POL 200: Analyzing Politics
Library Lab

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Bibliographic Trace

What is a bibliographic trace?
- Analyze your original article to determine the most significant sources
- Track down the (significant) sources your original article used
- Discover who has since cited your original article

Why is a bibliographic trace important?
- Find related sources in the conversation
- Evaluate the impact on the field
- Sophisticated way of searching
Going Backward

In small groups, identify four or five articles cited by Segal & Cover that are significant to Segal & Cover’s arguments

- Which sources are significant? Why?
- Track down the hard copy of at least one significant source – use the Tracking Down Materials tab on the POL 200 library guide for tips
- Be prepared to discuss your findings with your classmates
Going Forward

In small groups or on your own, see who has cited Segal & Cover:

- Search by title of article in Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)
- How many times was each article cited?
- What does this tell you about their impact on the field?
- What are some ways you could track down hard copies of the citing sources?
RQ2 Resources

POL 200: Analyzing Politics Library Guide

- Books tab – for library catalog search, plus information on finding books at other libraries
- Articles tab – for database recommendations
- Reference Works tab – for background and overviews
- Tracking Down Materials tab for finding hard copies, refresher on Interlibrary Loan
- Reference Desk
- Julie’s contact info
Repeat for RQ 2

- Search for a source related to your RQ2 topic
  - Use one (or more) of the relevant political science databases on the POL 200 library research guide (under Articles)

- Trace the conversation forward by searching for citing articles/books in Google Scholar
  - Note that you do not need the full text of the article in order to do this

- Browse the citing articles/books – do they help you understand your topic better? In what directions do they point you in terms of developing your topic?