

The presence of certain journals on all 4 lists is immediately suggestive. If I were a medical librarian fresh out of school and were asked to select the five or six most useful journals for a rheumatologist, I would be inclined to select, apart from the obvious general journals like *J. Amer. Med. Ass.*, *Brit. Med. J.*, *Lancet*, etc., the journals which appear on all four lists: *Arthr. & Rheum.*, *Ann. Rheum. Dis.*, *Acta Med. Scand.*, *Arch. Internal Med.*, *J. Bone Joint Surg.*, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*

It is particularly interesting to observe the prominence of the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* in this field, considering the previous study demonstrating its emphasis on immunological studies.⁸ Of particular interest to me, however, is Thorpe's conjecture that because 27 out of 32 "current (rheumatological) periodicals of world-wide origin" were not cited, this indicates some sort of language barrier. In spite of the fact that most such journals include English abstracts and that they are indexed by several abstracting and indexing services, these two leading specialty journals ignore them. Isn't it

possible that the 27 journals in question contain articles that just aren't worth citing? Surely the NIH might sponsor an experimental study that would answer the question, for it is an important one. Must we translate every mediocre article published in foreign languages "world-wide" in order to show that mediocrity is rarely improved by translation?

Recently it was reported⁹ that a Rumanian scientist had discovered insulin before Banting and Best repeated his work and findings. Does such a case really warrant the concern of the world's scientists having difficulty in keeping up with just the literature published in English, French and German? On the other hand, it might be reasonable for the NIH or a similar organization to assign the task of reviewing such literature to a small group of language specialists capable of selecting the more promising work for translation and wide dissemination. Such a system of "medical intelligence" might profitably emulate the methods of its political counterparts.

1. Thorpe, P. An evaluation of the rheumatology periodical literature used in Britain and the USA. *Meth. Inform. Med.* 11(2):119-121, 1972.
2. Garfield, E. ISI's *Journal Citation Index* data base, a multi-media tool. *Current Contents*® No. 16, p. 5-8, April 19, 1972.
3. ----- The mystery of the transposed journal lists; wherein Bradford's law of scattering is generalized according to Garfield's law of concentration. *Current Contents* No. 31, p. 5-6, August 4, 1971.
4. The 4 exceptions are: *Acta Rheum. Scand.*, *J. Path. Bact.*, *Clin. Exp. Immunol.*, and *Clin. Orthop.*
5. Garfield, E. Citation analysis as a sociometric tool for journal evaluation and science policy studies. *Science*, in press.
6. ----- Citations-to divided by items-published gives journal impact factor: ISI lists the top fifty high-impact journals of science. *Current Contents* No. 8, p. 6-9, February 23, 1972.
7. Raisig, L.M. Statistical bibliography in the health sciences. *Bull. Med. Libr. Ass.* 50(3): 450-461, 1962.
8. Garfield, E. Journal Citation Studies. III. *Journal of Experimental Medicine* compared with *Journal of Immunology*; or how much of a clinician is the immunologist? *Current Contents* No. 23, M1-4, June 7, 1972.
9. Anonymous. Who really isolated insulin? *Medical World News* 12(31):44, 1971.

