. You may need to do search from a computer on campus, or to configure your browser to use a library proxy.

Getting better answers:

If you're new to the subject, it may be helpful to pick up the terminology from secondary sources. Use as many terms as you can find to search a topic. Some examples:

Student life = student behavior
   attitudes
   engagement

GPA = academic achievement
   academic performance
   student success

Use your results to find MORE results:

Related articles (as determined by Google) can sometimes lead to more information.

Each result will tell you if anyone else has used the article in their research. Look for a “cited by” notation.