What is Backward Citation Searching?

The sources cited by authors give you an idea of the thought and research that contributed to the authors’ own research. What sources and theories influenced their work? Examining these sources is a great way to find more sources related to your topic. Going back and looking at these sources is called **backward citation searching**.

**Example: Journal article with reference list**

Let’s suppose you wanted to find one of the references Brandao & Figueiredo used. How would you do this? Let’s find the article, “The transition of parenthood: what does it mean for fathers?”

There are a two ways to find the article, using Google Scholar or searching the Regis Library databases.
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Method #1
Enter the title of the article into Google Scholar. (Note: Entering the DOI for the article is another way to search.)

Entering the title retrieves the following, with a link to find the article in the Regis Library databases. Click on Find@RegisCollege. This will bring you directly to the article. (Note: if you are off-campus, this requires that you configure the settings in Google Scholar to search the Regis Library.)
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Method #2

Search by title in EBSCO. Use PowerSearch to search more than one database at once. If the article is not found, this indicates that Regis does not carry this article in its collection. (You may then choose to request the article through our Interlibrary Loan service.)

Results below. Click on PDF Full Text to access article.