

have no more right to expect the world to learn Russian than the Japanese do for their language. If population means anything, we'll all be reading Chinese in ten years.

Our on-going study of journal citation patterns has revealed some interesting and, I think, relevant facts about Soviet journals. While a few rank high in impact and frequency of citation—e.g. *Zhurnal Eksperimentalnoi i Teoreticheskoi Fiziki*—most Soviet journals rank generally quite low.² The *Doklady Akad. Nauk SSSR* ranks quite low in comparison with our own *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. US*. One is forced to wonder whether our government-supported program of cover-to-cover translation achieved its goal, or whether the goal was as urgent or necessary of achievement as imagined under the original pressure of Sputnik in the sky. Even acknowledging a possible adverse effect of delay in appearance of translations, it is a fact that citation frequency and citation impact of much Soviet material is very low, despite timely processing by *Current Contents*[®], *Chemical Abstracts*, *Science Citation Index*[®], and other announcement and abstracting/indexing services.

Our reordering of priorities in science and elsewhere might well include a reexamination of assumptions about international scientific communication. Perhaps systematic translation of non-English material is warranted, but there may be more important fields than those now worked, e.g., Japanese mechanical engineering, Soviet oceanography, German ecology, etc. Indeed, applied research may be more deserving than basic science of a concentrated translation effort. The *Chinese Journal of Acupuncture* might be a huge financial success if one can judge its popularity from the Western news magazines.

The translation problem directly affects

Current Contents readers. ISI[®] has played a not insignificant role in bringing foreign research to the attention of English-reading scientists. *Current Contents* has done much to foster the use of bilingual and English contents pages and English summaries in non-English journals. But limitations in space and other resources make it increasingly difficult to justify our previous practice of publishing in CC[®] both our own translation of a Russian contents page, as well as the contents page of the cover-to-cover translation. In general, we now give preference to the original Russian version in our "basic science" editions, *CC/Life Sciences* and *CC/Physical & Chemical Sciences*. Since technologists are generally not too quick in applying basic science, the contents pages from many leading cover-to-cover translation journals appear later in *CC/Engineering & Technology*. This arrangement may inconvenience some readers of *CC/P&CS*, but it can be easily remedied by scanning both editions of CC to note translations when they eventually appear. Incidentally, it is not irrelevant to mention that many CC readers in Eastern Europe can read Russian and do order reprints from Soviet colleagues when addresses are provided.

We also continue to urge Soviet editors to include English abstracts or summaries. In combination with the universal language of chemical formulas, most Western scientists can manage Russian articles surprisingly well. An uncritical continuation of government-supported cover-to-cover translation makes any proper solution impossible simply because it makes a proper solution unnecessary. What might have been acceptable as a temporary crutch has unfortunately become, as too many crutches do, a wasteful *modus vivendi*.

1. Perry, J.W. *Scientific Russian*. (New York: Wiley Interscience, 1950; 2nd ed., 1971).
2. Garfield, E. Citation analysis as a sociometric tool for journal evaluation and science policy studies. *Science*, in press.