Citation Searching

Citation searching, or cited reference searching, looks for articles and other items that have cited a specific published work.

Citation Searching finds later research, based on relevant, earlier work; therefore it complements traditional keyword or subject searching techniques.

Other advantages include:

- If a particular “source” is important to your research, you may be expected to know the critical or practical use of that item.
- Finding how many times a work is cited — it may be wise to browse highly cited works related to your topic.
- Identifying who else is using a work — this may suggest new authors & journals of interest to you.
- Seeing how a research topic is being used to support other research.
- Finding relevant articles in areas where there is not a large amount of literature.

In both Scopus & Web of Science, you may refine the results of a citation search by keywords, etc. You may create citation alerts in either database.

- If you need only items after 1996, then use Scopus: it is easy to use, its data is much cleaner, and (for 1996 onwards) usually finds more results than Web of Science does.
- If you need items before 1996 then you must use Web of Science.
- If you need to find as many citations as possible (e.g., for PBRF), then use both databases.

MathSciNet usually finds fewer citations than either Scopus or Web of Science, but sometimes it finds results not listed in either database. So also consider citation searching in MathSciNet.

Alert services

Some databases permit an alert service, or current awareness service. This service automatically advises you by email of the details of any new, relevant items matching your search as soon as they are added to that database.

- Sometimes it is sensible to search a database that is less suitable for your topic, or has only limited coverage, because it also has an alert service.
- Most alerts are by email; but some databases permit RSS feeds as well. For any Alert services, contact your Subject Librarian.

"New issue" alerts

You can be advised of the contents whenever the latest issue of certain specific journals are published. There are several ways to do this, depending on the particular journal or its publisher.

For help choosing the most appropriate databases for your research and for an efficient, effective search strategy, contact your Subject Librarian. The Mathematics & Statistics Subject Librarian is Michael Parkinson, m.parkinson@auckland.ac.nz