

New Section in CC/LS Designed to Cover
the Non-Journal Literature

Number 35

August 29, 1973

In this week's issue of *Current Contents®/Life Sciences*, we're experimenting with a new section, tentatively titled *Current Book Contents*. The new section is designed to expand our coverage of the scientific literature by inclusion of non-journal material.

Most scientists and librarians know how difficult it can be to learn about and to locate individual papers published in multi-authored volumes. Most such volumes are "one-shot" collections of papers on a single topic. Quite common among them are the published proceedings of conferences, symposia, etc.

The individual contributions in such volumes are usually indistinguishable from typical journal articles, but in comparison with typical journal articles they are poorly disseminated and indexed. Papers in such collections are not normally handled individually in either book catalogs or in journal-article indexes like *Index Medicus*.

There is another aspect of the problem. Because preparation of such collections is usually a time-consuming business, many impatient authors will rework the material for publication

elsewhere, usually in a regular journal. This seems to us a wasteful redundancy.

I assume that CC® already covers all of the most significant journals. We also cover plenty of the less significant. While we will continue to add other journals to *Current Contents*, we propose now to do something about the non-journal literature as well. *Current Book Contents* is the result of that decision.

The individual contributions in these volumes will be processed like journal articles. The title of the bound volume itself and the titles of the individual papers will be listed in CC. All will be indexed in the *Weekly Subject Index*. However, authors' names and addresses will not be included in the *Author Index and Address Directory*, during the experiment. Later on they may be added if *Current Book Contents* becomes a regular feature.

To allow readers to express their interest and to allow us to measure it, we have provided convenient coupons for that purpose. Coupons should be returned to ISI®, as indicated. At ISI we will consolidate requests and transmit them to publishers.

This new feature of CC can be con-

tinued only if there is sufficient expression of interest by readers. Many readers will prefer to use their local libraries or book dealers. But during this experiment it will be greatly appreciated if you will let us know that this alternative has been taken. Just indicate that choice on the coupon.

I might have mentioned at the outset that surveys of *CC* readers have shown a strong desire for "book" coverage. I myself have always felt that the individual bound volume, whether "hardcover" or paperback, provides a sometimes welcome freedom from the

framework of the established journal apparatus. Indeed, the origins of many new journals can be traced to "one-shot" volumes that blossomed into a series. Eventually such series may either be incorporated into an extant journal, or form the basis of a new one. These precursors are often useful guides in evaluating new journals when they do appear.

It is perhaps unfortunate that we have taken so long to accommodate the non-journal in *CC*. Now that we have, we hope that readers will agree with us that "better late than never."