Citation information in Web of Science

You can use this handout for your own topic of research. The goal is to use the different citation information available in Web of Science to find relevant literature for your topic.

1. Go to Web of Science. Make sure the ‘Web of Science Core Collection’ is selected.
2. Perform your search

Citation information for a specific record

3. Select a cited article from the list of results. Click the title to see the full record, with the abstract, keywords, author information etc.

The Citation Network on the right side of the full record contains:
- a link to the citing publications in Web of Science [Times Cited]
- the cited references of the article itself
- a link to related records, based on shared references

Citation Network

In Web of Science Core Collection

117

Times Cited

Create Citation Alert

All Times Cited Counts

118 in All Databases

See more counts

110

Cited References

View Related Records
4. To see the publications in Web of Science that cite the selected article, click Times Cited. The number of results is often less than the number of times cited, because the EUR doesn’t subscribe to the Book Citation Index.

**Question:** Check the titles and abstracts of these citing publications: do you find interesting and relevant (recent) subtopics or authors?

**Tip:** the refine options on the left side of the screen help you to quickly see the top authors or journals in the results list (‘top’ based on the number of articles in the results list).

5. When you click the Cited References of your selected article, you get an overview of the reference list of that article, sorted alphabetically. Some publications are indexed by Web of Science. The titles of these references contain links to the full record in Web of Science. Other references, for example references to books, reports and newspaper articles, are not indexed, so there is no link to a record in Web of Science. But sometimes you do see a number of times cited for these reference types.

**Question:** Check the cited references of the selected article. Does this list help you find classic publications in your field?

**Please note:** this list of references provides no citation context. You have to read the article to see why the author referred to a particular publication.

6. The option View Related Records uses the citations in a different way: this link returns a list of records that share references with the publication in the full record. When two records share references, they are probably about the same topic.

View the related records of the selected article. The list is sorted by the number of shared references. The number behind ‘Shared references’ is a link to the list of these shared references.

**Question:** Check the results. Do you see articles relevant to your topic previously unknown to you?

**Citation information for a list of results**

7. Go back to the list of search results and change the sort order into Times Cited – Highest to lowest.

**Question:** Check the records with the highest number of citations – are they key publications in your field?

8. Some records have a Highly Cited Paper icon . This means that this record belongs to the top 1%, based on the number of citations received in its academic field and publication year.

You may also have Hot Papers in your results, with this icon . A hot paper was published in the past two years and received enough citations to place it in the top 0.1% of papers in a particular academic field.

You can see if there are highly cited papers and/or hot papers in your results, by using the filter option on the left side of the screen.
Question: Do you have highly cited papers or hot papers in your results? Why do you think they are cited so often?

9. If you have more than 10,000 search results, refine your search.

10. On top of the list of search results click Create Citation Report. You will see aggregate citation statistics for the set, such as the sum of the times cited and the average citations per item.

11. You also get the list of the search results with the number of citations received per year.

12. At the bottom of the list you find the Export option. You can export a maximum of 500 results in the citation report to Excel and analyze the numbers there. You can for example see if the number of citations received per year by a certain article is decreasing or increasing. Some articles need a couple of years to get cited and then they gain more and more citations. But it can also be the other way around: articles receiving a lot of citations shortly after publication and increasingly fewer or no citations after a couple of years. You will also see that many articles are never cited.

Question: does this information help you discover new articles relevant to your topic?