

To many an academician, any price for a tear sheet (reprint) may seem like an affront. If that same person is getting free Xerox service from his library, a charge of \$2.50 for a ten-page article seems like a lot. A similar charge for a one-page article must seem like robbery.

The recent change in OATS prices appeared to some users as a 100% increase in price because we reduced the number of pages from 20 to 10. This is not true because the *average* number of pages per article is less than 10 pages. The average price increase was in fact about 20%.

The copyright and reprint problem is sensitive and complex in itself. The economics of it are also little understood because costs of providing "free" copies of papers are concealed and the cost of reasonably complete libraries are also hidden. The vast majority of books and

journal items stored in most libraries are, in fact, never consulted or only very rarely. Somebody has to pay these costs and somebody has to provide copies of papers by tear sheets, Xerox or some other method.

Our OATS service may seem expensive at \$2 for 10 pages plus 50 cents for postage, but think of what it costs us in having an extraordinarily complete and superbly indexed library, and think of what it saves you in not having to maintain this yourself.

- 1) Nelson, J.D., "Economics of Reprints", *Am. J. Diz. Child.*, 118, 528-30 (1969).
- 2) Garfield, E., "Is the 'Free Reprint System' Free and/or Obsolete?", *Current Contents of Pharmaco-Medical and Life Sciences*, 8(22) 3-4 (June 1, 1965).
- 3) Potter, V.R., "Regrets to Reprint Requests". *Science*, 163, 1010 (March 7, 1969).