

# THE INFORMATORIUM

The Ideal Library - The Informatorium

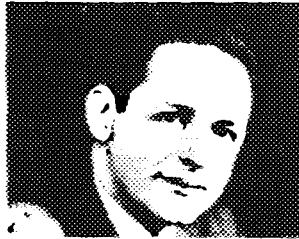
June 19, 1962

This is the first of a series of short editorial reports on various aspects of science information, its retrieval and dissemination, that will be written by me, ISI staff members, and others. After five years of self-restraint, I feel I can no longer resist the opportunity to preach the gospel of scientific information. Since we haven't missed a publication deadline in five years, I now feel we can justify devoting some time and energy to such projects as this series of articles.

The title, *The Informatorium*, is taken from a paper I wrote several years ago as the first Grolier Society Fellow at Columbia University. In it I theorized on what I thought "the library of the future" would be like in 2045 -- 100 years from the end of world War II. With the rapid increase in science information in the last several years, *The Informatorium* might come into existence sooner than expected. I think the title is especially apt for this series of articles, since most topics discussed here will be aimed at making *The Informatorium* a reality.

As I see it, the ideal library must be able to supply information instantaneously. As an ideal library facility, *The Informatorium* will have to satisfy a wide variety of information requirements for a population that will be highly intellectual and scientifically trained. In my paper, I predicted rather optimistically and hopefully, that by the turn of the millennium there would be "a new Renaissance during which the population of the entire world will be thirsting for knowledge." I think that age is already beginning in spite of, if not because of, threats of atomic destruction.

Basically, *The Informatorium* will cover various subjects in the field of scientific information, make announcements, and discuss new experimental indexes, projects and services for



*Current Contents* readers. For example, we have been engaged in experiments in compiling new author indexes. Through personal correspondence I was rather surprised to find that some readers do not feel that an author index to each issue of *Current Contents* is as important as a cumulated index appearing every few months. Many readers have suggested a subject index.

We have recently started using a new paper that is whiter and lighter in weight, yet more opaque. It is also more expensive, but we feel it is an important investment. We have also changed the format of the address directory from a two column to a single column arrangement. It looks better and is easier to prepare. We would certainly appreciate any practical suggestions from our readers on new formats for this directory.

In future issues I plan to discuss various experiments ISI is conducting, or has conducted in the past, including Miniprint indexes and abstracts, the COPYWRITER<sup>®</sup> citation indexes, international cooperation and copyright, selective dissemination of information, microform storage and retrieval of documents, contents page formats, chemico-linguistics and scientific nomenclature in general, the future of scientific journals, the World Brain, Memex, and the future of the information scientist.