7. Citation Chaining

Learn about backwards and forwards chaining to find more research on a topic.

Take this tutorial on Citation Chaining and learn how to use one good article or book to help you find other relevant resources. This tutorial will help you use databases such as MultiSearch, Google Scholar, ResearchGate and journal databases to: Backwards chain to find articles that are cited in your existing resources; And forwards chain to find articles that cite your existing resources.

Backwards Chaining

Learn about backwards chaining to find articles and books that are cited in the resources that you have already found.

Backwards chaining is the process of looking at the good resources you have already found and searching for items in the reference lists of those sources, which could be relevant and useful for your assessment task. Here, you are looking back at past research in an attempt to track the development of the concept you are researching. As you find more resources, and use the citations listed in those reference lists, your network of resources will expand very quickly. To access the resources you found by backwards chaining, simply copy the citation titles from the reference lists you have and paste them into MultiSearch or the library’s databases. If you can't find a resource via the library, try Google Scholar or ResearchGate or fill out an Interlibrary loan request.

Forwards Chaining

Learn about forwards chaining to find articles and books that cite a resource that you have already found.

Forwards chaining is the process of finding sources which have cited the good books or articles you are currently using. Here, you are looking forward at research conducted after your existing resource. By doing this you continue to track the development of the of the concept you are researching. Citation databases such as MultiSearch, Google Scholar and many of the library's databases give you an option to look at sources which have cited your original work. Again if you can't find the full-text of the resource, use the library interlibrary loan service to request a copy.
Tutorial Checklist

☐ I can use reference lists and citations to find more research.
☐ I am able to use cited by tools in various databases to find more research on a topic.

*Ask a librarian*