

**Trained Scientists Use *Science Citation Index*®  
To Complete Bibliographic Citations &  
Update Searches**

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Recently, Prof. Joshua Lederberg, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Science Citation Index*, discussed the possible damaging effects of mustard oil<sup>1</sup>. Apparently, Professor Charlotte Auerbach<sup>2</sup> had reported in *Nature* in 1944 that mustard oil extracts produced mutations.

Since I was unfamiliar with this work, my immediate problem was to identify its full bibliographic citation. By simply referring to the *Science Citation Index*, I was able immediately to obtain information needed to retrieve the article from the library. My next and obvious question was, "Has anyone done any further work on this topic?". Actually this question was already partially answered as soon as I opened the *SCI*®, because the *Citation Index* section clearly shows that the 1944 paper was cited numerous times between 1961 and 1968.

The example cited is chosen from many I could mention that illustrate to me the way in which a trained scientist should utilize the *Science Citation Index* not only to complete a bibliographic citation, but more important, to determine the most recent works on any given subject.

The increasing number of news publications which merely give a scientist's name and a rather fragmented citation of the paper being discussed has increased the need to use *SCI* for citation identification or verification. However, if scientists are to make use of the *SCI* for this very practical purpose, they either must be provided telephonic service by the university central library or they must have the *SCI* available in their own departmental library. Without such ready access, most people will not take the trouble to engage in such intellectual pursuits.

To make access to *SCI* more practical financially, *ISI*® has recently established a grant program. These matching grants enable qualified *departmental* libraries or individual scientists to obtain the *SCI* provided the central university library has already subscribed. If you are interested in having *SCI* at your fingertips, where it really ought to be, then send for a grant application. Incidentally, although a considerable amount of work has been done on mustard oil since 1944, as Prof. Lederberg pointed out, much more needs to be done. I'll be glad to send any reader the list of papers I found in my *SCI* search.

1. Lederberg, J. A good try poses problems. *Washington Post*, October 11, 1969.  
2. Auerbach, C. Production of mutations by allylthiocyanate, *Nature* 154, 81 (1944).