

ISI® Announces a Five-Year Cumulation of the
Science Citation Index® .

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A monumental Five-Year Cumulation of the *Science Citation Index* for 1965 to 1969 is now in press. Since advertisements began to appear in recent issues of *Current Contents*®, you may want to know something more about this very unusual work in which I take some special pride. If some readers feel that the statistical report which follows is some “hidden” Madison Avenue effort to sell *SCI*® do not read on. Lest there be any doubt about it, I admit that everything I have ever written about *SCI* may have been a subliminal *SCI* plug. But this piece is a pure and unadulterated plot to arouse your interest in it!

The Five-Year Cumulation 1965-1969 of the *Science Citation Index* has two major parts. One is the *Source Index*, a giant author index which tells you *every* article published by about 700,000 scientists in the journals covered. The Five-Year Cumulation contains complete bibliographical data on almost 1.5 million journal items! It is unquestionably the most comprehensive interdisciplinary index to science ever published.

The *Citation Index*, arranged by cited author, contains 16.4 million citations to the work of more than 1.1 million authors. Since one hears that there are about one million scientists alive today, one wonders if this is not a

dramatic confirmation of the claim that 90% of the scientists who ever lived are still alive. That approximately 6.4 million different papers, books, etc. were cited about 3 times each, is adequate substantiation of the utility of *SCI* for bibliographic verification¹. These statistics lend weight to the claim² by Williams and Pings that *SCI* belongs even in hospital or other libraries with rather meager budgets. It is questionable whether any four-year college can afford to be without it and it seems absurd that any graduate institution does not have it.

I will leave it to my marketing colleagues to rhapsodize on the advantages of *SCI*. But I consider it important to emphasize to *CC*® readers who already know and use *SCI* the growing importance of *SCI* as a research *evaluation* tool. Since *SCI* is being widely used it is my purpose to provide the information necessary for you to use it efficiently and judiciously.

For that reason, we're reprinting this week the first of three installments of a lengthy review article on citation indexing³. This first installment (see pages M21-8) tells something about the history and development of the *SCI*. Reprints of the complete article are available immediately by writing to ISI, 325 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

1. Garfield, E. Precise bibliographical verification with the *Science Citation Index*. *Current Contents/Life Sciences* 13(37):4-5, September 2, 1970.
2. Williams, J.F. & Pings, V.M. "A Study of the access to the scholarly record from a hospital health science core collection." Report No. 54, Wayne State University, School of Medicine, Library & Biomedical Information Service Center, Detroit, Michigan, January 1970.
3. Weinstock, M. "Citation Indexes". in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (New York, Marcel Dekker, 1971) Vol. 5, pp. 16-40.