Tracking a Good Article: who else has used this work?

In Web of Science (WoS), it is possible to find records of articles which post-date a useful article and cite (refer to) it. The useful article does not have to have a record in the database.

Despite its name, Web of Science indexes the contents of journals publishing in all fields, not just Science.

Accessing Web of Science (WoS)

As well as having an entry in The Library's W page of databases, many of The Library's webpages listing databases useful in finding academic literature in a subject include Web of Science.

[Databases A-Z](#)

[Databases by Subject](#)

Work citing a useful article

Do a specific search to find a record in WoS for the useful article.

If WoS has a record for it, there will be the option to generate a list of the work cited by the authors, labelled **References**, as well as to generate a list of the works WoS knows to have the article in their reference lists, labelled **Citations**.

Selecting/Clicking on the Citations number generates a list of works which have cited the article.

The Citations' list could be Sorted to have the most cited at the top, or the search box in the Refine results menu could be used to search within the list for records which include a word or phrase of interest.

Records for the same work from different WoS sections are de-duplicated so that only one remains.

Generating a Citations list for work without a WoS record

From the main home page, go to CITED REFERENCES.

Here you can change the default options and use different parameters to search for the work you want to investigate, eg enter the title of a book chapter against Cited Title.

It is best practice to use the name of the first author. If a second author's name is used, variants (incorrectly cited references) may not be found and you will miss finding relevant papers but which mis-cite your reference.

Using an asterisk at the end of the author name can help to avoid missing variants.

Not all the boxes need to be filled for a search to work.

If there is a standard WoS abbreviation for a journal title, using it can be helpful. Use the Search option or copy and paste from the list.

Sometimes articles are cited incorrectly by authors or added incorrectly to a database, *eg* page numbers slightly wrong, volume number missing…

To generate the Citations list, select the entries which look like they refer to the work you are investigating and then "See Results".

Using Citations number to decide on what to read

The results list of a search run to find potentially useful reading on a topic can be sorted to have the most cited at the top.

Work can be cited for different reasons, including as an example of poor research or to disagree in some way with the findings published or its methodology. Nevertheless, it may be worthwhile reading the more highly cited articles in a list.

WoS provides other ways to help decide on papers which may be worth reading.
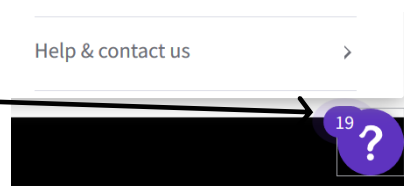

Highly Cited Papers: papers that perform in the top 1% based on the number of citations received when compared to other papers published in the same field in the same year.

Hot Papers: papers published in the last two years that are receiving citations quickly after publication. These papers have been cited enough times in the most recent bimonthly period to place them in the top 0.1% when compared to papers in the same field and added to the database in the same period

Review Articles: summaries of the literature on a particular topic.

Select/Click on the question mark to get Help.

[Help from the publisher's help pages](#)

Jul21

For further help or advice, please contact your Academic Support Librarian
www.ed.ac.uk/is/subject-guides