

Cited Reference Searching:

WOS's unique feature is its ability to perform *cited reference searching*. This allows you to track a publication's usage forward through time. It exploits the formal linkages between papers established by the authors themselves.

Possible Uses of Cited Reference Searching:

- Discover who is citing your research and how your work is influencing newer research.
- Uncover the directions in which research is progressing based on an earlier study.
- Verify the accuracy of a cited reference as included in a paper's list of references.
- Construct an objective history of a field of study, significant invention, or discovery. Citation indexing tracks the scholarly links that map scientific impact and influence.

How to Perform a Cited Reference Search:

To access the ISI Web of Knowledge, click on the Web of Science (cited References) link on the library homepage. At the next page, click on the Cited Ref Search box.

The following reference will be used as an example:

Cahoon DR, Stocks BJ, Levine JS, Cofer WR, O'Neill KP. Seasonal distribution of African Savanna fires. *Nature* 359(6398): 812-815, Oct. 29, 1992.

1. In the **Cited Author** line, type in the author's last name, a space, and the first initial if known. If you know the middle initial and know that the author uses the middle initial, type it next to the first initial (no spaces.) If you do not have information about the middle initial or if the author publishes with it inconsistently, you can use truncation to pick it up if it is available. Type a * next to the first initial to truncate (no spaces).

Examples:

First initial only. Will not find articles with a middle initial present.

cahoon d

First and middle initials. Will not find articles with the first initial only.

cahoon dr

First initial with truncation. Will find the first initial and any middle initial (including other authors with the same first initial and last name but differing middle initials).

cahoon d*

2. *Either* fill in the **Cited Work** line or the **Cited Year** line. You increase the chance of finding miscitations of an article when you leave off part of the reference. For example, if an article cites the article with an incorrect or incomplete journal name and you search on the Cited Work, you will miss the citation. Similarly, if you search on the year an article cites the year incorrectly, you will miss it. *You may want to run the search twice, once with the Cited Work field completed and once with the Cited Year completed to be comprehensive.*

If the author's name is unique and/or the author has not published many articles, you may search on only the author's name.

3. The **Cited Work** must be entered by journal abbreviation. The abbreviation must be ISI's abbreviation and must be entered exactly. Use the list above the search line to determine the correct format. Use copy (ctrl-c) and paste (ctrl-v) to avoid typos.

4. **Cited Year** must be entered in the 4-digit format (1996 not 96) or you may enter a range of years as 2000 - 2002.
5. Click the **SEARCH** button to retrieve a list of papers that match the search criteria. Look for variations in the way the paper is cited and be sure to select all appropriate references.
6. Click check marks next to the references that match the article for which you are searching. Please note that the correct citation will be highlighted in blue and have a **View Record** link when it is within the years of our subscription (1975 to the present). Older articles, incorrect citations, and citations that are not indexed by ISI (ex. books, book chapters, theses, etc.) appear as plain black text. Clicking the **View Record** link will bring up the abstract for the record.
7. Click the Finish Search button to retrieve the references that cite the article you entered.
8. To limit your results to a particular time span, under the **Select database(s) and timespan:** choose the years in which you are interested, then perform the search and mark the target article. When you click the **Finish Search** button, you'll only see the articles that cite your target article for the range of years selected. For example: In 2005-2006, how many times was this article cited?

Cahoon DR, Stocks BJ, Levine JS, Cofer WR, O'Neill KP. Seasonal distribution of African Savanna fires. *Nature* 359(6398): 812-815, Oct. 29, 1992.

When you perform a cited reference search on the reference, on the "Cited Reference Index" list, you see the total number of times the article was cited for all years (132+). After you click Finish Search, you see that for 2005-2006, the article was cited 9 times, and you see those 9 references listed.

Searching by Secondary Authors

You may search for cited references using secondary authors, as long as the work is indexed by ISI. Basically this means that for most journals you can search using secondary authors but you cannot for books, book chapters, etc.

When you search by secondary author, you will only see results for when the work is cited correctly. If it is important for you to see all usage of an article, including incorrect citations, then re-run the search using the first author. Typically, you search using secondary authors when you do not know the first author.

Secondary authors can be recognized in the search results list by the ellipses (...) that precede their name.

Example:

Cahoon DR, Stocks BJ, Levine JS, Cofer WR, O'Neill KP. Seasonal distribution of African Savanna fires. *Nature* 359(6398): 812-815, Oct. 29, 1992.

We can search for cited references to this article by searching Stock BJ, Levine JS, Cofer WR, or O'Neill KP in the **Cited Author** line.