Cited Reference Searching
Looking Forward and Backward in the Research Literature

When you are engaged in research, you sometimes find that golden, relevant article. Fortunately, there is a way to take that article (think of it as a research thread), and locate other articles or books that might also be relevant to your research based on that original article. The process of locating resources using a source relevant to your topic is called cited reference searching and this can be accomplished by looking both backwards and forwards in the research literature.

Cited reference searching allows you to see the evolution of the research on the topic, as well as view the conversation about this topic among the scholars in the field.

Here is a visual of how it works:

Original Article that is Fabulous!

Look backward using article’s bibliography

Article by Fuchs-Tarlovsky

Look forward using either Google Scholar or Web of Science
A. Looking Backward for Resources Using the Article’s Bibliography

Any scholarly resource can be used to mine its references for previously published works that the author cited to write that particular item.

If you think of this process as following a research thread, this method allows you to see what sources this author thought were relevant and important. It follows then, that some of these sources may also be relevant and important to your research.

These sources are located at the end of the article in the bibliography, references or works cited sections.

How to Look Up a Reference Source Using Esearch

1) Locate the resource from the article’s bibliography, and copy-and-paste or type the title into the Esearch box on the Library’s main page (http://www.emich.edu/library/), placing quotation marks around it so the words will be found as a phrase.
2) If it’s an article or ebook, and it is available in electronic full text, click on the title or the link for Full Text Online.

3) If the item is not available in electronic full text, follow the directions for requesting an interlibrary loan: [http://www.emich.edu/library/services/get_other_libraries.php](http://www.emich.edu/library/services/get_other_libraries.php)

B. Looking Forward in the Literature for Resources

We follow the research thread forward by using the title of the resource. This type of search strategy works best if the resource is not newly published. There are two databases that do this, [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com) and [Web of Science](https://webofknowledge.com).

1) Using Google Scholar

Most importantly, use the [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com) link that is located either under the Databases button on the Library’s main page ([http://www.emich.edu/library/](http://www.emich.edu/library/)) or listed under the Library Guides link in the Canvas course shell. If you use the version of Google Scholar that is freely available, you will not be able to access all the full text resources to which the library subscribes.

a) Copy-and-paste or type the title into the Google Scholar search box, placing quotation marks around it.
b) Locate your title on the Google Scholar results screen.

c) Note the blue *Cited by* link located under the small abstract. When you click on the *Cited by* link, you will see all of the resources that used that particular article in their research since its date of publication. In this case, since 2013, 114 resources have used this article. Following that research thread, some of those resources may be relevant to your search, as well.

**The 114 Cited References**

D) If the item is not available in electronic full text, follow the directions for requesting an interlibrary loan:

[http://www.emich.edu/library/services/get_other_libraries.php](http://www.emich.edu/library/services/get_other_libraries.php)
2) Using the Web of Science

Access the Web of Science database using either the link located under the Databases button on the Library’s main page (http://www.emich.edu/library/) or the one embedded in your Canvas course shell under the Library Guides link.

a) Copy-and-paste or type the title into the Web of Science ‘Basic Search’ box, placing quotation marks around it. Another option is to use the special ‘Cited Reference Search’ located just above the search box.

b) On the Web of Science results screen, note the blue Times Cited link located to the right of the title. When you click on the Times Cited link, you will see all of the resources that used that particular article in their research since its date of publication. In this case, since 2003, 60 resources have used this article. Following that research thread, some of those resources may be relevant to your search, as well.
c)  If the item is not available in electronic full text, follow the directions for requesting an interlibrary loan:  http://www.emich.edu/library/services/get_other_libraries.php

C. Video Help for Cited Reference Searching
Using Google Scholar and Web of Science

Link to video:  https://emich.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ee556b44-86ee-4c14-a781-494c993ee095