# How to Read an Article

**Begin your search:**
- Enter your research question
- Enter key words
- Look at the article title – does it relate specifically to your work?

**Find no articles:**
- Need to change search criteria

**Find too many articles:**
- Need to refine search

**Find articles**
- Some look promising you save them
- # of citations – could be misleading* (more later)
- Some match your research question
- Some may be relevant but closer look is necessary

**Pick an article & Read:**
**Introduction** <u>before</u> you read the **Abstract**
- What is the research question?
- How does it compare to what you are doing or plan to do?

Summarize as you go (more detail to come)

**Read  Methodology**
- What informs decisions or methodology?
- Do they align with your methodology ?

**Do the results answer the question?**

**Read the Results section**
- How does this inform you?
- Significant v. non-significant?
- Sample Size?
- Errors in graphs?

**Read interpretation**
- Strengths & Weaknesses?
- Limitations
- Alternate interpretations?
- Gaps?
- What do other researchers say?
- An often-cited paper* could be a bad paper?

**Read the Abstract; if everything stated is correct**
- Use
- Do not Use