

Current Comments

Introducing *Index to Social Sciences & Humanities Proceedings* — More Help in Locating and Acquiring Proceedings

Number 33

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Helmut Drubba of the Technical Information Library in Hannover playfully ended his fine survey of conference documentation by paraphrasing Irving Berlin—"There's no literature like conference literature."¹ Certainly conference literature presents unique bibliographic problems for both librarians and researchers.

ISI® recognized this fact when we introduced our *Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings*[™].² *ISTP*[™] covers about 3,000 proceedings each year in the physical, natural, and engineering sciences. Its rapid acceptance in its first year testifies to the need it serves. *ISTP* seems to have filled a vacuum in university, industrial, public, and government libraries. We have reason to believe that the enthusiastic reception of *ISTP* will be matched in 1979 by the response to our new *Index to Social Sciences & Humanities Proceedings*[™] (*ISSHP*[™]).

We expect *ISSHP* to be welcomed because conference proceedings have been difficult to locate and acquire in the past.³

Finding individual papers delivered at a conference was even more time-consuming.

The difficulties posed by the conference literature arise from several sources. One of the biggest problems is the time lag that develops between the date of the conference and the actual date of proceedings publication. According to P. R. Mills of the University of Bath, this time lag is especially long for the social sciences.⁴ Librarians sometimes find they are spending time on fruitless searches for literature that has not yet been published.

Another problem is that proceedings may be included in an issue of a society's journal or they may be published as multi-authored, hardbound books.⁴

Finally, proceedings (especially those in book form) may appear under titles that do not adequately describe their contents. For example, the title of a book may be *Language and Mother-Child Interaction*. Only in the preface is it revealed that the contents are all papers delivered at a conference on the psychology of language.

We think that *Index to Social Sciences & Humanities Proceedings* will help overcome these problems. *ISSHP's* four quarterly issues and annual cumulation will cover published proceedings in psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, and political science. In addition, proceedings in law, literature, public health, women's studies, education, linguistics, history, international affairs, urban studies, criminology, alcoholism and drug addiction, management science, business, and religion will be included.

In its first year *ISSHP* will provide access to some 20,000 published papers delivered at 1,000 social sciences and humanities meetings. This coverage will be expanded in the future as resources permit.

The number of proceedings covered by *ISSHP* is lower than that covered by *ISTP* for a good reason: there are fewer proceedings published in the social sciences and the humanities. According to Christopher Watson of the British Library Lending Division at Boston Spa, the Library received 13,828 proceedings last year. From a sampling, he estimates that approximately 87% were in science and technology, 11% in social science, and 2% in the humanities. This means that only about 1,800 were social sciences or humanities proceedings.⁵ P. R. Mills has also estimated that approximately 2,000 proceedings each year are from the social sciences.⁴ As stated before, at least 1,000 published proceedings

will be indexed in *ISSHP* in 1979. If Bradford's law holds for this literature, then we will certainly be covering most of the significant papers published.

The proceedings to be included in *ISSHP* will be selected with the help of our Editorial Advisory Board. We also have regular contact with most publishers of proceedings. Although we cannot prevent the time lag between conferences and the publication of proceedings, we will be in touch with conference sponsors before meetings to insure that new proceedings are received at ISI and indexed as quickly as possible after publication.

Other reference tools have attempted to handle the social sciences and humanities proceedings literature. However, *ISSHP's* depth of indexing is unique. It will not merely provide access to overall proceedings documents as most of these tools do; it will also index the individual papers they contain. Thus, *ISSHP* will go way beyond the scope of the *Interdok Directory of Published Proceedings in Print*. Nor should *ISSHP* be confused with *World Meetings: United States and Canada* which gives information on meetings scheduled up to two years ahead, not the published proceedings.

ISSHP is suitable for browsing as well as for specific searches. Each proceedings will have a "main entry" giving its table of contents. This is similar to the presentation in *Current Contents*[®]. The multi-faceted indexing system allows

users to search at the level of the specific paper as well as the overall proceedings document.

