# Follow the Research Trail – transcript.

This presentation explains how to use a resource you've already got to find similar relevant and related resources.

This is also referred to as snowballing, following the thread, following the reference trail or chasing.

Following the trail can also help you track the arguments as they unfold in the literature on your topic.

## Looking Back.

Academic & scholarly research is built upon a foundation of other older scholarly research. As researchers do their work, they read, think about and are inspired by the work done (and published) by others.

Once you find a resource that is appropriate to the subject you are researching, follow the trail back in time by looking at the list of references or bibliography at the end of the article or chapter to find other resources which might also relate to your research.

The publication dates of the references will always be older than the publication of citing article.

## Looking Forward.

Looking forward helps you locate newer items that includes your starting article in their References lists

We need to use online tools (e.g.  databases, Web of Science and Google) to help us "look forward" to find newer articles that build on the research in our starting article. The number of newer articles that link back to a starting article also help us make some judgements about the importance of the starting article.

Some databases will show you the Times Cited or Citations where your starting article has been cited.

Image above is of a full record for a starting article in the Web of Science database. Note that off to the right side of the full record, there is a link called Times Cited. That link provides the list of newer items that include the starting article in their References lists.

Click the Times Cited link to access the newer research articles which are in part based on the starting article.

**Web of Science** is a multidisciplinary research platform which enables simultaneous cross-searching of a range of citation indexes and databases. Citation Searching helps you discover how many times a particular author or article has been cited and by whom, and to locate later works which cite a specific article, allowing you to trace the development of a particular research path.

You can access the **Web of Science** (covers Arts & Humanities too) by using[NELSON,](https://nelson.northampton.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=44NORTH_V1) the Library's search tool. Log in with your UoN username and password at the top right-hand corner of the NELSON Home page. Then click on the [Databases](http://library.northampton.ac.uk/databases/)tab at the top of the screen.

You will see the full A-Z list of all the databases the Library subscribes to for students. Type Web of Science into the search box and the link to WOS will display. Click on this and you can then search Web of Science.

The image above is of the record for the starting article in Google Scholar, which uses the link "Cited by" instead of "Times Cited" as in Web of Science. The "Cited by" link provides the list of newer items that include our starting article in their References lists.

Click the Cited by link to access the newer research articles which are in part based on the starting article.

Google Scholar provides an easy way to broadly search for scholarly literature. You can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.

You can access Google Scholar [here.](https://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en)

Did you know you can link Google Scholar to NELSON, the UoN Library & Learning Services search tool? For instructions on how to link these, view this short [video.](https://northampton.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Google+Scholar/1_p1bmpbl9)

Need help with literature searching?

* Check out the [Skills Hub](https://skillshub.northampton.ac.uk/) – lots of guidance on search skills, evaluating sources, research methods and more.
* You can book a 25-minute tutorial appointment to get help with using library resources and referencing. Appointments can be booked through the [Student Login.](https://llsbooking.northampton.ac.uk/LLS_Users/logins/studentLogin.aspx)
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