

PREFACE

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of this volume is the inclusion of a “decennial” index—that is, a cumulative index of the ten volumes published to date. The index will make life easier for me and the hardworking staff who help make my essays possible. Hopefully, those others who use the volumes occasionally will benefit as well.

Of course, the number of years covered in this series is not ten, but rather more than twenty-five. Volumes 1 and 2 appeared simultaneously in 1977 and included essays published from 1962 to 1973 and 1974 to 1976, respectively. Subsequent volumes appeared every two years until 1983, when they began to be issued annually. Some of the latter volumes have included appendices containing papers published in the fifties.

These volumes do not cover everything I have published in recent times. They omit the editorials I published in *THE SCIENTIST* from October 1986 to the present, even though many of them have been reprinted in Current Contents (CC).

While the launch of *THE SCIENTIST* and its continued publication since 1986 has been one of my major preoccupations, the year 1987 also saw the launch of the *ISI Atlas of Science*. The latter event is a milestone in the development of scientography, the topic that became the title theme for volume 9. As most CC readers will realize, the mapping of science continues to pervade many of my essays. These maps serve as a useful communication tool. Hopefully, their use will become routine by others as well, in years to come. At ISI, we still aspire to display these maps at the touch of a few keys on a personal computer. Though technically quite feasible, further development work is required for real-time access to our huge files of data.

As before, the topic of *Citation Classics* turns up frequently in my work. The publication in each week's *Current Contents* of five separate commentaries continues to fascinate me. From survey data, this also seems to satisfy both authors and readers alike. Since it is now several years since we published the first collection of those commentaries in a series called *Contemporary Classics in Science*, I realize that we are somewhat overdue in publishing a new series. This would include some statistical analyses of the 3,000 or more published to date.

Journal citation studies continued to receive their usual share of attention—not the least of these covered the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.*

Perhaps more than any other theme, peer review has been in the CC limelight for the past year or so. I like to think that my essays on refereeing, peer review, deviant behavior, and fraud have contributed to the lively attention these topics are also receiving in the popular press. Not coincidental with my interest in these topics is the process of writing review articles. That particular science genre was systematized in the *ISI Atlas of Science* series of review journals in pharmacology, immunology, biochemistry, and animal and plant sciences.

To emphasize the importance of refereeing, peer review, and other forms of evaluation such as reviewing, this volume is entitled *Peer Review, Refereeing, Fraud, and Other Essays*.

Finally, since the essay volumes are a type of annual report, the inclusion of a report by Henry Small on research and development at ISI helps round out the picture. The table of contents will tell the rest.