cited. By providing some qualification of the quantitative data in the JCR®, the impact factor is an important tool for journal evaluation.

**Journal Title**

In the JCR®, periodical titles are usually abbreviated. The JCR abbreviations exclude subtitles and tie run-ons. In alphabetic listing of journals, abbreviations are alphabetized letter by letter, with a space regarded as a ‘letter’ preceding A and a hyphen as a ‘letter’ preceding A but following a space. For example, J TAX will precede JPN ECON STUD.

**Reference**

The mention or description of one document (A) in another document (B), to indicate a source of information, to provide support for a point of view, to lend authority to some statement of fact, etc. Document B is said to make reference to document A; document A is said to be cited by document B. Reference is also used for the document description or bibliographic data given in making the reference. References are given in footnotes and in bibliographic listings at the end of an article. From such references are extracted the citations which become main-entries in the Citation Index.

**Self-Citation**

Self-citation of journals occurs when an article in a journal cites another article previously or simultaneously published in the same journal.

**Self-Citation Rate**

Self-citations expressed as a percentage of all citations. There are two self-citation rates, the self-citing and the self-cited rates. The self-citing rate relates a journal’s self-citations to the total references it makes. For example, journal X made references to 10,000 items, including 2,000 of its own articles. Its self-citing rate is 2/10 or 20%. The self-cited rate relates a journal’s self-citations to the number of times it is cited by all journals including itself. For example, journal X was cited 15,000 times by all journals, including 2,000 times it cited itself. Its self-cited rate is 2/15 or 13.3%. A journal’s self-citation rate may indicate several things about its field: a high self-citation rate may mean that the field is small or isolated. Multidisciplinary journals tend to have low self-citation rates.

**Source Index**

The Source Index of the SCI®, SSCI® or A&HCI® gives a complete bibliographic description of all source items processed for the SCI, SSCI or A&HCI during a year. Items are arranged alphabetically by name of first author; coauthors are cross-referenced to first authors.

**Source Item**

A source item generally refers to an item published in any of the journals processed for coverage in a citation index. In the JCR®, however, only original research articles and review articles are counted for all listed journals.

**Source Journal**

This is a journal that is covered in the SCI, SSCI or A&HCI, so called because it is the source of published items processed for compilation of the four sections of the citation indexes. In the JCR®, a source journal is a citing journal.

**Times Cited:**

**Articles**

As elsewhere in these definitions, the term ‘articles’ is used broadly for journal items, and includes technical communications, letters to the editor, editorials, etc. An article cited three times in the references of the same SCI source item is counted as having been cited by that source item once. Thus, ‘times cited’ in the case of articles is the cumulative number of times the article has been cited once or more by all source items.