# **Current Comments'**

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ISI's Index to Scientific Book Contents: Cataloging Composite Books Chapter by Chapter

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Nearly every scientist has experienced frustration in finding a paper published as a chapter in a book. (Such composite works contain the contributions of many authors. At ISI® we call these multiauthored books.) Even if you know the author's name and the title of the paper, you will probably come up empty-handed after searching most library catalogs-electronic or otherwise. Without the name of the book's editor or the title of the volume in which the paper or chapter appears, you are out of luck. The problem is that in traditional book cataloging it is too costly to deal separately with every chapter or paper in a multiauthored work. Rather, librarians catalog only the volume editor's name and the general subject of the volume as implied by its cover title. So, if it is true that you can't judge a book by its cover, then it is especially so with multiauthored books.

Sonya Mirsky, university librarian, Rockefeller University, New York, estimates that over 60 percent of her book and book series acquisitions are now composites, whether a conference proceedings volume, a topical volume in a series, or a one-time collection of papers on a single subject. Such publications have proliferated since the 1950s and access to their contents is increasingly a problem.

In making the transition from card to online catalog at Rockefeller's library, Mirsky undertook the herculean task of including the *contents* of all composite books received as part of the catalog entry. Staff of

the library keyboarded the authors' names and the titles for individual chapters of the multiauthored works they acquired. Rockefeller's online file is complete from 1974 to the present, but it will eventually extend back to 1906. "Of course, we had the advantage of being a small, specialized library. At Harvard University, for example, such a project would be formidable if not impossible," Mirsky said.1 She also noted that the forthcoming integration of optical-disk technology in library systems would facilitate the inclusion of tables of contents in the catalog entry for each book. Unfortunately, not many libraries have the resources to initiate the full cataloging and indexing of composite books. Until optical-disk integration or other technologies become a reality, ISI is helping researchers and librarians to cope better with multiauthored books.

Although the journal literature has been and will continue to be our primary quarry, I have long been concerned about access to and retrieval of the book literature. For example, in 1973 we added the feature Current Book Contents® to Current Contents® (CC<sup>®</sup>). Since then we have listed the contents of thousands of books each year. In 1978 we created the Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings® (ISTP®), which helped increase bibliographic control for the proceedings literature in the sciences. With ISTP, these conference and symposia publications began to be indexed in detail just as though the individual papers in them were published in a journal. But composites that

Table 1: Subject categories covered in ISBC™.

Agriculture Anatomy & Morphology Astronomy & Astrophysics Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Biology Biophysics Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology Botany Chemistry Computer Sciences Cytology & Histology Dentistry & Odontology Drugs & Addiction Ecology

Embryology Endocrinology & Metabolism Energy & Fuels Engineering Entomology Environmental Sciences Fisheries Food Science & Technology Forestry Genetics & Heredity Geoscience: History & Philosophy Horticulture Immunology

Instruments & Instrumentation Limnology & Water Resources Materials & Polymer Science Mathematics Medical Specialties Medicine, General Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences Microbiology Neurosciences Nuclear Science & Technology Nutrition & Dietetics Oncology

Operations Research & Management Science Ornithology Parasitology Pathology Pharmacology & Pharmacy **Physics** Physiology Statistics & Probability Telecommunications Toxicology Veterinary Medicine Virology

were not conference proceedings remained largely inaccessible. So, after considerable market research, we created the *Index to Scientific Book Contents*<sup>TM</sup> (ISBC<sup>TM</sup>). This multidisciplinary reference work also provides *chapter-by-chapter* indexing of multiauthored books.

### Coverage and Publication Schedule

More than 35,000 chapters from nearly 2,000 newly published composite books were indexed in *ISBC* during 1986. Table 1 lists the many disciplines covered. ISI information specialists determine whether individual volumes are appropriate for *ISBC*. We are striving for coverage of the most important composite books in science.

Moreover, if we index a composite book from a book series, we will continue to index all titles from that series, even if later publications are single-authored. And, for your convenience, each issue of *ISBC* contains an alphabetic listing of all series covered.

I should emphasize that there is little overlap in coverage between ISBC and the Science Citation Index® (SCI®)—less than 10 percent—and between ISBC and ISTP—less than 1 percent. In an ideal world it might have been simpler to include all this material in the Source Index of the SCI, but our market research indicated that such separation was warranted for a number of reasons, not

the least of which is the already large size of the SCI. But there were technical and economic factors prohibiting this as well.

We publish ISBC quarterly. The first three issues of the year are softbound, whereas the fourth issue is a two-volume, casebound edition that cumulates all entries for the entire year.

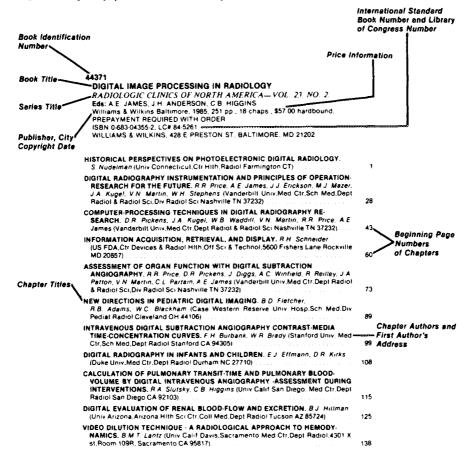
When we started *ISBC* in 1986, we were conscious of a need to fill in back years of such information, so we began with 1985. By the time this essay is published, two years of data will be available. We expect to go back to fill in gaps for earlier years as the demand warrants.

