Following Breadcrumbs

1. Following “breadcrumbs” from other scholars to find more resources.

When scholars report research, they always leave a trail of breadcrumbs so that you can find out where they got their information. You can mine an article you have in several different ways:

A. Works Cited at the end of the article. See if these articles are available in our Library databases.
   a. **SU Library Hint:** Chose “Find Articles” and then “By Journal Title” to see if our Library has access to the Journal Title.
   b. **SU Library Hint:** If you have the citation for an article, the best way to search for the actual article in our databases is to use the author’s “Last Name” and “Several Important Words” from the title.

B. Words in the Title or Article Abstract. Often IMPORTANT words in the Title of an Article or the author’s Abstract can give you some possible words to search for in our databases
   a. **SU Library Hint:** Never try to search for more than three words or phrases at a time. Remember – the MORE words you type into a Library database the FEWER articles will result.

C. The Author of a Useful Article. Your article’s author may be an expert on your topic. Maybe she has written other articles.
   a. **SU Library Hint:** First, try to search for your author [First name Last Name] as an AUTHOR search. Next, as a KEYWORD search.

2. Using Google to find scholarly information.

As Google becomes more sophisticated, it is increasingly more useful to you as a scholar. For example, looking up important keywords, an article title, or an author’s name in Google may well result in valuable CITATIONS. Using Google Scholar increases your success.

   a **SU Library Hint:** Google will find a CITATION for you, but you will need to use the Library databases to find the actual ARTICLE.

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