Preface

Citation analysis is a bibliometric technique in which works cited in publications are examined to determine patterns of scholarly communication, for example, the comparative importance of books versus journals, or of current versus retrospective sources, in one or more academic disciplines. The citations in research papers, theses, and dissertations are also examined by librarians for purposes of collection evaluation and development.

Citation analysis is known to be a low-cost method whereby a researcher can gather and study citation data in an unobtrusive and non-invasive way. It is also a flexible method and can be applied in the assessment of data sources of a group of libraries or a single collection. It is also flexible in terms of the size of sample, types of citation sources as well as the manner of citation selection. Furthermore, it can be used to focus on the type and number of information sources that researchers or library users use in a specific discipline or over a period of time. It is also a well-studied method in a university library environment. Not only do citation play an important part in the scholarly communication process but citation and composition of bibliographies reflect changes in the information-seeking behaviour of the academic.

Basically as a student of economics as well as a person of deep affection to our society and rich cultural heritage, I feel that research works in commerce, economics, sociology, environmental science, education and folklore are the sound basis of our socio-economic and cultural development. Hence, in this context, each and every citizen has an urge to attain an ideal standard of living. So, through this work, my aim
is to provide relevant and pinpointed bibliographical information to the future scholars of these departments so that they may be enlightened in identifying the primary and other sources of information to make qualitative improvement in their work. On the other hand, this study can serve as feedback to the library professionals in selection and acquisition of the most useful documents within budget constraints. This work, I hope, will be of great help to the professionals both of the social science libraries and of the Central Library of the University of Kalyani to build an excellent and useful collection. At the same time, this will also help the scholars of the concerned subjects under study.