

# Citation Searching

## What is citation searching?

A citation searcher starts with a known reference and then searches within the bibliography of an article, book, or other material for cited references to their key work. In other words, the searcher starts with a reference (journal article, book, etc.) that they are interested in and looks within sources published at a later date for citations to the original work. Citation searching is sometimes referred to as “cited reference searching.”

## Why do citation searching?

1. **To find similar research**  
Looking up a key work that you are interested in can help you find later works that have cited it. This allows you to find new material that is influenced by the reference that you have.
2. **To find out how important a work is to your research**  
Citation searching will show you how often a work has been cited by other authors. This can illustrate the impact that a work has on a given field. The greater number of times it is cited, the greater impact it has had.

## What databases allow citation searching?

The following databases offered at USF have citation searching capabilities:

### CINAHL (EBSCO)

CINAHL indexes articles on nursing as well as physical and occupational therapy, sports science, and other allied health topics.

- Run your search from the advanced search screen. When available, the **Times Cited in this Database** link in your search results presents a list of articles that cite your original article.
- A **cited references** search screen is also available. Under **Advanced Search**, select the **Cited References** link near the top and conduct your search. From the results screen, select the checkbox(es) for the article(s) you are interested in, and click **Find citing articles**. This presents a list of articles that cite your original article.

### Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (EBSCO)

Subject coverage includes librarianship, classification, cataloging, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more.

- See CINAHL above for searching instructions.

### **PsycINFO and PsycARTICLES (EBSCO)**

PsycINFO focuses on psychological research, including applied psychology. PsycARTICLES contains the full-text of approximately 50 journals published by the American Psychological Association.

- See CINAHL above for searching instructions.

### **Social Services Abstracts (CSA)**

Contains current research focused on social work, human services, and related areas, including social welfare, social policy, and community development. Includes cited references from journal articles from 2004 forward.

- Start with an author or title search for the work you are interested in. Selecting the **Cited by** link for the record will take you to other works that cite it. **Note** that not all records will have a cited by option.
- Or, each citation from your search will have a **References** link. Clicking on this will take you to the article's bibliography. The bibliography will in turn indicate how many times other articles are cited in the database with the **Cited By** link.

### **Sociological Abstracts (CSA)**

Contains citations and abstracts to the world's literature in sociology and related disciplines, both theoretical and applied. Includes cited references from core journals from 2002 forward; cited references from all other journals from 2004 forward.

- For this search you are looking within other article reference lists for your original work.
- In the Advanced Search screen, select **References** from the pull-down menu and enter the title or author of your original work. Each citation from your search will have a **References** link. Clicking on this will take you to the article's bibliography. The bibliography will in turn indicate how many times other articles are cited in the database with the **Cited By** link.
- See Social Services Abstracts for alternate searching instructions.

### **Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (CSA)**

The database provides citations, abstracts, and indexing of the international serials literature in political science and its complementary fields, including international relations, law, and public administration/policy. Includes cited references from core journals from 2001 forward.

- See Social Services Abstracts for searching information.

### **MathSciNet**

The American Mathematical Society's searchable web database indexes citations and abstracts to articles and books on mathematical subjects.

- The search tabs at the top of the interface allow users to search for author citations or journal citations.

### **MEDLINE via PubMed**

Contains bibliographic citations and author abstracts covering the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and the preclinical sciences.

- For this search you are looking within other article reference lists for your original work.
- Select **PMC (PubMedCentral)** from the drop-down menu next to the main search box.
- Click the Preview/Index tab and then select **Reference** or **Reference Author** from the drop-down menu.
- Type your search terms in the text box and click the **Preview** button.
- Click the **Go** button in the main search box to view the search results.

## **Where else can I do citation searching?**

### **Google Scholar**

Google Scholar allows you to freely search for scholarly information on the web. To find cited references and related articles:

- Search for your original work with the Google Scholar search option
- Your item will have **Cited By** link. **Cited By** identifies all articles, books and other sources that cite your original article within Google Scholar.
- Clicking on the **Related Articles** link will bring up a list of references to other documents that are similar to the cited article.
- Note that Google Scholar does not always have access to the full text of an article or you may have to pay to access an article. If the full text is not available, search the library's Journal Finder by the journal your article is in to see if it's available at USF.

### **Web of Science**

Web of Science is a citation index that is comprised of *Social Science Citation Index*, *Science Citation Index*, and *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*. Librarian-mediated searching only—costs may apply. For more information, contact the Reference Desk at 415-422-2039.

### **Chemical Abstracts Service**

Includes references in all areas of chemistry. Contact the Reference Department for information: 415-422-2039.

### **Science and Social Science Citation Index**

USF Faculty only: Please contact the Reference Department for assistance.

### **Alternatives to USF sources**

Check your nearest public university library to see if it has the database, *Web of Science*. If it does, you will have to go there to access it. UCSF library, located at 530 Parnassus Avenue, is the closest public library that has Web of Science.