



# Current Comments®

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*Current Contents'* New Clothes  
for a New Year

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This issue of *Current Contents*® (*CC*®) includes a number of changes we think are important and beneficial. As you can see, the new *CC* cover is made of heavy, durable paper. For the past 26 years, *CC* used "self-covers," as they are known in the printing trade. A self-cover for a pamphlet or journal is made of the same paper used for the inside leaves or pages. We used such an integrated cover for many reasons, but especially for those of cost and time. The average issue of *CC* is used by many different readers. In some developing countries, a few hundred faculty and graduate students may scan a single copy. The new "separate cover" allows *CC* to circulate with a minimum of wear and tear. It will not only last for many years, but it also feels great.

All editions of *CC* will have essentially the same kind of cover, except for *CC/Arts & Humanities* which will continue to have a self-cover. In addition, *CC/Life Sciences (CC/LS)* will have a new type of binding. Called "perfect" binding, it gives us greater flexibility. We can now increase the number of pages in *CC*. When *CC/LS* was started,<sup>1</sup> it covered about 200 journals. Each issue contained about 30 pages. Today, *CC/LS* covers more than 1,100 journals containing more than 200,000 titles. The average issue contains about 320 pages, and often reaches 350. This is about the upper limit for using "saddle-stitch"

binding, that is, binding with staples. However, with perfect binding, we can stack as many signatures as required. The whole stack is then glued to the spine of the cover. All six other *CC* editions will continue to be bound with staples unless their size requires perfect binding. This is not unlikely, considering the continued growth of the literature.

In addition to being more durable, the new *CC* covers are, we hope, more informative. The titles of the *Citation Classics*™ and *Current Comments*® essays, which change from week to week, are highlighted on the covers. We believe it will be useful to many readers, including librarians and administrators, to have these features identified in this way. Placing the titles of essays and commentaries on the covers will be helpful when you're quickly trying to locate a specific work.

Based on many requests, the edition, date, volume, and number of each *CC* issue are printed along the back edge in large, easy-to-read type. This makes it easier to locate and file a particular issue, and to differentiate between the various *CC* editions. Also, since the binding for *CC/LS* is different, you should have no trouble telling it from the other editions you may receive.

We considered a complete change in the cover graphics, including the *CC* logo. We consulted with outside design experts, who prepared several prototype



Figure 1: Sample of alternative covers for *CC*<sup>®</sup>.

covers for *CC*. A sample of some alternative *CC* covers suggested by our own design staff is shown in Figure 1. Although some of the suggested layouts were visually attractive, we decided to compromise with a layout which retains the image familiar to most readers.

Our graphic design consultants, including our own Bob Ewing, manager, creative graphics, made several recommendations to improve the layout of *CC*'s text, and we've incorporated many of them. The inside front cover has been completely redesigned. Emphasis is placed on information directly needed by potential users. This includes information on how to obtain articles listed in *CC*, who to contact when you have questions, and how to order *CC* from anywhere in the world. The inside front cover also includes a succinct statement of *CC*'s purpose, and a description of the various weekly features, such as *Current*

*Book Contents*<sup>®</sup>, title word and author indexes, as well as author and publisher address directories.

The contents page section has a new look because we've added borderlines at the top and bottom of each page. The lines are intended to clearly define the margins. Lines are also drawn above and below each journal title in *CC/LS*. This makes it easier to identify where one journal ends and the next journal begins. Several contents pages of smaller journals often appear on a single *CC* page. Others carry over onto several pages. Similar lines will be introduced in the other *CC* editions in the near future. We think the borderlines will help you scan *CC* faster.

A standard bibliographic entry for the volume, issue, and year of each journal is set in new type. It is also offset by borderlines. It is essential to have this information delineated when requesting re-

prints or interlibrary loans, or writing to publishers. There has been no change made in the "oval" number used to identify each journal issue. Together with the article page number, this uniquely identifies the article for ordering through ISI®'s *Original Article Text Service (OATS®)*,<sup>2</sup> or for online access. All *CC* articles are available online through *Sci-Mate™*,<sup>3</sup> as well as other online systems. Any item can be downloaded into your personal files.

In the next few weeks, we will be adding a new feature. Special codes will follow the bibliographic information to indicate if a journal is covered in more than one *CC* edition. Individuals who subscribe to several *CC* editions with overlapping coverage sometimes find themselves scanning the same journal contents page twice. We hope to spare them that time by clearly indicating that a journal is covered in one or more *CC* editions.

