Search Example: Google Books

Let’s say that we are interested in books pertaining to parallel computing applications in cardiology. We searched the UA Libraries Catalog, but we did not find much. There could be more books on this topic. One option to find more books is to search Google Books.

When books are no longer protected by copyright, the entire book is available to download from Google Books. Usually these books are very old (e.g. 1920). Most books, especially recent ones, in Google Books have a limited or no preview. If we find an interesting book in Google Books, we could search the title in the UA Libraries catalog to find out if we have it.

For example, using the search

(parallel computing cardiac OR cardiology)

UA Libraries has the electronic book

- **Euro-Par 2004 parallel processing**
  - go to Globus-Based Grid Computing Simulations of Action Potential Propagation on Cardiac Tissues

that did not come up in our first search in the UA Libraries Catalog. [1]

The catalog search query was

("parallel computing” OR “parallel processing”) and (heart* OR cardi**)

where items were limited to 2010 or later. It did not come up in our second search in the UA Libraries Catalog with broader terms, where the catalog query was

("distributed computing” OR “parallel computing” OR “parallel processing") and (medic*)

and items were limited to 2010 or later.

[1] For the UA Libraries Catalog search, the quotation marks in the search query are used to search for exact phrases. The asterisk (*) in the search query means that any letters can come after the word. For example, heart* will find heart and hearts. To find more than five letters, there must be two asterisks in a row (e.g. cardi**).