

Announcing *Current Contents/Arts & Humanities*
in 1979 our *Current Contents* series will cover
virtually every academic discipline

Number 30, July 24, 197

When ISI® launched the *Arts & Humanities Citation Index™* this year,¹ we reversed a pattern that had been established by the *Science Citation Index®* and the *Social Sciences Citation Index™*. *SCI®* was introduced eight years *after* we published the first issue of *Current Contents® /Life Sciences* and four years after the earliest version of *CC® /Physical & Chemical Sciences*. *SSCI™* was introduced nearly 20 years *after* the first version of *Current Contents* for the social sciences (now entitled *Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences*). But in the arts and humanities, we have produced a comprehensive citation index *before* starting the corresponding *Current Contents* edition.

There probably is no reasonable logic to this progress of events. We were uncertain about the needs of scholars in the arts and humanities. But the publication of *A&HCI™* has been received with such enthusiasm by scholars and librarians that we now feel that *Current Contents/Arts & Humanities* will be equally well accepted. In my contacts with humanities scholars, both young and old, I have not found attitudes towards information prob-

lems significantly different from those of their counterparts in the sciences.

The new *Current Contents* edition will be a unique tool in the arts and humanities. I am not aware of any other weekly current awareness publication covering these disciplines. For scholars working on books or articles, or students writing master's or doctoral theses, *CC/A&H* will be invaluable for learning about the most recent scholarship on their subjects.

Scheduled for introduction in January, 1979, *CC/A&H* will be published weekly like the six other editions of *CC*. It will cover over 900 journals from the fields of literature, music, art and architecture, history, philosophy, theology and religion, classics, dance, film and TV and radio, folklore, linguistics and philology, and theater.

The format of the new *CC* edition will look much the same as that of the existing editions. But there will be a major difference in its indexing philosophy. Unlike most scientific or even social sciences titles, the titles of arts and humanities articles can sometimes be hopelessly non-specific. For this reason, we will adopt a policy of title enrichment

contents page of a humanities journal and saw an article entitled "A Portrait in Black," you would be little the wiser. However, in *CC/A&H* you will see, with the title, the name of the person, place, or thing which was the subject of the article. For "Portrait in Black" this might be Franz Kafka. Our staff will enrich each nonspecific title by adding appropriate terms. Thus readers will be able to identify articles relevant to their interests—even for titles that do not adequately describe the subject matter.

Terms added by title enrichment will of course be included in *CC/A&H's Weekly Subject Index*. This will enable users of *WSI* to locate articles which otherwise would not be retrievable. There will be other indexing policies which will preserve the integrity of phrases or names that require "invisible" hyphenation. Thus, *War and Peace* would appear as a single term.

Another enhancement to contents pages in *CC/A&H* will be the listing in full of all books reviewed in each issue. Arts and humanities journals include numerous reviews, but they often fail to print this information in their tables of contents. Instead they list only the title of the section, i.e., *Book Reviews*, *Reviews in Brief*, etc. When this is the case, we will add the title and author of each book as well as the reviewer.

These enhancements to the contents pages are much greater than those we provide for other editions of *Current Contents*. For this

compose most of the contents page instead of cutting, pasting, and photographing the originals. This will enable us to use formats that we believe to be most efficient for rapid scanning. Many content pages will lose their original format but not necessarily their individuality. Style will be varied as much as possible. Our arts edition of *CC* should retain all the esthetic benefits to be derived from variations in type style.

Like other editions of *CC/A&H* will provide a weekly author-address directory and a journal publisher directory three times per year. Readers will be able to order tear sheets of articles from our *OATS*® (*Original Article Tear Sheet*) service. This may be particularly relevant for articles containing color photos or plates. On the other hand, this may also mean we can less often supply a photocopy in lieu of the original when our supply of tear sheets is exhausted. If there is sufficient demand we could use a color copier, but in most cases I believe the publishers will have original copies still in stock.

Following our policy with other *CCs*, we will include the *Present Digest* and *Current Comments*®. We will not include *Citation Classics* until the second year of publication. By then we will have had a chance to analyze our files of *A&HCI* to identify highly cited works in appropriate fields of the arts and humanities.

Selecting arts and humanities 'citation classics' will certainly present some interesting problems

terested in identifying interpreters of certain well-cited works in the humanities. It would not seem particularly appropriate for us to ask Aristotle or Plato why their works were heavily cited last year. We have on occasion had this same problem in the sciences.

However, we could annually prepare lists of highly cited or discussed philosophers, writers, artists, etc., for publication in *Current Comments*. Over a period of time these lists would give us insights into the waxing and waning fashionability of various works among scholars.

CC/A&H will also contain a significant *Current Book Contents*[®] section. Using data from *A&HCI*, we can identify those books most frequently reviewed and perhaps publish a "review of reviews" for those works that warrant such treatment.

With the introduction of *CC/A&H* we will complete our coverage of most types of journal literature received in most university libraries and comparable institutions.

Yet there is one category that is not yet encompassed by a *CC* edition. It can best be described as contemporary and public affairs. I hope that by 1980, we will be ready to launch a *CC* edition covering this

area. Some of the journals that will include—*Scientific American*, *Psychology Today*, etc.—already appear in various editions of *CC*. However, some publications, like *Time*, or *Newsweek*, which would be appropriate for this edition, are not covered by any of our existing *CCs*. The edition would also include an enlarged Press Digest. It might also contain a section announcing significant new magazines, as I suggested in an earlier essay.²

With the launching of *CC/Arts & Humanities* in 1979 and *CC/Contemporary & Public Affairs* in 1980 we will cover the full range of periodicals available to the potential reader.

One of the main reasons for the existence of *CC* is to counter the feeling of inadequacy described by Eugene Wigner,³ among other things when confronted by the always growing mass of publications in science and elsewhere. At least *CC* enables you to see what is published and to select what is important for your immediate interests. But perhaps *CC* has a more important function. It facilitates the process whereby the more perceptive scholar discovers a relationship between two ideas that otherwise seemed unrelated. In the final analysis one might say that's what creative work is all about.

REFERENCES

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2. Keeping up with new magazines. *Current Contents* (9):5-14, 27 February 1978.
3. Wigner EP. *Symmetries and reflections*. Bloomington Indiana University Press, 1967. As cited in: Weinberg A M. The limits of science and trans-science. *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* 2:337-42, 1977.