Scopus: Finding relevant literature using citations

Step 1.

Sorting your results by citation may help to reveal some of the more influential literature in your field. This follows a logic of ‘literature which is more important/influential is read more and therefore, cited more’.

To sort your results, click into the drop down menu in the top right and select ‘cite by (highest)’, as shown below. It is good to note that older items will have had more time to accrue citations, which does not mean that newer items are not important.

Step 2.

Clicking into an item record will reveal further information from citations that can help you to located useful literature. For example, if you scroll down below the abstract and key words, there are ‘references’ from the current item.

This is helpful for seeing which literature came before, and influenced the current paper. You can click through those with links in the title, to view those papers in Scopus, as shown below.
Step 3.

You can also look forward in time to see papers which have gone on to use and cite the current article. This can be found on the right hand side in ‘cited by’.