In this video we're going to talk about how you can take articles that you've already found and identify additional related materials that may be helpful for your research.

A lot of the time, after you've done some great searching, you'll likely have found some literature that can help with your topic. Maybe it's not all perfect. Maybe there's still not enough of it, but you've got some key pieces to start reading and thinking about the context of your work.

It's important to remember, research is rarely a one and done situation.

Think about it like you're navigating an unfamiliar river system. You may know the destination (your eventual dissertation) is somewhere down the line, and you may set out on a path that seems straightforward to get there, but you may end up in shallows and have to deviate course, you may have to back track if the path is blocked by debris or a low bridge, you may end up in an estuary and get dumped out in the ocean overwhelmed by all the water around you!

The point is, the path is rarely a straight line and you'll likely need to perform different searches and employ different strategies to get enough literature to meet your needs.

So what should you do?

The resources you've already located can often serve as seeds that you can use to locate other materials. They give you a foothold in the body of information that will lead you to other relevant pieces of information.

There are 4 primary ways to do this that we're going to discuss.

There's Using Reference Lists
Article Keywords
Author Histories
And Citation tracking

Using Reference Lists
One of the great things about most research articles is that they'll have done some degree of literature review for their work. This follows the same principle that we discuss in our finding dissertation video, though to a smaller degree.

There's no reason you can't go through someone's literature review and pull out their references to follow up on yourself. Someone's essentially done the work of gathering all of this information

together already for you, so you may as well just use the convenient packaging of their article to identify relevant resources

It's important to remember, however, that any sources you find this way are going to be even older than the sources you started with, so if currency is a problem for your topic, you might not be able to benefit from this as much.

Author histories

In the academic world, authors tend to specialize in an area of research. This means that a lot of the time it can be quite useful to go and look up other articles that author has written.

Most databases will have options for you to search by author, so it's relatively easy for you to get a partial picture of what an author has written. I say partial, because authors will publish in a variety of journals in their field, so all of their work might not be covered by one database.

You could also try using google scholar. Not only will their advanced search allow you to specify what author you want to search for, BUT if you do a basic search for an author's name you can find their author profile on google scholar (if they use this feature). Here, authors will have compiled a list of publications on their profiles so you can see what else they've written.

If they don't have a google scholar profile set up, you could also see if they have a faculty page at their home institution. Many times, authors will put up at least a sampling of their work on a page like this that you can consult and see more of their work.

Article Keywords

One great way to use articles that you've already located is identify new keywords to use. Different authors will use different language to describe similar concepts. So as you're reading an article that you already located, you may find that the author mentions a term that you hadn't thought of or heard before, relating to what you're trying to study.
Sometimes you may also find possible terms at the beginning of an article as 'author keywords' This can sometimes be used by a database as another search field, but if a database doesn't include this information from the article, you can extract it yourself if any of the terms appear useful.

Once extracted, You can then go back and integrate these terms into your searching and see if you get any new results. Remember, you may be running searches multiple times as you discover new information to integrate into your searches

Citation tracking

A number of databases offer citation tracking capabilities that you can take advantage of.

Citation tracking allows you to take an existing article, and find out what articles have cited that starting article since it was published.

The idea is that if an article has cited another, it is doing so because it is writing about a similar topic. However, unlike examining a reference list, you're actually moving forward in time to more current materials.
This means, older articles will have a higher chance of having been cited since there will have been time for people to see, read, and incorporate the article into their own publication.

Sometimes you'll find citation info built into certain databases, like psycinfo, when you look at the search results. This can be nice to keep you within one discipline, but it can limit the number of results you'll see. In this example, from a 2001 article, you can see under "times cited in this database" that there's only 5 articles in this database that cite this one.

Google Scholar also has citation information built in, and in fact, this info is a major component of its algorithm, so you can try searching for information on a particular article to see what citation information is available. Just be cautious as these citations aren't limited to peer reviewed articles, so be sure to double check that they are acceptable for your needs.

There are also databases which are built on the basis of citation tracking
Scopus (which is generally more STEM Focussed, but has been expanding social science content) and Web of Science.

We'll demonstrate Web of Science here, but you can also look up an article in scopus relatively easily to find out who has cited it.

To locate web of science, go to the libraries' homepage and select databases and guides.

Then you can select all databases by name, in A to Z order.
Then you can select W for Web of science.
Scroll down until you see Web of Science.

Inside web of science, to do a citation search, you'll want to click on cited reference search.

Here you'll want to enter details about the article you're investigating. Most importantly is the author and year, but you can also enter the information about the journal, especially in cases of more common last names (like Lee, Lopez, or Smith).

From the list of results, look for entries that match your article. There may be some entries that appear to be close, or have issue and volume swapped, and that's because these entries are taken directly from the reference lists of articles, and people sometimes make mistakes in their bibliographies.

In this case, we have only one entry from this article pubilshed in Child Abuse and Neglect. When I select it, I can then finish my search.

My search results are now all the articles that were published after the article I started with, but have cited my original starting article.