

Citation Searching

If YOU use a piece of published research important to YOUR work, it's in your best interests to know how OTHER researchers have used the same research source.

This is true in all disciplines, even pure mathematics.

Some results from *Citation searching* may also be found with ordinary keyword searching, using phrases/words occurring in your important research —especially technical terms— but your core source might also have been applied to topics NOT easily found using obvious keyword choices.

The various uses of the paper by multiple authors may give you a wider picture of its value or potential, especially in disciplines with relatively few cited references per article or page — eg, mathematics.

Points to consider

- Citation motivations vary — not all are favourable.
- Critical or unfavourable citations are *important*, possibly warning of inadequacies in that source.
- Citation searching enables you capitalise on the efforts of other researchers who have the source and considered it relevant to their topic.
- HOWEVER, if an author miscites the source that is important to you, did the author really read it? ... or just copy someone else's miscitation?
- Conversely, citing your sources properly makes your research output more valuable to others.

Citation alerts

For longer-term projects, create Citation alerts for your core resources, where possible.

Mixed or multiple citation searches

If your searches or alerts have too many results, use a database that can:

- Combine a citation search with an ordinary keyword search.
- Refine your results by other criteria.
- Combine one citation search with another.

For example, the multidisciplinary citation databases, [Scopus](#) or [Web of Science](#). Try them both.

Uses or applications of your own published research

You should consider creating alerts to check where/why it was cited, and by whom.

A hint for staff and doctoral students

Any paper, book, or chapter in [Research Outputs](#) that you have linked to its *Scopus* or *Web of Science* record will have a hyperlink to any indexed Scopus or Web of Science works that cite it.

Those hyperlinks are automatically updated.

Consult your Subject Librarian for specific advice on database choices