Web of Science “cheat sheet” … a few critical basics for cited reference searching!

If you don’t want to search all disciplines, click More settings ▼ and make any changes.

Change Basic Search to Cited Reference Search.

You will begin using only 2 of the search boxes: Cited Author and Cited Year(s).

While Cited Year is pretty straightforward, the Devil is in the Details when it comes to entering Cited Author. Common surnames can be very problematic because you should not really use the author’s first name, just the initial. If you have it, you can include a middle initial when the surname is common. It is very nice when the item has multiple authors! Here are a couple examples of how Cited Author would be entered in the search box.

Original article

Family Functioning: Associations With Weight Status, Eating Behaviors, and Physical Activity in Adolescents

Jerica M. Berge Ph.D., M.P.H., L.M.F.T. a, b, Melanie Wall Ph.D. b, Nicole Larson Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D. c, Katie A. Loth M.P.H., R.D. c, Dianne Neumark-Sztainer Ph.D., R.D., M.P.H. c

It is great to be able to use multiple authors’ names, especially when the surnames are common, like Wall or Larson. If you only have one author and you have a middle initial, use it, no spaces!
After you do the search, you will then, usually, have to pick out your citation. There are almost always matches with other articles than the one you are searching, especially if you have a single author!

Even with the *Journal of Adolescent Health* article above, I got 4 different hits:

Three are mine, so I would *Select* those and then click

For the other article described above with a single author, the results were overwhelming. When that happens you have to use that 3rd search box, *Cited Work*; and the *Index* to find out how the journal title is abbreviated. You can’t just type in the title of the journal … it’s all abbreviated!