

Preface

The essays which I publish each week in *Current Contents* are not written with the publication of these volumes in mind. Otherwise I would undoubtedly have scheduled the essay called "How do you do it? Write All those Essays, I Mean" as the first in this collection. That insider's view of what it takes for each essay to be published would demonstrate how random the selection of topics is.

In the final analysis, however, citation studies form a significant part of this collection, as was the case in previous volumes. The actual number of citation studies is slightly fewer simply because we devoted our computer and human resources to a six-part study of the 1,000 most-cited contemporary scientists, 1965-78. This project was the largest of its type undertaken to date. The work took several years to reach publication. And now we are planning an even more ambitious study to cover the period from 1970 through 1982. I hope that it will be completed sometime late in 1983 or in 1984.

Despite the effort involved in the 1,000 scientists project, citation aficionados will find a dozen other studies here, including essays on the most-cited mathematicians, the most-cited articles published in 1979, and the core journals in veterinary medicine, dentistry, earth sciences, and the arts and humanities.

Readers will also note the continuation, and even the increase, of essays on health-related subjects. Many of these studies have their source in the concerns voiced by colleagues and friends as well as in the newspaper and magazine articles I read. These essays increasingly interest me because through them I am able to deal with *CC* readers as consumers as well as creators of medical research.

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They also help me demonstrate the way ISI's information systems can help retrieve relevant information. I take special pride in the citation of these studies in the research literature. I was particularly gratified when my three-part essay on depression, reprinted in this volume, was described in *Nutrition Reviews* as "a lucid and informative series of articles for the non-specialist on the subject . . ." Other health-related topics covered in this collection include senility, herpes, acne, autism, and medical genetics.

The volume also continues my series of essays on science journalism. This time we reviewed the established organs of science news rather than the new science magazines covered in volume 4. *New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *Science Digest*, *Science*, and *Nature* are each discussed. Not unrelated to these concerns about scientific *communications* is the coverage of broader scientific issues like the economic impact of research and development, the assessment of scientific and technological risks, why there are not more women in science, and whether the public's confidence in science is declining.

An area of interest which is greatly expanded in this collection is art. Several essays in this volume were inspired by the works of art commissioned for the ISI headquarters. Selecting art for the building was a new experience for me, and my desire for works with an information theme made the search and final selections much more difficult, but also more interesting. Several essays describe the art at ISI. When first published in *Current Contents*, photos of the art appeared in full color. In order to keep costs down, the art is reproduced here in black and white. A limited supply of color reprints is still available on request.

Art as a topic for essays spills over into other areas outside ISI. Paintings for our local subway stop are discussed as is the life of Albert C. Barnes, the eccentric Philadelphia scientist who created one of the world's greatest collections of impressionist art.

Of course, as always, this volume includes essays that mark the introduction of new ISI products and those that publicize some of our lesser-known services. There are also essays that investigate some personal predilections such as ice cream and boardsailing.

Since all the essays have appeared in *Current Contents*, the only "original" writing in this volume is the foreword by Robert K. Merton.

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It was my pleasure to report recently² that he was the recipient of the John Desmond Bernal Award of the Society for Social Studies of Science. This is the second occasion on which he has honored me with a foreword. The first appeared in *Citation Indexing*³ which has been reprinted recently by ISI Press. For this I am doubly grateful.

REFERENCES

1. Vanadium, vitamin C and depression. *Nutrition Reviews* 40(10):293-5, October 1982.
2. **Garfield E.** The new ISI fellowships honor outstanding librarians and graduate students in the library and information sciences. *Current Contents* (11):5-10, March 14, 1983.
3. ———. *Citation Indexing: its theory and application in science, technology, and humanities.* New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979. 274 p. Reprinted by ISI Press in 1983.