How to do FORWARD citation searching

This type of citation searching looks forward in time. It is sometimes called the *descendancy approach* (because it searches forward from a descendant). It starts with a historical article, and searches for articles that were written AFTER the historical article -- ones that used the historical article for research.

How many times has a historical article been cited since it was published? A historical article may continue to be cited for various reasons. Often it is because it was an important or influential article, a seminal article, one that established a theory or reported on a significant research discovery. While those are typical reasons that an article endures, another less common but possible reason may be that the article is controversial and it is for that reason it is often cited.

**OPTION #1 – Use the EBSCO Databases, such as PsycArticles (others include CINAHL, MedLine, Education Source, etc.)**

In the example below, article #5, we searched for and found an article, “Cognitive consequences of forced compliance,” by Festinger & Carlsmith, written in 1959. It was cited 206 times in this particular database.

If you click on this link, “Times Cited in this Database,” (circled in example below) you will get a list of the articles that have since cited the original historical article.
How to do FORWARD citation searching

Option #2 – Use Google Scholar

Another way to do FORWARD citation searching is through Google Scholar (scholar.google.com).

Enter the article title into Google scholar. Here we are using the same example, “Cognitive consequences of forced compliance.”

Using Google scholar, we can see that it is has been cited 2,852 times. Clicking on that link (circled below) brings you to these 2,852 citations.