Cited reference search is used to find how many times an article was cited by other articles. In other words, it is used to measure the interest of other researchers to one's research outcomes in the scientific arena. The number of citations received by the works of a researcher is used as a quality indicator in academic/professional promotions. Institutions ask for the total number of citations received till the day of application for promotion.

Now assume that you want to learn the number of citations to an article of Osman YILMAZ and coworkers published in European Polymer Journal in 1998.

ISI Web of Science already shows the number of citations received by an article in the results page as shown below, or in the full record page. You can see all citing works for this work by clicking the number for times cited.

But ISI Web of Science offers a more useful service specially designed for cited reference search. You can get access to this page from ISI Web of Science's General Search Window as follows:

- Open ISI Web of Science page.
- Click "Cited Reference Search" menu item.
- Fill in the "Cited Author" search field. (Type "YILMAZ O" for our example).

Filling in the "cited author" field is sufficient for most cases. You may need to fill in the other fields when the author name is a common name such that there is the risk of listing the publications of other "Osman YILMAZ"s, or even "Orhan YILMAZ"s. (Don't forget we type the initial of the "name" only). Therefore filling in at least the "Cited Work" field will secure your search against such risks.

- Type the abbreviated title (EUR POLYM J) of the journal in which the article had been published.

This type of search requires the use of abbreviated titles for journals. You may not know (nor correctly guess) the abbreviated title of a journal. Click "Journal abbreviation list" link to open the Journal abbreviation" page, find, copy and paste the abbreviated title.

- Fill in the "Cited Years(s)" field if necessary.
Note that "cited years" is the year(s) in which the given article received citations but not its publication year. For example entering "2000-2005" in our example means that the number of citations received between 2000 and 2005 will be found for the article of Osman YILMAZ which was published in 1998.

Avoiding the use of this field is recommended as there is no specific reason.

- Click "Search" button.

Note that there are 5 records, i.e., 5 publications of "O. YILMAZ" published in European Polymer Journal. You can get the citation report for any, some or all of these records by clicking their checkboxes.

Also note that these records may include other works (variants) which you are not interested in. For example we are interested in only the first record (the one published in 1998). Some of the other records may not even belong to the author you are interested in.

You may click "show expanded titles" to help eliminate the irrelevant records by thorough examination of the record titles.

This stage could be the last stage if you are interested in "only" the number of citations as it is given in the "Citing Articles" column. (30 in our example which is in the first row.

Note that the number "30" is for all years in all databases.

Click "Finish Search" after choosing the article(s) you want to find the citations for if you want to

- get access to individual citing records
- e-mail / print / save all or selected citing records
- save all or selected citing records to EndNote
- add to Marked List

Note that the results page layout is exactly the same as the "General Search" results page. So you can use the same facilities to treat the cited reference search records.