To appreciate the problems librarians faced in the past, consider a not unusual situation. You remember that your colleague presented a paper somewhere on X. You think it might have been within the past two years. You certainly can't remember, if you ever heard it, the name or sponsor of the conference. However, with just this brief information you or your librarian can now use *ISSHP* to quickly find not only the paper itself but also the publisher, etc. If it isn't already in your library, you have enough information to order it from the publisher or from some other library or the individual himself.

For proceedings published in book form, *ISSHP*'s main entry will give the conference title, book's title and subtitle, series title and volume, editor, publisher and publisher's address, chapter titles, beginning page numbers, all authors' names, primary authors' addresses, price, date and place of the conference, and sponsor. In addition, the Library of Congress number and the International Standard Book Number, when available, will be given. (See the main entry example in Figure 1.) For proceedings published in journals, the main entry will include conference title, location, sponsors, journal title, volume, issue, year, titles of papers, authors, and primary authors' addresses. Using this information, librarians or

researchers can easily purchase the journal issue from the publisher or consult it in the library. Of course, the inclusion of authors' addresses facilitates reprint requests when only individual papers are needed.

Each proceedings in the main entry section is given a proceedings number which appears in the upper lefthand corner of the entry. This number identifies the proceedings in the indexes of *ISSHP*.

Conference proceedings will be indexed in six different ways. A *Permuterm*[®] *Subject Index, Category Index, Meeting Location Index, Sponsor Index, Author/Editor Index* and *Corporate Index* provide numerous access routes to simplify searching. Each of these indexes refers you to the appropriate main entry by means of its proceedings number.

The *Permuterm Subject Index (PSI)* is based on pairings of significant title words. In the figure, title words have been permuted from both the title of the proceedings itself and the titles of individual papers. For example, "influenza/-history" is a word-pair generated from the title of a conference. Influenza/children is a pair devised from the title of an individual paper. Next to each word-pair, the number for the main entry is given.

The *PSI* entry also indicates whether the term came from the main title or the title of a specific paper. A "T" indicates that the subject term occurs in the proceedings title. If it occurs within the title of an individual paper, the specific page number is given.

Figure 1. Entries in the *Index to Social Sciences & Humanities Proceedings™ (ISSHP™)*.

MAIN ENTRY

PROCH
02648

7th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED PROJECT CONF ON PIAGETIAN THEORY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HELPING PROFESSIONS, LOS ANGELES, CA, JAN, 1977

Sponsors: Childrens Hosp Los Angeles, Univ Affiliated Program Univ So Calif, Sch Social Work, Univ So Calif Sch Educ

PIAGETIAN THEORY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HELPING PROFESSIONS: EMPHASIS: SOCIAL WORK AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

EDS: R. WEIZMANN, R. BROWN, P. J. LEVINSON, P. A. TAYLOR

Univ Affiliated Program Childrens Hosp of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, 1978. 432 pp. 6 chaps. \$12.00 softbound
PREPAYMENT REQUIRED WITH ORDER
USC SPECIAL ORDER DEPT & BOOKSTORE UNIVERSITY PARK LOS ANGELES CA 90007

PIAGETIAN PRINCIPLES APPLIED TO BEGINNING PHASE IN PROFESSIONAL HELPING. H W Maier (Univ Washington Seattle WA 98195) 1

ROOTS OF PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN. P. Mussen (Univ Calif Berkeley Inst Human Dev Berkeley CA 94720) 14

CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL REGRESSION - ITS VALUE FOR PIAGETIAN THEORY AND ITS CLINICAL APPLICATION. S J Friedland, R B Shilkret (Farmington Youth Guidance Ctr Farmington MA 01701) 130

MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLAY OF CHILD WITH MINIMAL BRAIN DYSFUNCTION OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CASE. F Gold (Univ So Calif Los Angeles CA 90007) 145

PROVERBS, PROPORTIONS AND PIAGET. M H Holden (Calif State Coll Dominguez Hills Dominguez CA 90747) 182

REASONING ABILITIES OF LEARNING DISABLED BOYS. L T Grossi (Boston Univ Boston MA 02215) 244

Chapter title, author, address of first author

Book title & subtitle, editors

Sponsors

Conference name, date, location

Each entry will have a unique identification number.

