

### The ISI Grant Program

Number 18, May 2, 1977

Readers often tell me that their libraries cannot afford the *Science Citation Index*<sup>®</sup> (*SCI*<sup>®</sup>) or *Social Sciences Citation Index*<sup>™</sup> (*SSCI*<sup>™</sup>). It is surprising how often such persons are not aware that their library may be eligible for an ISI<sup>®</sup> grant. Although we have advertised this program since 1969 many people still do not know it exists. So that all *Current Contents*<sup>®</sup> readers—including those who never read the ads—can take advantage of this program, a brief recap is provided below.

Its purpose is to make the *Science Citation Index* and *Social Sciences Citation Index* available to libraries that would not have sufficient funds to purchase them at the normal price. We assume that every scientific and technical library—no matter how small or poor—wants and needs the best reference tools to support its organization's research or educational programs. For those that qualify, the ISI Grant Program provides financial help from ISI equivalent to 50% of the regular purchase price of either index. In this way it helps small libraries to function as effectively as large ones.

Most likely to qualify for grants are those libraries with severely limited acquisitions budgets, professional staffs, and journal holdings. Libraries at schools awarding doctoral degrees do not qualify. Neither do most libraries at schools awarding more than 50 master's degrees per year. However, libraries at all educational institutions which do not award graduate degrees *are* eligible for ISI grants, as are most libraries at schools and colleges of mining, veterinary science, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, osteopathy, chiropractic, and podiatry.

Other eligible libraries include certain municipal, state, and public libraries, libraries at new medical schools, libraries at satellite schools and colleges, libraries at polytechnics and colleges of education, and the libraries of small, non-academic research organizations.

The Grant Program is also designed to help the libraries of developing nations to acquire the *SCI* and *SSCI*. Libraries in such countries as Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Thailand have already taken ad-

vantage of ISI Grants.

Even libraries which do not qualify for ISI grants under the above criteria are still eligible for second-copy grants. Many educational institutions have more than one library located on the same campus. The main library may subscribe to the *SCI* or *SSCI* at the full rate. One or more departmental or branch libraries can obtain the indexes through the grant program. For example, a grant may help place the *SSCI* in a psychology or sociology library--or the *SCI* in a chemistry or physics library. Also, libraries at hospitals affiliated with medical schools subscribing at the full rate are eligible for ISI grants.

It is surprisingly easy to find out if your library is eligible for--and to obtain--an ISI grant. Simply write to ISI's Grant Administrator (at the address given below), who will immediately send you an application form and related information, including a list of organizations which now receive ISI grants.

The application form itself is brief and uncomplicated. It allows you two options: you may indicate which years--past, present, or future--of the indexes are desired and automatically place your order if the grant is approved, or you may determine your eligibility for an ISI grant for future use. Whichever option you take, the application is quickly reviewed by our

grant committee. Most of our grant decisions are made within two weeks after the receipt of a properly completed application form.

Those readers who suffer from chronic skepticism might suspect that the ISI Grant Program is nothing more than a cleverly designed scheme to increase the distribution of the *SCI* and *SSCI*. Of course, they are right!

Unfortunately, lowering the price of a product does not necessarily increase its distribution or appreciation among consumers. If by waving a magic wand I could lower the price of ISI's indexes by a third and, at the same time, triple the number of subscribers, I would gladly do it. There are precedents for charging according to a library's size, budget, amount of use, etc. And in the on-line business the user generally pays according to use. The ISI Grant Program allows us to increase distribution and use without sacrificing the high quality and comprehensiveness of our indexes.

While we do not pretend to be motivated wholly by philanthropic impulses, this year we expect to award grants totalling more than \$500,000 to help almost 400 libraries improve their reference services. If your library meets the criteria mentioned above, I urge you to write to the Grant Administrator, Institute for Scientific Information®, 325 Chestnut Street, Phila., Pa. 19106, U.S.A.