

Current Comments

Out with the Old— In with the New *Current Bibliographic Directory of the Arts & Sciences*

Number 12

March 19, 1979

For over ten years we have produced *ISI's Who is Publishing in Science*® (*WIPIS*). Last year I told you that the relatively small number of subscribers indicated that there was something wrong with this service.¹

I have expounded on the virtues of *WIPIS* several times before, so I will not repeat myself here. It is enough to say that we thought *WIPIS* was a useful product despite its inability to attract large numbers of subscribers. That's why we continued to produce it for so long.

To find out why *WIPIS* wasn't doing as well as we thought it should, I offered a copy of the 1976 edition to anybody who would critique it. We sent out 173 copies. By the time we received about 85 commentaries it was clear that *WIPIS* needed to be changed.

After some additional market research, we decided to make some major changes for 1979, not the least of which is a change in name. I hope that you will welcome the new *Current Bibliographic Directory of the Arts & Sciences*™ (*CBD*™). Like *WIPIS*, *CBD* will be issued annually. It will retain the three-index format, making it possible to search

by author, organization, and geographical area.

But *CBD* will be an improvement over *WIPIS* in several important ways. *WIPIS* covered only the sciences and social sciences. To *CBD* we are adding coverage of the arts and humanities. *CBD* will include the names of authors whose work is indexed in the *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*™ (*A&HCI*™), the *Index to Social Sciences & Humanities Proceedings*™ (*ISSHP*™), as well as the new *Current Contents*® edition, *Current Contents/Arts & Humanities*.

CBD will also list authors whose work is indexed in the *Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings*™ (*ISTP*™). This, along with the inclusion of data from *ISSHP*, will increase its coverage of both the "hard" and social sciences.

Many of the librarians and researchers who reviewed *WIPIS* said it would be helpful to have some idea of *what* authors were publishing. So we are including abbreviated citations for books and articles published by each author during the period covered. These condensed source citations will ap-

pear in the Author Section, directly under the author's address as shown below:

HEMS DA

**ST GEORGES HOSP, SCH MED, DEPT
BIOCHEM LONDON SW27 ORE,
ENGLAND**

BK#02774	1977:209-237	77
FEBS LETTER	87(2):196-198	78
J PHYSIOL LON	275(FEB):P1-P2	78

These condensed citations will follow the format used in ISI®'s various citation indexes. For journal articles, we will give the abbreviated journal title, volume and issue number, page span, and year. If the author published in a book, the book will be indicated in the citation by a number. Users will be able to consult lists in *CBD* for full journal and book titles.

The abbreviated citations are also important because they enable you to identify the discipline of each author. From the journal or book title, you can usually determine the author's area of interest. This is a feature most people requested.

The inclusion of condensed source citations makes *CBD* not merely a multi-disciplinary address directory, but also an abbreviated author index to the literature covered. *CBD* is probably the only service covering all three areas of scholarship: the sciences, the social sciences, and the arts and humanities. In two rather large volumes we will cover nearly 370,000 authors in the first year. *CBD*'s \$200-per-year price puts it within reach of small departmental

libraries and even the individual scholar.

We will continue to publish a statistical data section in *CBD*, ranking cities, states, and countries according to the amount of scholarly work published. This section had appeared in each *WIPIS* annual since 1971.

We will also modify the delivery schedule and the method of dating each annual. The last *WIPIS* was mailed in October 1978. It covered authors who published in 1977 and was called the 1978 annual. When the new *CBD* is mailed to customers this spring, it will also have a 1978 date. The date on each annual will now correspond to the year of the literature which the annual covers rather than the year in which the annual is issued. Of course, the actual date of publication will appear with other publication information following the title page.

Although there will be many changes in the first *CBD* annual, we are already planning other modifications for the 1979 *CBD*. The 1978 *CBD*, like *WIPIS*, is still based on first authors. While most papers in the humanities are written by one author, the number of authors per science paper continues to increase. We plan to add a large percentage of co-author names and addresses to the 1979 *CBD*. We cannot promise to include all co-authors because many journals make it impossible to differentiate one author's address from another's. The vagaries of our own computer system also make it dif-

difficult to establish an author-address "connector" for secondary authors. However, in the next year changes will be implemented to overcome this difficulty.

We also plan to include another important group of secondary authors in the 1979 *CBD*: the "most-cited" authors who have published at least one article in the last five years. This is an elusive group because many of these authors routinely place their names last on papers. It is thus possible that you would look in vain for the name of a well-known author in *WIPIS*. Through our all-author studies we

will identify the names and addresses of most-cited authors for the 1979 *CBD*—even if they did not publish in 1979. In these cases we will give the citations for their most recent papers.

With *CBD* we think we have a publication which has significant improvements over *WIPIS*. It should be welcomed by those who have always found *WIPIS* useful. Later this year we will survey users to see if they feel that the changes are in the right direction. We will soon know if *CBD* is a publication whose time has really come.

© 1979 ISI

REFERENCE

1. **Garfield E.** *ISI's Who is Publishing in Science: Why is it an idea whose time has not come?* *Current Contents* (6):5-8, 6 February 1978.