

The Value of Backfiles

With content from over **900 journals** across a variety of disciplines, Wiley backfiles can provide your researchers with an important historical context for their chosen topic of study.

Wiley backfiles span **three centuries** of research and feature many of the top tier and earliest journals in their respective field with almost half the titles published on behalf of academic and professional societies.

To understand what makes older research so valuable today, we asked researchers across Europe how they use it to inform their work and studies.

80% of those surveyed said they had used backfiles

Top subject areas from our survey:



Business
and Law



Life
Sciences



Social
Sciences



Medicine



Humanities



Chemistry

66% of respondents said older research is **extremely useful** for their work

79% of respondents said they were either **extremely or moderately likely to recommend** to other researchers in their field that they should use older research to support their work

Respondents to our survey indicated that older research is vital for the evolution of their work:

"Modern theories are simply expansions of older theories."

"The history of any method or technique plays a vital role in further adapting and perfecting it to suit current needs."

"For any piece of work ... one must read what exists to add any information of value going forward. You can't do that if you don't peruse older work done prior to your own exertions!"

"I used it as a base, a starting point, especially theories and frames of reference. Sometimes the only information you can find is pre-2007 and it's the only research that has been done on the subject."

We need older research to correct mistakes what we once thought were true:

"Returning to older principles allows us to redevelop modern principles and correct our own mistakes. It is equally useful to evaluate past mistakes to evolve modern research."

It helps us to act and learn from past experiences:

"With Covid-19 nobody knew what it was ...and reading up on a similar pandemic in World War II, the information kind of helped many people understand and how to react to it."

The importance of older research is clear. It helps us to learn from the past and develop our world for a better future. But how can patrons get their hands on it? When asked where the respondents would search for older research, **83% said they would search their institution's online or physical library collections.** Purchase backfiles via a **one-time fee** with no running costs and receive perpetual access to purchased content for your library or via a **subscription**.



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