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A new Weekly Subject Index to Current Contents/Bebavioral, Social & Educational Sciences means More Timely Access to the Social & Behavioral Sciences Literature

August 8, 1973

Number 32

ISI® recently delivered to subscribers the first triannual volumes of our Social Sciences Citation Index ™ (SSCI ™ ).¹ This first issue is a significant event in ISI's history. The SSCI is the most substantial evidence to date of our total commitment to improvement of communication and information retrieval in the social sciences. SSCI culminates the integration of some earlier ISI services into a large-scale social-sciences information system.

In 1969 we launched an edition of Current Contents® for the social, behavioral and management sciences. That same year we also launched a CC® edition in the field of education. Both were risky ventures, prompted more by our belief in a true need for them rather than any clear user demand. In 1971 we merged these two CC editions. Not only had we overestimated the market potential for CC/Education; we also found that the number of truly worthwhile scholarly "edu-

cation" journals is quite small. Indeed, educators and educational research workers were consistently more interested in the social and behavioral sciences. The success of CC/BS&ES proves we were right.

At about the same time, we began work on the SSCI. Having contemplated the SSCI as far back as 1964,2 we felt that the time was now ripe. If the world at large was ready to change its priorities, so were we.

Our development of the SSCI has affected our view of the role of CC/BS&ES. In studying our journal coverage we concluded that we should add more "international" journals and de-emphasize the more parochial and topical educational literature. And in studying the retrieval needs of today's social scientists we concluded that they, too, need timely indexes to the literature. This need for timeliness not only justifies an SSCI cumulation every

four months but also a Weekly Subject Index to CC.

To reflect some of these conclusions we are changing the name of CC/BS&ES to Current Contents/Social and Behavioral Sciences. The change in title will be effective with the first issue of 1974. At the same time, we will add a Weekly Subject Index to the new CC/S&BS. This weekly index will be similar to those now published each week in three other CC editions.3 The Weekly Subject Index will be an integral part of CC/S&BS appearing toward the back of each issue, just preceding the author address directory.

Timely production of the Week-ly Subject Index to CC/S&BS would not be possible without the effort required to produce the Social Sciences Citation Index. Since all of this data goes into ISI's basic computer system, the advent of SSCI has already enormously augmented our ASCA® service--at no extra cost to users.

Recently, I attended the Drug Information Association Meeting in Montreal. I was informed by representatives of the Canadian government that the enlarged scope of ASCA has been so significant that our SSCI data base

will now be included in Canada's system for monitoring the drug literature. Similarly, many of our technologically-oriented tape users have consistently expressed a preference for coverage of more "management" material. These developments say a great deal about the considerable overlap between the social sciences, medicine, and other technologies in modern society.

- 1. Garfield, E. The new Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) will add a new dimension to research on man and society. Current Contents No. 22, 31 May 72, p. 5-7.-The SSCI is delivered every four months. The first interim issue covers the period January-April 1973.
- 3. Harris, R.M. & Garfield, E. "Weekly Subject Indexes to Current Contents, a new aid to complement scanning scientific literature." Paper presented at the 1972 Fall Meeting of the American Chemical Society, New York City, 28-31 August 1972. Weekly Subject Indexes are already available for: CC/Life Sciences; CC/Physical & Chemical Sciences; and CC/Clinical Practice.