Finding Cited and Related (Similar) Articles

Cited reference searching is finding articles that reference a particular author, article, or book. Cited reference searching is useful to find out how research has been applied or developed and to locate further research on a topic. Let’s say you are researching the use of marijuana to treat chronic pain instead of opioids. You come across the following article by doing a keyword search in Google Scholar.

Cannabis as an adjunct to or substitute for opiates in the treatment of chronic pain
P Lucas - Journal of psychoactive drugs, 2012 - Taylor & Francis
Abstract There is a growing body of evidence to support the use of medical cannabis as an adjunct to or substitute for prescription opiates in the treatment of chronic pain. When used in conjunction with opiates, cannabinoids lead to a greater cumulative relief of pain, resulting in a reduction in the use of opiates (and associated side-effects) by patients in a clinical setting. Additionally, cannabinoids can prevent the development of tolerance to and ...

Click on “cited by” to see who has used the article in their bibliography. Many of the new citations are on the same subject.

Many databases also have a feature where you can find “related” or “similar” articles. Related articles share references from the original article’s bibliography and are usually listed by the number of shared references.

In addition to Google Scholar, Web of Science and Scopus track citations and have a related articles search feature.

In Web of Science, do a title search on the article of interest in the basic search form and then click on the title to bring up the full record.
Click on the links on the right hand side to bring up cited and related records.

You can also set up a citation alert and Web of Science will send you an email when someone cites the article.

**Scopus** works in a similar way and covers more journals than Web of Science in the social sciences.

**PubMed** offers a limited version of cited reference searching. PubMed records which are cited by articles in the PubMed Central database, can be found on the abstract page for a record. The database also has links to related articles.

Many Ebscohost databases (Academic Search Complete) also list citing publications. You will see a Times Cited in the database link.