Citation Searching in the Web of Science

When you have a highly relevant source in hand, you can use the Web of Science to find other relevant sources by finding out what articles have cited the source you have.

1. Click on the menu option Cited Reference Search.

2. Enter the author’s name in one search box. Use the author’s last name followed by the initial of the author’s first name, followed by an asterisk (to truncate the name). Optionally, you can add a word or two from the title in the other search box to narrow your results. Follow the examples given on the screen.
   NOTE: For the title, it is better to use just the first one or two significant word of the title followed by the asterisk (*) to truncate the title.

OR you can browse the author index to find the correct author: Click on “Select from Index” to look up the author.

Enter the author’s last name and first initial in the box and click the “Move To” button. You will see a list of authors. Click the “Add” button next to each author’s name that looks like the author of your reference, just to make sure get all the relevant ones.

You may need to choose the names that have the single first initial and the names that have both the first and middle initials because you won’t always know how the work was cited—whether the author wrote the work using his/her first name only, or with the first name and middle name (or initial).

Click the OK button to “Transfer your selected cited authors...”
3. Now, back on the search page, enter words from the title of the work if you wish, then click the “Search” button to execute the search.

4. The next page is a list of references written by the author(s) you chose. Put a check in the box next to each reference that looks like the relevant source. (Titles of references in the Web of Knowledge database are usually abbreviated in some way, and will probably not match exactly the title of your relevant source. For best results, select all the possible works.)

5. The results list will be a list of all the articles that have cited the items you chose in step #4. The references in this list will be in order with the most recent ones at the top of the list. One way to determine which of the references in this list are “the best” is to sort them by the number of times they have been cited in other sources. Choose the “Times Cited--highest to lowest” sort option from the drop-down list at the top of the screen.

You can also refine your results list by choosing from the options in the menu on the left side of the screen.

**Note:** These items in your list are primarily journal articles! There is no systematic way to find out what books have cited the item you have in hand.