The black vertical bars separating the various disciplines covered in *CC* have been eliminated. In the past, they appeared on the appropriate right-hand page along the outside vertical margin. During the final stages of binding, it was difficult to "trim" the margins in the exact spot. This also was a limitation of saddle-stitch binding. So a white margin sometimes showed through.

Furthermore, this method made it difficult to precisely delineate the disciplines. For example, the first journal in one category might share a page with the last journal in another category. This is solved by using horizontal bars. Nevertheless, we will never have a perfect system of categorizing journals that are inherently multidisciplinary. It is surprising how many readers write me about maintaining the subject integrity of their professional discipline.

One of the most important changes we have made is to increase the size of print

in the author address directory for *CC/LS*. Figure 2 shows sample entries from the old and new directories. There is no greater bone of contention among *CC* readers. I regularly receive mail from lab assistants, secretaries, and others who type reprint request cards. To increase the type size by just one-half "point," we have had to increase the area used by more than 25 percent. So we've had to add many more pages to accommodate the larger type size. This could not be done before without modifying our binding procedure, as explained earlier. We are also planning to modify our procedures for listing addresses so that, in the future, we can include street addresses where necessary.

The new covers will also enable us to reduce the number of card inserts. The back cover of *CC* will be used for ads as well as subscription cards. The new cover also makes it possible to test the mailing of *CC* without envelopes. This would not only save the cost of envelopes, but also reduce the time and labor required

Figure 2: Sample entries from the old and new author address directory of *CC®/Life Sciences*. Entries on the left are printed in four point type. The new entries on the right have been enlarged to four and one-half point type.

<b>DURANCEAU</b>	<b>DELATRE M</b>
DURANCEAU AC ..... 56	DELATRE M ..... 193
HOTEL DIEU, DEPT	SK&F INT CO,
SURG, MONTREAL,	PHILADELPHIA, PA,
QUEBEC, CANADA H2W	19101, USA
178	<b>DELENCASTRE H ... 89</b>
<b>DUROCHER LP ..... 44</b>	REPRINT, PIGGOT PJ,
HOP MAISONNEUVE	NATL INST MED RES,
ROSEMONT, DEPT SANTE	DIV MICROBIOL, MILL
COMMUNAUTAIRE,	HILL, LONDON NW7
MONTREAL, QUEBEC,	1AA, ENGLAND
CANADA H1T 2M4	<b>DELGROSSO G ..... 48</b>
<b>DUTTON DA ..... 115</b>	CITTA UNIV, IST
VICTORIA INFIRM, DEPT	MATEMAT G
ANAESTHESIA, GLASGOW	CASTELNUOVO, I-
G42 9TY, SCOTLAND	00100 ROME, ITALY
<b>DVORAK AM ..... 63</b>	<b>DELIMA TCM ..... 149</b>
BETH ISRAEL HOSP,	REPRINT:
DEPT PATHOL, BOSTON,	<b>PALERMONETO J,</b>
MA 02215, USA	UNIV SAO PAULO, FAC
<b>DWORKIN BF ..... 39</b>	MED VET & ZOOTECN,
UNIV WASHINGTON,	FARMACOL APLICADA
DEPT ORAL MED,	& TOXICOL LAB, BR-
SEATTLE, WA, 98195,	05340 SAO PAULO,
USA	SP, BRAZIL
<b>EASON JR ..... 25</b>	<b>DELITALA G ..... 174</b>
WHIPPS CROSS HOSP,	UNIV SASSARI, IST
LONDON E11 1NR,	PATOL MED I, CHAIR
ENGLAND	ENDOCRINOL I-
<b>EDGREN RA ..... 81</b>	07100 SASSARI,
SYNTEX RES CORP, DIV	ITALY
SCI AFFAIRS MED	
AFFAIRS, 3401 HILLVIEW	
AVE, PALO ALTO, CA,	
94304, USA	

for insertion. We know this is feasible in the US. But since *CC* is mailed to almost every country in the world, it isn't possible to assume that such methods will satisfy the postal regulations in other countries.

The goal of the changes I've described is to improve *CC* in a cost-effective manner. It is always easy to increase costs without regard to the benefits achieved.

We hope you'll be convinced that, unlike the fairy tale about the emperor's new clothes, the changes in *CC* are far from imaginary. If you don't agree, or if you have any other suggestions, please let us have your comments. We've always encouraged readers to comment on changes in our products and services.<sup>4</sup> That is one feature of ISI's service that will never change.

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## REFERENCES

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