""""""current comments"

A New ISI® Program for Dissemination and Retrieval of Conference Papers

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One of the many common and continuing problems facing scientists, publishers. librarians, and information workers is that posed by scientific conferences and symposia: how best to publish and disseminate their proceedings, particularly the proceedings of special conferences and symposia. Some people feel that the proceedings of special conferences should appear as parts of, or supplements to, established journals. Others prefer to see them published in book form, to be treated as monographs, while still others feel they should be handled as serials, since obviously any first conference may be followed by a second and third similar conference.

In whatever form this type of material has been published in the past, it has rarely received as prompt and wide dissemination, and as consistent a treatment by abstracting and indexing services, as it undoubtedly deserves. As publisher of both the most widely read current awareness service, Current Contents, and of the largest and most current interdisciplinary scientific index, the Science Citation Index® I have been concerned about the role ISI should play in making this type of material available to the scientific community at large. As long as there was still a significant amount of original primary journal material to list in Current Contents and to index in the Science Citation Index, we at ISI did not feel that we could devote space to individual conference proceedings. Now, however, the almost daily emergence of new interdisciplinary fields, and of new interdisciplinary conferences, has forced us to reexamine the question.

For example, on May 25-26, 1970, the new University of Wisconsin-Parkside at Kenosha, Wisconsin, will be host to a Symposium on Biochemistry of Brain and Memory. The participants will include, among others, Drs. S. Datta, B. Agranoff, R. Bowman, E. Glassman, H. Himwich, M. Jarvik, J. Kanfer, B. McEwen, E. Shooter, H. Waisman, and R. Wurtman. Two of these scientists are members of Editorial Advisory Boards of Current Contents. One of them, the chairman of the symposium's organizing committee, recently wrote to remind us of the information problem such special conferences represent.

As a possible solution, ISI has developed a package deal for the organizers of conferences and symposia that should assure prompt dissemination and effective recovery of research results presented and discussed by participants. If you are planning such a conference and will contact ISI, we will be glad to work out details of an agreement under which ISI will provide the following integrated services: (1) Listing of papers in Current Contents; (2) Announcement of papers

through ISI's ASCA® service; (3) Indexing of papers in the Science Citation Index. All of this can be done at a nominal cost that will be trivial in relation to the cost of the research reported, and even in relation to the cost of organizing and presenting the conference

itself. This new ISI service will, however, make it easier for individual scientists to keep track of work reported at conferences and symposia, and to retrieve the papers once they have been published-whether in regular journal issues, in journal supplements, as books, or as serials.