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WSI and CC Use Simplified by Shifting
Multi/Chem Journals; CC/AB&ES
Coverage Increased

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Most readers of *Current Contents*® know how we at ISI® agonize over the problem of journal coverage. But long-time CC® users may not realize how many new CC readers there are each year. For this reason, we must regularly re-discuss this most vital question. After all, listing the journals of science most important to our readers is the primary mission of CC.

Recently, when I suggested that you try reading *CC/Behavioral, Social & Educational Sciences* for pure intellectual stimulation¹, I pointed out that there is a large overlap in readership between *CC/Life Sciences* and *CC/Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences*. A detailed analysis of the agricultural scientists, biologists and environmentalists who use *CC/AB&ES* has convinced us that we must provide more journal coverage in these areas. Until now the so-called “multi-section” (the yellow pages) common to *CC/LS*, *CC/AB&ES* and *CC/Physical & Chem-*

ical Sciences has included the leading general chemistry journals. This bonus was provided to *CC/AB&ES* readers because printing techniques and economics made it possible. But the “multi” section has never proven completely satisfactory to our readers. It somewhat artificially placed chemistry “in the middle” of everything else. In *CC/LS* it meant that biochemistry was arbitrarily separated from general chemistry. In *CC/P&CS* many physical journals were lumped in with analytical or agricultural chemistry.

The advent of the weekly subject indexes to *CC/LS* and *CC/P&CS* has only aggravated the problem of separately paginated sections in CC. In *CC/LS*, for example, there are now three—multi (M), clinical (C) and subject index (S). By eliminating the “multi” section, we will not only eliminate some confusion in using indexes; we can also place truly “multi” journals up front as we did in former years, and avoid

having the "multi" section placed in the middle of one of the other subject-category sections.

In the process of making these changes a large block of chemical journals will no longer appear in *CC/AB&ES*. We will continue to cover analytical chemistry because a reasonable percentage of readers, who do not presently have access to *CC/LS* or *CC/P&CS*, need this coverage. In *CC/AB&ES* we will continue to cover *Nature*, *Science*, *Doklady*, etc., that is, the "multi" journals of great interest to biologists. The cost reductions made possible by these steps will enable us to cover more agricultural, biological, and environmental journals. The vast majority of *CC* readers will gain from this decision. One of the purposes of this advance announcement is to alert readers who may be affected by it that they should plan accordingly. Any *CC/AB&ES* subscriber can transfer to *CC/LS* or *CC/P&CS*. Our studies indicate that in many institutions this change will not be felt because both *CC*'s

are already received. At some institutions a new additional subscription may be necessary.

We expect to make these changes effective with the first issue in September. In a few weeks from now we will list the journals deleted as well as the journals to be added.

Readers of *CC/Clinical Practice*, *CC/BS&ES* and *CC/Engineering & Technology* are not directly affected by these changes, but the basic problem of optimum journal selection is of interest to all readers. This is a fundamental and continuing concern. The high mobility of scientists in all fields will be reflected in our response to their changing needs. As we have said before--where the action is, is where *CC* is at.

1. Garfield, E. Eggheads or not, scientists and engineers will find *CC/BS&ES* intellectually exciting! *Current Contents* No. 24, 13 June 73, p. 5-6.