### Five Avenues of Access

ISBC comprises five separate indexes. The Contents of Books Index is the heart of ISBC. This section lists the complete contents of each book, not only the titles of each chapter but also authors, addresses, and page numbers. You can scan the boldface titles of the chapters and when necessary locate the author's name and institution. A sample entry from this section appears in Figure 1. The Contents of Books Index is the master source index; the four other indexes of ISBC refer back to these main entries through the book identification number.

The Category Index is a subject index that allows you to quickly locate books in broad areas of interest. Approximately 100 cate-

Figure 1: Sample display from ISBC" 's Contents of Books Index.



gories, listed alphabetically, are used. Three sample entries from the *Category Index* appear in Figure 2. Since a book may fall into several categories, the same volume may be listed repeatedly.

The Permuterm® Subject Index (PSI) is the third component index of ISBC. It lists words appearing in the titles of the volume as well as those appearing in the titles of individual chapters. A sample entry from the PSI, consisting of alphabetically arranged primary terms and co-terms, is illustrated in Figure 3. Anyone familiar with the PSI section of the SCI will find this index no stranger.

An Author/Editor Index simply lists the authors of chapters in and the editors of the multiauthored books selected. So if you can recall only the author's name but remember he wrote a paper in a composite work, this index is a good place to start your search. Figure 4 lists a few sample entries.

Finally, there is the *Corporate Index*, which consists of a geographic section and an organization section. Samples from each appear in Figure 5. The geographic section locates authors by country, state, city, and organization, whereas the organization section provides a cross-reference by identifying the locations of all organizations repre-

Figure 2: Sample display from ISBC" 's Category Index.

Semi-Stop Word -

This word is on the "Semistop List" and will only appear as a Co-Term.

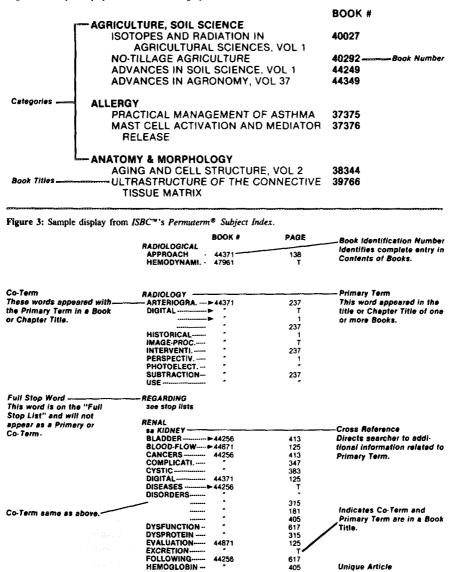


Figure 4: Sample display from ISBC \*\* s Author/Editor Index.

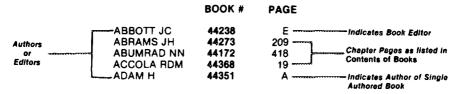
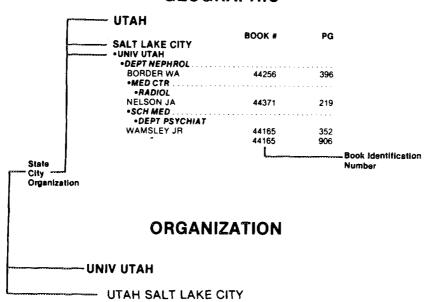


Figure 5: Sample display from ISBC" 's Corporate Index.

## **GEOGRAPHIC**



sented by the authors and editors listed. This, too, is modeled after the SCI Corporate Index.

ISBC was designed to permit you to search systematically—by title words, subject categories, the names of authors or editors, or their institutional affiliations. However, you can also browse through the contents section to make serendipitous discoveries.

You can use ISBC for current awareness or retrospective searching. You and your librarian will find it useful for bibliographic verification and in making acquisition decisions. Each entry also carries the International Standard Book Number, the Library

of Congress Number, and price information to facilitate ordering. You can also request reprints by contacting the chapter author, whose address is listed in the entry. However, there will be occasions when reprints will not be available from the author. This depends on the policy of individual publishers of composite books.

ISBC does not at present contain a citation index. This would obviously enhance its utility. If ISBC continues to be received as warmly as it has been since its introduction, we plan to add a citation index. This additional in-depth indexing would have all the advantages we have discussed for years.

Keep in mind, however, that access to cited chapters in multiauthored books is, of course, provided in the SCI's Citation Index.

### Online Access

ISI also offers access to composite books in the online file ISI/Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings & Books® (ISI/ISTP&B®). As the title suggests, this file covers nonproceedings composites also. ISI/ISTP&B, the online equivalent of both ISTP and ISBC, can be searched in ways similar to the printed versions. The file is available on DIMDI (Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information) via most major telecommunications networks and direct dial. I previously described this online file in some detail.<sup>2</sup>

The ISI/ISTP&B file is also available in machine-readable form (magnetic tapes) for those who can support large in-house databases.

### Towards the All-Electronic Era

As the new technologies make their way to university and corporate libraries and, as is happening more and more, the desktops of researchers, we are approaching the all-electronic era of information nirvana. We are not there yet, however. There are many complex factors in collecting and distributing information throughout the world. While we await electronic and other technologies, gaps remain in the bibliographic apparatus that need to be filled. In the near future I hope to discuss how this type of information may be universally integrated into library catalogs.

My thanks to David A. Pendlebury for his help in the preparation of this essay.

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