Citation Searching

Transcript

Slide 1
Citation searching is a unique way of searching for references on a particular research topic starting from a known reference. It complements the method of searching journal databases using subject terms.

Slide 2
Let’s look at an example of a known reference, that is a reference or a journal article that is known to us and is of particular interest:

Pizzatto L., Shine R.

The behavioral ecology of cannibalism in cane toads (Bufo marinus)


Let’s say we’d like to know how many times this article has been cited since its publication in 2008, and by whom. This will help us find other articles on the subject and in this way track the research debate on the topic.

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There are special tools available for citation searching which are called citation indexes/databases.

Some key citation indexes accessible through CDU Library are:

- **Web of Science**

  This database allows access to 17,000 journal titles through the Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation index and Arts and Humanities Citation Index.

- **Scopus**

  This is an index which allows access to close to 20,000 journal titles.

- **Google Scholar**

  This freely available search engine allows access to scholarly literature and includes citation counts.

Let’s search each of these sources for the Pizzatto reference and note the differences between them.

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First let’s search the Web of Science database.
To access it, navigate to the Library’s Home Page, select the link to Databases, and from the A-Z list of databases select “W”, then Web of Science.

**Slide 5** PAUSE

**Slide 6** PAUSE

**Slide 7** PAUSE

**Slide 8**

Once you’re in, select the link to “Cited Reference Search” as demonstrated. This will help us find how many times the Pizzatto article has been cited in the Web of Science database; and the articles that have cited it.

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Once in we will carry out the search by entering the details of the Pizzatto article. Enter the details in the Cited Author, Cited Work and Cited Year search boxes. Note that the journal title needs to be abbreviated as required in the Journal Abbreviation List.

Once done, select the “Search tab”

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We have just one result – and it is the article that we are interested in. Let’s View the Record.

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From this page we can view the full details of the article including the abstract. The Times Cited link indicates that the article has been cited 17 times since it was published in 2008. This means that there are 17 articles accessible through Web of Science, which have cited Pizzatto’s article on cane toads. All 17 articles can be viewed from this link.

From the right hand column you can view the latest 3 of these articles at a glance. The article was last cited in September 2012 in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B-Biological Sciences.

You can Create a Citation Alert if you’d like to receive an email the next time time the article gets cited in Web of Science.

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Now let’s go in and take a look at the 17 articles by selecting the Times Cited link. The articles are set to sort in chronological order, that is in order of latest date. As mentioned, the article at the top of this list was published in September 2012 and the next in April 2012. Citation data are available for each of the 17 articles. The first record by Crossland et al has already been cited but numbers 2 and 3 have not as yet.

Generally speaking the more recent the article the less it will have been cited, as it takes time for the article to be discovered by researchers.
Let's now take a look at the Scopus database and repeat the same search to compare citation data.

To access Scopus, navigate to the Library’s Home Page and from the A-Z list of databases select “S”, then Scopus.

In the Author search tab, enter the author details (last name and initials) in the search boxes as indicated. Then select the Search tab.

This search finds three different versions of the author’s name with a total of 31 documents. Tick the box alongside the name and select “Show documents” to view the list of titles.

The results are in chronological order so scroll down the list till you come to 2008 and the title of interest to us, “The behavioural ecology of cannibalism in cane toads”.

Alternatively if there were a large number of records, you could narrow down your search by limiting by date and journal title from the left hand “Refine results” column.

The far “Cited by” column indicates the number the article has been cited in Scopus - it has been cited 18 times, which is once more than in Web of Science.

Take a look at each of the 18 records and compare them to the 17 in Web of Science. You will notice that between the two databases there are only 14 journals in common. This is because the journals indexed by each of the two databases are different. There are three journals in the Scopus list that are not on the Web of Science list and there is one journal in the Web of Science list that is not on the Scopus list.

For this reason it is always useful to look at different sources of citations rather than rely on one.

Google Scholar is another source of citation data. Google Scholar could give a different set of results again because it has broader coverage.

Go to Google Scholar: www.scholar.google.com.au, and enter the search details as indicated.
The search gives us 19 results. View the 19 records and compare them to the other two sets of results.

On this occasion the article is cited 21 times, which is different again from Web of Science and Scopus.

Web of Science and Scopus primarily focus on journal articles but the range of journals titles they cover in a particular subject area may not be the same.

On the other hand Google Scholar can cover a range of other materials such as books, pdf files, and so on as well as journal articles.

Take a look at each of the citing references to note the differences.

To get an accurate citation count for a particular article and a further range of relevant references, you will need to search each of the different sources in this example.

For further assistance, please contact the Research Services Coordinator at:
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