

**From *Current Comments*[®] to *Citation
Comments*: Continuing a 31-Year Series of
Current Contents[®] Essays with a New Focus**

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As of January 1, 1994, *Current Comments*[®] essays will be re-titled *Citation Comments* to reflect a new focus on the variety of applications of citation data. Three new monthly editorial features will also be introduced: *Research Trends... A Performance Report*, *Interviews in Science*, and *Hot Papers in Research*. These new features will replace *Citation Classics*[®] and *ISI Press Digest*.

**New Editorial Features in *Current
Contents*[®]**

This will be my last *Current Contents*[®] (*CC*[®]) essay under the rubric *Current Comments*[®]. As of January 1, 1994, I will be writing a brief monthly column titled *Citation Comments*, which will focus primarily on the practical applications of the Institute for Scientific Information[®]'s (*ISI*[®]) citation databases. These applications will range from traditional information retrieval to innovative uses in science evaluation, policy, management, administration, etc.

Other new monthly *CC* editorial features will be introduced in 1994. One is *Research Trends... A Performance Report*, current citation analyses from *Science Watch*[®], *ISI*'s monthly newsletter reporting on quantitative indicators of scientific performance. In addition, *CC* will also feature *Interviews in Science*, reprints of *Science Watch*'s interviews with prominent researchers. Each edition of *CC* will also feature its own *Hot Papers in Research* listing, identifying current papers that have already achieved high citation impact and including experts' commentaries. These four new features will appear in monthly rotation, and replace *Citation Classics*[®] and *ISI Press Digest*.

The *CC* editorial changes are related to my evolving role at *ISI*. As of January 1, 1994, I will become Chairman Emeritus of the Institute for Scientific Information, the company I founded in the 1950s. As Chair-

man Emeritus, I shall continue to maintain an office here at 3501 Market Street with a limited staff to support my role as consultant and member of *ISI*'s Advisory Board.

This transition was contemplated five years ago when I formed a partnership with publisher Theodore Cross and the JPT Company of New York. In 1992 all the assets of JPT and *ISI* were acquired by the Thomson Company, a public corporation based in Toronto, Canada. Ken Thomson is the principal shareholder of The Thomson Group, a multinational conglomerate with over 100 separately operating information companies, directed by Michael Brown. It includes such entities as Derwent Publications Ltd., Gale Research, Medical Economics, etc.

**Reminiscences on *ISI*'s History and
Development**

In its earliest days, *ISI* was just a consultancy. Then in 1955, the firm was incorporated in New Jersey as Documentation, Inc., which became Eugene Garfield Associates that same year. My first employee, Beverly Bartolomeo, came to work in 1958 and has remained ever since.¹ We recently celebrated her 35th anniversary with *ISI*, and 1994 is the 40th anniversary of my arrival in Philadelphia from New York.

I often encounter readers of *CC* who remember our first issues back in 1958. Before that, however, I had created what was

... This topic also covered and other applications of citation technology were reviewed in my book, *Citation Indexing*, published by Wiley in 1979 and reprinted by ISI Press® in 1983.^{11,12}

... age when we launched *Sci-Mate* in the late 1970s.¹⁶ In the 1980s we entered the age of the CD-ROM and diskette with the *Science Citation Index®/Compact Disc Edi-*

tion and *Current Contents on Diskette*[®] 17,18

These technologies have catapulted ISI[®] into the electronic era involving desktop access, local area networks, etc. It's been gratifying to see ISI's electronic products welcomed so enthusiastically by the scientific and library communities. I foresee even closer integration of CC[®] products with ISI's unique capabilities in citation indexing as exemplified by the *Science Citation Index* (SCI[®]), the *Social Sciences Citation Index*[®], and the *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*[®]. I shall be commenting on some of these developments in my monthly column in CC.

This essay closes out a period of my life which has witnessed the increasing growth and influence of CC and the SCI in shaping the worldwide conduct of research and education. My greatest gratification has been the continuing satisfaction

of our readers as indicated by their renewals over the past 35 years. And it is a continuing pleasure to read their responses to our periodic solicitations known at ISI as POYMs: "Piece of Your Mind" questionnaires.

The increasing sophistication in computer hardware and software for current awareness and information retrieval makes it difficult to recall there was a time when researchers could remain ignorant of relevant work going on in other labs. However, each new generation of advances requires changes and new approaches to the eternal problem of information overload. There seems to be some form of uncertainty principle involved here. Whatever that principle may be, it is evident there is a fundamental, ever-present need to educate new generations of scientists and scholars in adopting new tools for dealing with information.

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