

## CURRENT COMMENTS

### In Recognition of Journals Which Prove that Change *Is* Possible

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I have often used this space to exhort journal publishers and editors to make their journals meet international standards of excellence.<sup>1-2</sup> And, of course, their tables of contents are particularly important to *Current Contents*®. I'd now like to acknowledge here a group of journals that have, in one way or another, made significant changes. By doing so, they have not only made the production of *Current Contents* a little easier. They have also facilitated scientific communication. If nothing else, their own readers have benefited.

*Current Contents* is intentionally *designed* to be simple. This simplicity hides the fact that far more is involved in producing *Current Contents* than photographing tables of contents. For example, a large staff of commercial artists enhances every contents page in several ways. They add that line of information just below the journal title which tells you the languages used in its articles and abstracts. The artists also obtain special, computer-composed volume, issue number, and date elements for each

issue, and place this information in the same conspicuous location for all journals. Our "paste-up" specialists also add the ISI® accession number which appears in an oval to the left of the journal title. These numbers greatly simplify the ordering of tearsheets through our OATS® service and the retrieval of journals from our stacks.

I have great admiration for the skill involved in the variety of "cut and paste" tasks our artists perform. They routinely excise extra-large mastheads, extensive statements of journal sponsorship, other extraneous text, and excess white space to make better use of the space in *Current Contents*. It is always amazing to me how they manage to keep the lines of information evenly spaced.

However, there are many journals whose formats present problems that defy remedy even by extensive graphic rearrangement. These contents pages must be completely recomposed. Naturally this extra production step adds to our costs and may delay coverage by a week or more. In some cases

recomposition is done manually on a small photocomposition machine. Most often, however, the contents page is generated by one of several computer programs which extracts the information from the master ISI data base, and then activates a phototypesetter. Contents pages must be reset for many reasons. The following categories cover the most commonly encountered problems.

*Non-English Text.* Almost every contents page in *Current Contents* appears completely in English—no matter what its original language. Most publishers now realize that an English contents page is essential if non-English language journals are to be noted by our readers. Thus it is no longer a rarity to see two contents pages in each issue—one in English and the other in the language of the journal. Other publishers send us translations of their contents pages for use in *Current Contents* even though they do not actually publish them in their journals. But some journals do not cooperate. When we have to translate the titles in specialized journals, significant delays can occur. We need time not only for the translation but also to photocompose the contents page.

*Oversized Formats.* Since the basic printing process involved is "photo-offset," we must photograph each contents page. If the page's column width is too wide in relation to the type size, then photoreduction produces a final type size that is too small to be legible in *CC*. I cannot understand why

so many journals fail to realize that such formats are hard to scan even in the original version.

*Undersized Format.* For similar reasons, if the type size of the original is too small, we may have to enlarge it. This can only be done if the column width is appropriate.

*Poor Print Quality.* Some printers do not exercise proper quality control. For example, if the printer has applied too much ink, it smears. If too little, then the letters may not be legible. Poor camera work can also result in a bad offset negative. Or smearing may occur in the bindery, especially if the pages have not been properly dried. Smears may also occur through mishandling in the post office.

*Use of Color.* When a journal prints the contents page in black on dark-colored (red, orange, etc.) paper or tinted background, the camera work becomes difficult. Since we photograph several pages at a time, it is not practical to use color filters. Text printed on pastel-colored paper may also require additional time and labor since we now microfilm each page by a special photographic technique. And the use of non-black inks for the text itself may present special problems even though the paper is white. Obviously, this depends upon the spectral response of the film we are using.

*Omission of Important Information.* Some journals actually omit from their contents pages such essential elements as the names of authors or the titles of some of the substantive items which appear in

**Figure 1.** Journals in which improvements to tables of contents in 1977-78 eliminated need for recomposition prior to publication in *Current Contents*. Information is presented in the following sequence: name of journal (in boldface type); changes made; name of publisher (in italics).

- AAPG Bulletin—American Association of Petroleum Geologists:** Changed color.  
*American Association of Petroleum Geologists*
- Acustica:** Added separate English contents page.  
*S. Hirzel Verlag*
- American Psychologist:** Changed format.  
*American Psychological Association*
- Angewandte Informatik:** Changed format.  
*Friedrich Vieweg & Son*
- Annales de l'Anesthésiologie Française:** Enlarged type size for English contents page.  
*Association des Anesthésiologistes Français*
- Annals of Otolaryngology and Rhinology:** Changed format.  
*Annals Publishing Co.*
- Archives Françaises de Pédiatrie:** Providing English contents page.  
*Doin Editeurs*
- Archiv für Elektrotechnik:** Added English contents page.  
*Springer Verlag*
- Archiv für Geflügelkunde:** Added English contents page.  
*Verlag Eugen Ulmer*
- Arizona Medicine:** Added authors to contents page.  
*Arizona Medical Association*
- Berichte der Bunsen Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie:** Changed format.  
*Verlag Chemie International*
- Botaniska Notiser:** Changed color.  
*Liberlaeromedel*
- Bulletin d'Ecologie:** Providing English contents page.  
*Masson Editeur*
- Bulletin de l'Académie Vétérinaire de France:** Added English contents page.  
*Académie Vétérinaire de France*
- Bulletin of the British Psychological Society:** Changed color.  
*British Psychological Society*
- Clinical Chemistry:** Changed format.  
*American Association of Clinical Chemists*
- Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology:** Changed color.  
*Springer Verlag*
- Differentiation:** Changed color.  
*Springer Verlag*
- Drug Therapy:** Changed format.  
*Biomedical Information Corp.*
- European Journal of Cardiology:** Changed format.  
*Elsevier/North Holland Biomedical Press*
- Herz Kreislauf:** Providing advance proof in English.  
*Verlag Gerhard Witzstrock GmbH*
- Indian Journal of Chest Diseases & Allied Sciences:** Improved print quality.  
*Indian Association for Chest Diseases*
- Ingenieur Archiv:** Added English contents page.  
*Springer Verlag*

