# The Beginning Researcher's Quick Start Guide

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#### What is a dissertation or thesis?

- A dissertation is the final research paper for a doctoral degree.
- A thesis is the final research paper required by many master's degree programs. In some countries thesis can also refer to the doctoral degree paper.

#### Are they a good source for my undergrad research?

- Yes! Find the newest research on a broad array of topics—often not covered anywhere else—from history, pop culture, the arts, literature, politics, business, education, and STEM.
- · Yes! They contain extensive, curated reference lists that can lead you to other articles and books.

## **STEP 1** Research your unique topic, within a credible source.

#### HOW?

- Begin with the Keyword Search.
- Click "Full text" or "Doctoral





#### Find relevant information. No need to read it all.

A Click "Abstract/Details" to get a brief description.

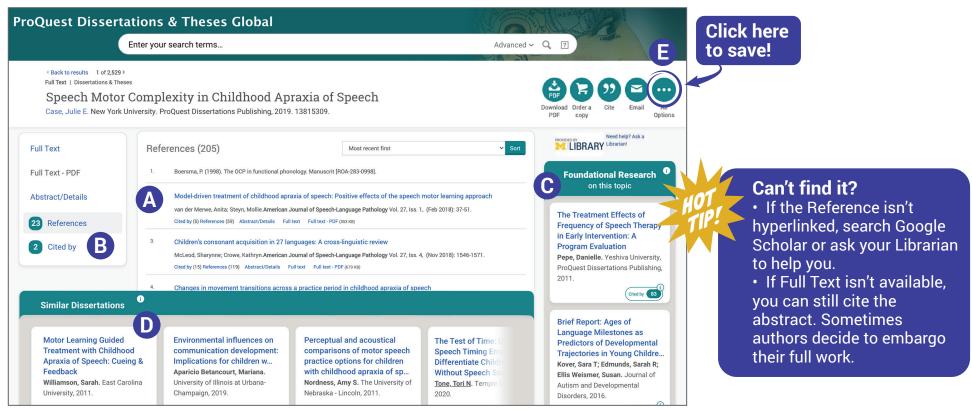
- B Use the Table of Contents to find relevant chapters.
- Search the Full Text-CTRL 'F' within the PDF.
- Look at Tables and Figures to locate results data.





#### Check "References" to find books and articles to build out your bibliography.

- A Click on hyperlinks to go directly to additional references.
- B Click on "Cited by" to see what articles and books also referenced this dissertation.
- C See "Foundational Research" to locate more relevant sources.
- D Use Similar Dissertations to expand your sources within a targeted research path.
- E Save and curate your references to generate your own bibliography.



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