

*"Search Strategies Using the
Science Citation Index"*®

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There is considerable literature concerning search strategies—how to search the literature so as to minimize the time and effort required. Many searchers are not aware that the methods one may employ to retrieve a few references in a "quick and dirty" search may be quite different than methods employed when the search must be comprehensive. Of course, no search is absolutely complete. One must always make economic decisions as to the time or money that can be invested. Since the working scientist is usually pressed for time it is important to learn how to select and use searching tools to turn up the maximum number of pertinent references in the minimum time. A few years ago Spencer (1) showed, in comparison to *Index Medicus* and *Chemical Abstracts*, that the first hours of searching the *SCI*® were far more productive. Subsequently, A.E. Cawkell (2) wrote a

paper on search strategies. His paper is reprinted in this issue of *CC* to provide some useful examples. Reprints of this paper are available on request, as are the other items cited (3,4).

- (1) Spencer, C.C., "Subject Searching with *Science Citation Index*, Preparation of a Drug Bibliography Using *Chemical Abstracts*, *Index Medicus*, and *Science Citation Index 1961 and 1964*", *Am. Doc.* 18(2), 87-96, (1967).
- (2) Cawkell, A.E., "Search Strategies Using the *Science Citation Index*," *Computer Based Information Retrieval Systems*, edited by Bernard Houghton, (Clive Bingley Ltd.), (1968).
- (3) Malin, M.V., "The *Science Citation Index*: A New Concept in Indexing", *Library Trends*, 16 (3), 374-387, (1968).
- (4) Garfield, E., "Citation Indexing: A Natural Science Literature Retrieval System for the Social Sciences", *Am. Behavioral Scientist*, 7 (10), 58-61, (1964).