

In January 1974, the title of *CC*®/Behavioral, Social & Educational Sciences will be changed to *Current Contents*®/Social & Behavioral Sciences. The change of title, along with changes in journal coverage, and the addition of a *Weekly Subject Index* is meant to signal the importance of this edition of *CC* in ISI®'s total information system for the social sciences. As noted in a previous editorial,¹ we will be deemphasizing coverage of the more parochial and topical educational periodicals, and concentrating on international journals in the social and behavioral sciences. Our contacts with users of the service have indicated that these latter are of much greater concern in educational research than are the ephemeral "trade" and "news" periodicals.

I want to explain here the role of this improved edition of *CC* in ISI's integrated social-sciences information system, and to note briefly first the various features that make up the edition. (I have a double purpose in describing them. They are common to most editions of *CC* now, and their description at this point may serve as a rough preview of an article I hope someday to see written about *CC* in general. This most widely used of all current-awareness services, perhaps because of the basic simplicity of the concept, has never been adequately recorded in the information-science literature, a regret I have previously expressed.²) Each weekly edition features the following:

Journal contents pages from the latest available issues of journals in the wide variety of scientific and scholarly disciplines that make up the social and behavioral sciences.

Book contents pages. Most scientists and librarians know how difficult it can be to learn about and to locate individual papers published in multi-authored volumes. Most such volumes are "one-shot" collections of papers on the same or closely related topics. Quite common among them are the published proceedings of conferences, symposia, and the like. The individual contributions in such

volumes are usually indistinguishable from typical journal articles, and will be listed in *Current Book Contents* and indexed as such.

Weekly Subject Index. This index lists and locates every significant word from all the article, book and chapter titles listed in the issue. Its use will improve the precision and/or shorten the time required for scanning contents pages, and for retrieving information on specific subject matter from earlier issues.

Author Index and Address Directory gives the names and addresses of authors of all items listed in each weekly issue of *CC/S&BS*. The directory can be used to locate in each weekly issue recent publications by men whose work you want to know about immediately. The addresses provided will make it simple to request reprints.

ISI Press Digest, a short section of capsule comments on selected articles from the scientific, scholarly, and lay press. This section of *CC/S&BS* is intended to inform, sometimes to amuse, but always to let you know what science and scholarship are saying about themselves, and what others are saying about them (good and bad). The *Press Digest* should permit you to step outside your professional role for a moment to look at science and scholarship from other perspectives.

Current Comments by yours truly, on problems of communication in science and scholarship. They particularly invite readers' reactions and suggestions on improvement of our services.

Journal Coverage and Publication Data. Each issue provides a table of changes in coverage, indicating additions, deletions, changes of titles, mergers and segmentation of journals, etc. Three times a year this information is culminated and presented with an index to every journal issue processed for *CC*, along with publishers' names and addresses.

Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences is the first component of a total social

sciences information system. Information services in the social sciences have unfortunately lagged behind those in the natural sciences. This total information system for the social sciences, provided by the Institute for Scientific Information for the first time, comprises three basic information products and services. Each is supplemented by our extensive library and document procurement services, including the OATS® (*Original Article Tear Sheet*) service.

The second component of the new system is the *Social Sciences Citation Index™* (SSCI™).³ The SSCI is identical in concept and methodology with the *Science Citation Index®* (SCI®). SCI is a standard and uniquely effective reference tool published by ISI for more than a decade.⁴ Like the SCI, the SSCI will be current, with two four-month interim indexes, and an annual cumulation. As does the SCI, the SSCI will offer a multiplicity of access points to researchers, their institutions, and their works. All authors and their organizational affiliations will be listed in the SSCI's *Source* and *Corporate Indexes*. All title words will be indexed in its *Permuterm® Subject Index*. And all cited works (journal articles, books, reports, theses, etc.) will be covered in its *Citation Index*. The coverage of CC/S&BS and of the SSCI will be, for practical purposes, co-extensive, making CC/S&BS a suitable weekly current awareness service for the more exhaustive analysis provided by the SSCI.

The third component of the ISI social-sciences information system is ASCA® (our *Automatic Subject Citation Alert*). ASCA is a computer-based reading system that supplies a weekly personal reading list determined by individual subscribers' profiles of interest.⁵

Elsewhere I've described the advantages of ASCA for *Current Contents* readers,⁶ but it now takes on special significance in relation to the social sciences. CC/S&BS and the SSCI share a coverage of more than 1000 journals. Our ASCA system, however, covers more than 3000. This greater coverage of ASCA should be of special interest to social scientists and to those concerned with bridg-

ing the gap between the two cultures. Articles on drug problems may appear in law reviews or general science journals, while articles on the social and economic implications of population explosion and control may appear in medical and philosophical journals. Whatever the place of publication, social and behavioral scientists should at least know that these problems, and others of similar interest are being discussed in journals they may otherwise never see. How much one chooses to read outside his own specialty is, of course, a decision that is influenced by many factors. To make the decision easier, and to foster maximum communication between the so-called two cultures, ASCA links the natural and social sciences as it does pure and applied research.

The social-sciences information system to which CC/S&BS will introduce old and new subscribers will provide for the first time the timely, thorough current-awareness and research-oriented retrieval services that have been available till now only in the "hard" sciences. We feel it's about time.

1. Garfield, E. A new *Weekly Subject Index* to CC/S&BS means more timely access to the social & behavioral sciences literature. *Current Contents* No. 32, 8 August 73, p. 5-6.
2. ----- Some kudos for *Current Contents* on its 650th consecutive issue. *Current Contents* No. 22, 3 June 1970, p. 5.
3. Weinstock, M. ISI's *Social Sciences Citation Index*, a new current, multidisciplinary, research-oriented social-sciences retrieval system. In press.
4. ----- "Citation Indexes." In: *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (New York: Marcel Dekker, 1971), vol. 5, pp. 16-40.
5. Garfield, E. ASCA (*Automatic Subject Citation Alert*), a new personalized current awareness service for scientists. *Amer. Behavioral Scientist* 10:29-32, 1967.
6. ----- ASCA, insurance for *Current Contents* readers. *Current Contents* No. 52, 24 December 1968, p. 4.