Search Techniques:
Chasing Citations
This type of searching is typically used when you are assigned a literature review. By the time you start researching for a literature review, you should have a well-defined research question. Make sure it is manageable, and keep in mind that it will probably undergo several revisions as you discover the research that has occurred around your topic. Remember, you are essentially performing a scan of the background and research developments that have occurred around your topic. The scope of your review will depend on your assignment, but here are some tips for tracking down related articles for a literature review.

Start by brainstorming a list of words that can act as search terms for your topic.
One of the most effective ways to perform a literature review is to locate an article that is related to your topic, then use its reference list to find more related articles.

The quickest way to find one of these sources is to break down the citation.

Start with the title of the journal. From the library homepage, look under Quick Links for the Journals and Magazines link.
If you know the exact title of the journal, it is a good idea to enclose it in “quotation marks” for a phrase search.

Click on the title of the journal to view and/or search within it.
Click Search within this publication to do so. Enter the exact title of the article to locate it.

Or, take a second look at the original citation for the year of publication, volume, and issue numbers to browse to the article.
The process for finding an article will not always follow the same steps.

That’s why librarians are here to help!