**Figure 1 (continued).** Journals that improved their contents pages in 1977-78.

- Innere Medizin:** Providing advance proof in English.  
*Verlag Gerhard Witzstrock GmbH*
- International Journal of Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmacy:** Changed format.  
*Urban & Schwarzenberg*
- Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour:** Added separate black and white contents page.  
*Basil Blackwell & Mott*
- Journal of Chemical Engineering of Japan:** Improved print quality.  
*Society of Chemical Engineers—Japan*
- Journal of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Biochemistry:** Added English contents page.  
*Walter de Gruyter & Co.*
- Journal of Embryology and Experimental Morphology:** Added separate black and white contents page.  
*Cambridge University Press*
- Journal of Personality Assessment:** Changed color.  
*Society for Personality Assessment, Inc.*
- Journal of the American College Health Association:** Changed format.  
*American College Health Association*
- Khimiya Prirodnikh Soedinenii:** Added English contents page.  
*Akademiya Nauk Uzbekskoi S.S.R.*
- Laboratory Animals:** Eliminated color.  
*Laboratory Animals Ltd.*
- Leber Magen Darm:** Providing proof in English.  
*Verlag Gerhard Witzstrock GmbH*
- Local Government Studies:** Changed color.  
*Charles Knight & Co. Ltd.*
- Marine Technology Society Journal:** Changed format.  
*Marine Technology Society*
- Medical Group Management:** Eliminated color.  
*Medical Group Management Association*
- Medicina—Buenos Aires:** Added English contents page.  
*Instituto de Investigaciones Medicas*
- Medikon:** Added English contents page.  
*European Press*
- Mikroskope:** Added separate English contents page.  
*Verlag Georg Fromme & Co.*
- Monatsschrift für Brauerei:** Changed format.  
*Versuchs und Lehranstalt für Brauerei, Berlin*
- NEC (Nippon Electric Company) Research & Development:** Changed format.  
*Nippon Electric Co. Ltd.*
- Operative Dentistry:** Providing advance black and white proof.  
*University of Washington*
- Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics:** Changed color.  
*Basil Blackwell & Mott*

**Phytopathology:** Providing specially formatted contents page.  
*American Phytopathological Society*

**Photosynthetic:** Eliminated addresses on contents page.  
*Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences*

**Plastics and Rubber International:** Changed format.  
*Plastics Institute*

**Postgraduate Medicine:** Changed format.  
*McGraw-Hill*

**Quarterly Journal of Mathematics:** Changed color.  
*Oxford University Press*

**Revista Brasileira de Medicina:** Changed format.  
*Editora Medica Brasileira, Ltd.*

**Social Behavior and Personality:** Improved print quality.  
*Society for Personality Research*

**Stärke:** Added English contents page.  
*Verlag Chemie International*

**Stroke:** Changed format.  
*American Heart Association*

**Texas Agricultural Progress:** Added authors to contents page.  
*Texas Agricultural Experiment Station*

**Thrombosis Research:** Changed format.  
*Pergamon Press*

**Wärme und Stoffübertragung:** Added English contents page.  
*Springer Verlag*

**Werkstoffe und Korrosion:** Added English contents page.  
*Verlag Chemie International*

**World Oil:** Added authors to contents page.  
*Gulf Publishing Co.*

**Zeitschrift für Ernährungswissenschaft:** Providing English contents page.  
*Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff Verlag*

**Zeitschrift für Gerontologie:** Added English contents page.  
*Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff Verlag*

**Zeitschrift für Kardiologie:** Added English contents page.  
*Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff Verlag*

**Zeitschrift für Naturforschung Part A—Physik, Physikalische Chemie, Kosmophysik:** Enlarged type size.  
*Verlag der Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*

**Zeitschrift für Naturforschung Part C—Biosciences:** Enlarged type size.  
*Verlag der Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*

**Zeitschrift für Pflanzenkrankheiten und Pflanzenschutz:** Added English contents page.  
*Verlag Eugen Ulmer*

**Zeitschrift für Rheumatologie:** Added separate English contents page.  
*Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff Verlag*

**Zeitschrift für Sozialpsychologie:** Providing advance proof in English.  
*Verlag Hans Huber*

**Zuchthygiene:** Added English contents page.  
*Verlag Paul Parey*

pages in a way that enabled us to | oenents from the improvements.

#### REFERENCES

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