

PREFACE

This volume may be the last published under the sponsorship of the Institute for Scientific Information® (ISI®), coinciding with the discontinuation of the *Current Contents*® (CC®) essay series published under the rubric *Current Comments*®. As of January 1, 1994, I became Chairman Emeritus of ISI and have relinquished all managerial responsibilities. I will be contributing a monthly column, *Citation Comments*, which will discuss various applications of ISI's databases and products.

The details of these and other editorial changes in CC are covered in the last essay in this volume (see pages 408-10), which also includes a brief historical and autobiographical account of CC since its inception about 40 years ago.

In the first volume of these *Essays of an Information Scientist*, my preface provided an account of their origin and why we chose chronological rather than topical organization. The main inspiration for the birth of *Current Comments* came from Chauncey D. Leake, to whom this volume is dedicated.

During the past 15 years, these volumes have provided convenient access to material that has cumulated in CC over a 30-year period. All volumes have contained subject and cited-author indexes. Volumes 1 and 2 were published simultaneously and covered essays from the years 1962-1978. A cumulative subject index was published in Volume 10. In Volume 14, a cumulative subject index for Volumes 11-14 was included. Recognizing that the present volume might be the last for some time, we decided to include a cumulative index to all 15 volumes.

You may wonder why I do not simply close the book on this series. But I intend to continue writing my monthly *Citation Comments* column in CC, as well as commentaries for *The Scientist*® (pages 383-6). And I plan, with time and appropriate staff support, to return to research in quantitative studies at the Institute for Citation Analysis, a non-profit organization to be established in 1994. Under the terms of ISI's sale first to JPT of New York and then to the Thomson Corporation of Toronto, I retain the right to access ISI's databases for such research purposes. As a by-product, I hope to publish a *Journal of Citation Studies* as well as a *Journal of Citation Classics* (pages 387-92).

It is appropriate to close this preface in a manner similar to the final paragraph of my preface to Volume 1—that is, to acknowledge the many people at ISI who have contributed to this essay series. A special note of thanks is due to Catherine Curtin Mundy, whose dedication to the completion of the cumulative indexes and to the publication of these volumes for the past several years has been steadfast and tireless. The lion's share of editorial work during the past several years has been borne by Alfred Welljams-Dorof. For the past 15 years, production and copy editing functions have been faithfully and meticulously performed by Bonnie Cohen and Ellen Weinstein. Ellen has also regularly edited and produced the *Press Digest* feature of *Current Contents*. Eric Thurschwell has invited, edited, and produced the

Citation Classics feature for the past year and, before that, had the responsibility for six years for providing all the research required for *CC* essays. This latter function has been well served by Deanna Laing for the last year. Last but not least, Louise Lewis has coordinated the *CC* editorial work flow for eight years.

The list of former *CC* staff is as complete as our collective memory serves, but I apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone.

In closing, I would like to especially acknowledge Joshua Lederberg, Robert K. Merton and Harriet A. Zuckerman, who have been a constant source of advice and inspiration ever since our first encounter over 30 years ago.

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