New CC®/LS Weekly Subject Index Means Even Greater Coverage in the Science Citation Index®

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For many years readers of *Current Contents*® who have also used the *Science Citation Index* have assumed that journal coverage of these two services was identical. The reasons why this assumption was not correct would require a detailed review of the history of both services. Until recently, therefore, the selection of journals for *CC* has usually been independent of the selection procedures for *SCI*®.

I explained previously[1,2] that the integration of our computer files for *CC* and *SCI* has now made it possible to launch a *Weekly Subject Index (WSI)* to *Current Contents/Life Sciences* at a cost that most readers would find acceptable. The pre-publication response to our announcement of the *WSI* has lived up to our expectations. Expressions of interest in a similar index from readers of the other editions of *Current Contents* would be welcomed.

As a consequence of launching *WSI* more than 100 journals previously not covered in the *Science Citation Index* will be added to the *SCI* list of source journals. Any journal covered in *CC/LS* will be covered in the *Science Citation Index*. By extension, this means that these journals are also covered in our *ASCA*® service and in ISI® Source and Citation Tapes.

A significant number of these journals are published in Russian and other foreign languages. A significant translation effort on our part will be required. This added coverage for *SCI* will add more frosting to a very large cake. With few exceptions, the journals that are now being added to *SCI* are *not* among those which are the most frequently cited or those consulted in libraries. For this reason ISI's *OATS*® Library Service will have all the greater significance. Original Article Tear Sheets of these articles will be available as they have been since we started covering them in *CC/LS*.

When we have completed our rather monumental *Journal Citation Index* I am convinced, however, that detailed analysis of the data for some of these journals will reveal that they have much greater "impact factors" than one might expect. We already know that more popular journals do not always turn out to be of higher impact.

The idealistic information scientist or librarian has an insatiable appetite for coverage of journals. But one must, of necessity, always keep in mind the economic limitations that prevent absolutely "complete" coverage of the literature. Claims of completeness by any service is a myth without precise definition. Furthermore, there is reason to expect that as one approaches completeness the percentage of lower quality and/or irrelevant scientific ma-

terial one handles increases. However, there appears to be a fairly substantial amount of material that may contain first class or useful scientific information but is of marginal interest to most readers of a service like *Current Contents*. It is generally agreed, therefore, that in a service like *ASCA (Automatic Subject Citation Alert)* where the individual user controls the amount of information received by controlling his profile of interest the number of journals that can be covered is limited only by economics. A valuable service may be rendered in calling to the reader's attention articles that occasionally appear in journals they would never have seen in *Current Contents*.

This same kind of selectivity is one additional reason for providing a *Weekly Subject Index* to *Current Contents*. Each reader must decide for himself what is the proper combination of browsing or scanning through contents pages with search by selected key words and authors. The new *Weekly Subject Index* to *CC/LS* makes this possible. *WSI* will commence with the first issue of 1972, so if you have not arranged to receive it from the outset please let us know as soon as possible.

1. Garfield, E. ISI ® announces availability of a *Weekly Subject Index* to *Current Contents/ Life Sciences. Current Contents*, #34, pp. 5-6, August 25, 1971.
2. ------------------. The *Weekly Subject Index* to *CC ®/Life Sciences* Makes for Zero Delay in Current Awareness and Information Retrieval. *Current Contents*, #37, pp. 4-5, September 15, 1971.