PERMUTERM® SUBJECT INDEX

(to book titles & subtitles, conference names & individual papers)

INFLUENZA	PROC #	PAGE
AMERICA	02506	T
CHILDREN	03902	61
HISTORY	02506	T

Indicates word is in title of a proceedings

SPONSOR INDEX

	PROC #
AMERICAN ASSOC FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE MADISON, WI, USA	02506
CHILDREN'S HOSP, LOS ANGELES, CA, USA LOS ANGELES, CA, USA	02648

Location of meeting

MEETING LOCATION INDEX

	PROC #
U.S.A.	
CALIFORNIA	
Los Angeles	
7th Annual International Conf on Piagetian Theory and its Implications for the Helping Professions	02648

CORPORATE INDEX

	PROC #	PAGE
CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, DOMINGUEZ HILLS, DOMINGUEZ, CA 90747, USA HOLDEN MH	02648	182

AUTHOR/EDITOR INDEX

	PROC #	PAGE
HOLDEN MH	02648	182
MAIER HW	02648	1
MILLAR JD	02506	15
MUSSEN P	02648	14
OSBORN JE	02506	E

Indicates editor of proceedings

CATEGORY INDEX

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY 7th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONF ON PIAGETIAN THEORY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HELPING PROFESSIONS	02648
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The *Sponsor Index* will provide the name of the sponsoring organization and the geographical location of each conference it sponsored. Since a single organization may sponsor several conferences in a year, the location can help the user identify the particular meeting in which he or she is interested.

The *Meeting Location Index* will include an alphabetical listing of titles arranged by country, state, and city where the meeting took place. The *Corporate Index* will list institutional affiliations of the authors. Suppose you remember that someone from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta spoke at a conference. You can't remember the author's name, or the title of the paper. You can still find it through the *Corporate Index*.

The *Author/Editor Index* is an alphabetical listing of authors and editors of proceedings and papers. Editors are indicated by an "E" in the page number column. The *Category Index* organizes proceedings according to broad topic areas. Under each category there is a listing of the relevant conference titles. The proceedings number refers you to the main entry. A proceedings will be listed under a max-

imum of five categories.

As indicated earlier *ISSHP* can also be used for current awareness. By scanning each quarterly issue researchers can keep up with the published conference literature. Librarians can scan the quarterly issues to select proceedings pertinent to their specific collections.

The index will also appeal to those who wish to perform retrospective searches of the social sciences and humanities conference literature. Annual cumulations will simplify searches of proceedings published over several years.

In the past, conference proceedings presented one of the largest bibliographic headaches to librarians and one of the most frequent sources of frustration to researchers.⁶ With the introduction of the *ISSHP* and the continuing success of the *ISTP*, we hope to alleviate most of those headaches. At the same time we hope that there will be greater utilization of published conference literature.

The price of the *ISSHP* will be \$250 per year. For information on ordering, please refer to the ad and order form on the back cover of this issue of *Current Contents*.

REFERENCES

1. **Drubba H.** Conference documentation: general overview and survey of the present position. *Associations Internationales* 28:383-7, 1976.
2. **Garfield E.** ISI's new *Index to Scientific and Technical Proceedings*TM lets you know what went on even if you stayed home. *Current Contents* (40):5-10, 3 October 1977.
3. **Short P J.** Bibliographic tools for tracing conference proceedings. *IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries) Proceedings* 6:50-3, 1972.
4. **Mills P R.** Characteristics of published conference proceedings. *J. Doc.* 29:36-50, 1973.
5. **Watson C.** Personal communication. 23 June 1978.
6. **Garfield E.** ISI adds "non-journal" material to the 1977 *Science Citation Index*^{*}. *Current Contents* (9):5-6, 28 February 1977.