What is citation searching?

A method that allows you to search forward or backward in time – going from one relevant article to many. If you have already found a few relevant articles, this method will help you to find many more articles on a similar topic. Also known as snowballing or pearling.

- **Forward citation searching**
  Begin with one key article and find other articles that have cited it. This will help you to find more recently published articles that may be relevant to you.

- **Backward citation searching**
  Begin with one key article (the "pearl") and locate all of the articles from its reference list. This will help you find relevant articles that were published before the key article.

Scopus

Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. It is multi-disciplinary, meaning that it covers a broad spectrum of subjects, and can be a useful source for health research.

Go to Scopus by clicking on the Popular resources link from the Library homepage.

1. Begin with a relevant article that you have already found. Type or paste the title of that article into the Scopus search box. Select article title > Click Search.

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**Scopus search**

Select Article title

Enter the title of your key article

Search button
2. If the article is indexed in Scopus, you will see the title listed on the results page. Click on the title.

View the references (backwards searching)

1. Clicking on the article title will take you to the Document details page. From there, click View references to see all of the references for this article:

2. In Scopus you can also link through to most of those referenced articles by clicking on their titles:
View the cited references (forward searching)

- **Method #1:** From the Scopus homepage, search for an article title, then on the next screen, click the number in the **Cited by** column:

![Cited by example from Scopus](image)

- **Method #2:** Click on the article title to go to the **Document details** page. From there, view the cited documents in the right panel.

View related documents

Scroll down the **Document Details** page to view other documents which are related to the key article either by **authors** or **keywords**. Notice also **Author keywords**, plus the **EMTREE terms** (Embase headings), and **MeSH** (PubMed / Medline headings) which are very useful if you would like to search in those databases too.

Contact Us

For further support or questions, please email the Liaison Librarians for Health & Medical Sciences Vikki Langton and Robert Franchini at: fhms_librarians@adelaide.edu.au