Journals Cited by ANNALS OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES			Journals Cited by ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM		
Title Abbreviation	Times Cited	Cumulated % of Citations	Title Abbreviation	Times Cited	Cumulated % of Citations
*1. Ann. Rheum. Dis.	211	15.8	*1. Arthr. & Rheum.	291	9.2
*2. Arthr. & Rheum.	102	23.5	*2. Ann. Rheum. Dis.	188	15.1
*3. Brit. Med. J.	65	28.3	*3. J. Amer. Med. Assoc.	95	18.1
*4. Lancet	58	32.7	*4. New Engl. J. Med.	92	20.0
*5. J. Bone Joint Surg.	55	36.8	*5. Ann. Internal Med.	91	23.9
*6. J. Clin. Invest.	32	39.2	*6. J. Bone Joint Surg.	90	26.7
*7. J. Exp. Med.	31	41.3	*7. J. Exp. Med.	81	29.4
*8. Nature	28	43.7	*8. Lancet	81	32.0
*9. Acta Rheum. Scand.	27	45.7	*9. Brit. Med. J.	79	34.3
*10. J. Amer. Med. Assoc.	24	46.6	*10. Amer. J. Med.	78	36.8
*11. Ann. Internal Med.	23	49.2	*11. J. Clin. Invest.	70	39.0
*12. Amer. J. Med	22	50.9	*12. Nature	69	41.2
*13. New Engl. J. Med.	22	52.5	*13. Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.	67	43.3
*14. J. Immunology	22	54.2	*14. Acta Rheum. Scand.	62	45.3
15. Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.	20	56.0	15. Science	56	47.0
*16. Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.	18	57.3	*16. J. Lab. Clin. Med.	47	48.5
*17. Acta Med. Scand.	16	58.5	*17. J. Immunology	44	49.9
*18. J. Lab. Clin. Med.	16	59.7	*18. Clin. Exp. Immunol.	41	51.2
*19. Clin. Exp. Immunol.	13	60.4	19. Clin. Orthoped.	40	52.5
*20. Arch. Internal Med.	12	61.3	*20. Arch. Internal Med.	39	53.7
21. J. Chronic Dis.	12	62.2	21. Canad. Med. Assoc. J.	27	54.6
22. Q. J. Med.	12	63.1	22. Fed. Proc.	26	55.4
23. Immunology	11	64.0	23. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. US	26	56.2
24. J. Path. Bact.	11	64.9	*24. Acta Med. Scand.	25	57.0
All Other (281)	469	100.0	All Other (363)	1360	100.0
Total	1332		Total	3165	

Table 1. Journals most frequently cited by *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* and *Arthritis & Rheumatism*. Journals are listed in order of the frequency of their citation. Asterisks indicate journals common to both lists. (From Thorpe, Ref. 1.)

Journals That Cited ANNALS OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES			Journals That Cited ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM		
Title Abbreviation	Times Cited	Cumulated % of Citations	Title Abbreviation	Times Cited	Cumulated % of Citations
*1. Ann. Rheum. Dis.	296	23.6	*1. Arthr. & Rheum.	160	9.6
*2. Arthr. & Rheum.	80	30.0	*2. Mayo Clin. Proc.	136	17.8
*3. Z. Rheumaforsch.	80	36.4	*3. Amer. J. Med.	120	25.1
*4. Acta Med. Scand.	68	41.9	*4. Ann. Rheum. Dis.	76	29.6
*5. Mayo Clin. Proc.	64	47.0	*5. Med. Clin. N. Amer.	60	33.3
*6. Brit. Med. J.	36	49.8	*6. Acta Med. Scand.	56	36.6
*7. Amer. J. Med.	32	52.4	*7. Schweiz. Med. Wschr.	52	39.8
8. Q. J. Med.	32	55.0	*8. Modern Treatment	48	42.7
*9. Schweiz. Med. Wschr.	32	57.5	*9. Deut. Med. Wschr.	44	45.3
*10. Arch. Internal Med.	28	59.7	*10. Arch. Internal Med.	40	47.7
*11. J. Bone Joint Surg.	28	62.0	*11. Brit. Med. J.	40	50.1
*12. Lancet	28	64.2	12. Clin. Exp. Immunol.	40	52.5
13. Amer. J. Epidem.	24	66.1	13. Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.	36	54.7
*14. Deut. Med. Wschr.	24	68.1	14. J. Amer. Med. Assoc.	36	56.9
15. Arch. Orthopäd. Unfallchir.	20	69.6	*15. J. Bone Joint Surg.	36	59.0
16. Biochem. Biophys. Acta	20	71.2	16. Rev. Fr. Et. Clin. Biol.	36	61.2
17. Experientia	20	72.8	*17. Amer. J. Path.	32	63.1
18. Clin. Chim. Acta	16	74.1	18. Biochem. J.	32	65.1
*19. Med. Clin. N. Amer.	16	75.4	19. J. Immunol.	28	66.7
*20. Modern Treatment	16	76.7	*20. Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.	28	68.4
21. Amer. J. Clin. Pathol.	12	77.6	*21. Zschr. Rheumaforsch.	28	70.1
*22. Amer. J. Pathol.	12	78.6	22. Tohoku J. Exp. Med.	24	71.6
23. Biochem. Pharmacol.	12	79.6	23. Amer. J. Clin. Nutr.	16	72.5
*24. Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med	12	80.5	*24. Lancet	16	73.5
All Other (47)	244	100.0	All Other (79)	440	100.0
Total	1252		Total	1660	

Table 2. Journals which most frequently cite *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* and *Arthritis & Rheumatism*. Journals are listed in order of the frequency with which they cited the title in question. Asterisks indicate journals common to both lists.