



Tips on Finding Classic Papers on Breast Cancer Surgery

Find the chapter that includes breast cancer in the text **Surgery: Basic Science and Clinical Evidence on reserve at Call# WO 100 S9613 2008**. This book is a gold mine. Each chapter gives a summary of the history of surgery for a particular indication including historical vignettes, and an excellent bibliography!

Go to **Sabiston's Textbook of Surgery** available online at http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:MDCON_9781437715606

Locate the chapter on your breast cancer; some include a brief section on history, look especially at the **Selected References** at the end of each chapter. As a bonus, these are annotated to explain their value and importance to surgery in this field

The **Emperor of All the Maladies** has an excellent section on the history of breast cancer surgery. Papers describing landmark operations are cited. This book is available at Countway either in the circulating collection or **on Reserve at call number WH 11 AA1 M953e 2010**. It is also available on eReader if a device is available.

Keep in mind that with Countway's vast historical collections you will be able to read most of the older papers.

Look at texts on breast cancer to see if they include chapters with citations on the history of breast cancer surgery. Some suggestions are: **Kuerer's Breast Surgical Oncology** http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:ACCESS_0071601783 which is part of Access Surgery. Sections of interest are **Landmark Clinical Trials in Breast Surgical Oncology** and **Operative Management**

Search **PubMed** for articles on the history of breast cancer surgery. Here is a link to a collection that I pulled together: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/sites/myncbi/collections/public/1vmhvtAM6fHmVC_3S1vS4aY/

This is the strategy I used. Copy and paste it into PubMed to update and recreate the original search. **"Breast Neoplasms/surgery"[Mesh] AND ("history"[sh] OR "collected"[ti] OR "classic"[tiab])**

Search in **Science Citation Index** (aka **Web of Science**) which allows you to search on a topic and then rank articles by the most cited. Be sure to search multiple synonyms since this database has no indexing. It is computer generated so you can only search the keywords and abstract. In this case, I would suggest entering ("breast cancer" OR "breast neoplasms") AND ("surgery" OR mastectomy) as a start. Put phrases in quotes so the words will be searched as a unit. **Be sure and to change the field searched to topic.**

When you have the search results, on the right hand side of the screen **change the "Sort by" option to "Times Cited"** on the drop down menu. This will bring the most cited studies to the top of the list.

Finally, if you have questions, encounter problems or can't find what you need, don't forget to contact a medical librarian and ask for help countref@hms.harvard.edu.