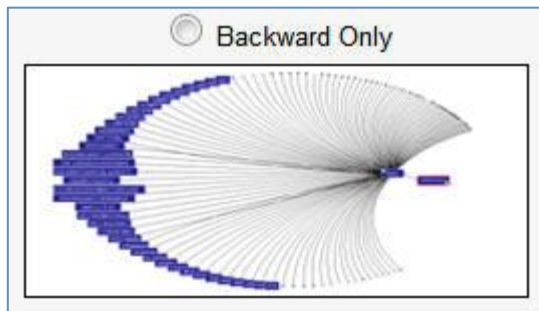


Getting the Most Out Of Journal Articles

A great wealth of information is available in academic journal articles. Articles in academic journals serve many purposes, including review of recent research, presentation of research results, and the dissemination of academic or scientific information.

Using References from Academic Articles -- When examining an academic journal article it is very important to use the features of the article to your advantage. Not only should one study the article for information you are seeking, but also one should review the references at the end of the article. These references provide pointers backward in time detailing the sources the author used to create the article in hand. The list of references is sometimes called a bibliography but it is simply a list of sources the author used when writing the article. It is advantageous to look at the reference list and seek out and read any articles of interest.

Here's an illustration showing the article and then looking backward graphically depicting references.



Using Citation Indexes -- Another great way to use articles is to determine who has used, or cited the article in your hand for work done after your article was published. What this means is that if you have an article that you are reading from say 2006 it is very useful to find out who has cited the article since its publication in 2006.

In order to see who has cited our article since its publication researchers must seek out a citation index. A citation index will examine the literature in a discipline and then collect and list who has cited an article after it is released.

To conduct a search, go into a citation index such as *Web of Science* or *Social Science Citation Index*. Here you would use the article title or the author's name from your 2006 article to find a listing for the article that you have, and then the citation index will tell you who has used your article in their own research since your article was published. So for example if you have an article published in 2006 the citation index will tell you who may have used your article as a source in all the years following from 2006 to date.

This graphic illustrates the citation index concept where on the left is the article you have in hand and on the right are all of the sources that have cited the article since it was published in spring of 2006.

