

Current Comments

Introducing *ISI/ISTP&B*
(*Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings & Books*)—
Online Access to the Conference Literature
and Multi-Authored Books

Number 34

August 24, 1981

Four years ago, ISI® introduced the *Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings*® (*ISTP*®).¹ *ISTP* covers the conference (proceedings) literature of agriculture, biology, engineering and applied sciences, physical and chemical sciences, and life and clinical sciences. *ISTP* is published monthly and in semi-annual cumulations. In 1982, *ISTP* will be available in annual cumulations. Even though other organizations already published indexes to this literature, we felt *ISTP* offered a unique and improved service. We went a crucial step further than our competitors by indexing the *individual papers* contained in published proceedings.

Figure 1 provides an example of how a proceedings document is presented in the Contents of Proceedings section of the 1980 *ISTP*. In addition, *ISTP* provides a variety of other entry points to this literature. You can locate relevant articles through the conference category index, *Permuterm*® *Subject Index*, meeting location index, sponsor index, author/editor index, and corporate index. Figure 2 shows part of the conference category index as it appears in the 1980 *ISTP*.

These features give the user bibliographic control over a literature that was notoriously difficult to search and acquire. Conference proceedings may take the form of separately published books or monographs, or may become single issues in journals. The problem faced mainly by librarians is how to find this material, or how to verify citations to it. The comments of a reference librarian at a major medical school who

prefers to remain anonymous are typical. "We handle all the interlibrary borrowing for our people, and they give us very sketchy information. They may remember that a conference on DNA was held in Vladivostok sometime in the last three years. We get a *lot* of that! So, we use *ISTP* to see if a meeting's proceedings has been published, where the meeting took place, and what it was called." The reference librarian at a leading technology institution adds, "We also use *ISTP* for selection. Students and researchers go through *ISTP* and come up with something we happened to miss in acquisitions, and then we'll order it."

We believed *ISTP* would be a valuable tool for reference librarians in academia, government, and industry. But the response from industry users, in particular, exceeded our expectations. Part of the reason for this can be found in *ISTP*'s coverage. About a third of the entries in *ISTP* covers engineering and technology. Another third covers the life sciences. The physical and chemical sciences account for about 20 percent. The rest is devoted to clinical practice, agriculture, biology, and the environmental sciences. The stress on engineering and technology in *ISTP* is of course especially important to industry. The reason for it is simply that the conference literature represents a much greater percentage of the literature used by researchers in such fields. Furthermore, the emphasis on timeliness in industry makes *ISTP* important.

But industrial libraries use *ISTP* for the same basic reasons as university

Figure 1: Example of proceedings document indexed in the Contents of Proceedings section of the July-December cumulation of the 1980 *Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings*[®] (*ISTP*[®]).

P07086

1979 MINING INDUSTRY TECHNICAL CONF, Sheraton Airport Inn, Pittsburgh, PA, Jun 7-8, 1979.

Sponsors: IEEE, Ind Applicat Soc, Comm Mtn Ind/ IEEE, Ind Applicat Soc, Pittsburgh Chapter

CONFERENCE RECORD : 1979 MINING INDUSTRY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
IEEE

1 E E E, New York, 1979, 158 pp., 12 chaps., \$32.00 hardbound, LC # 79-87997
1 E E E SERVICE CENTER 445 HOES LANE PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854

MINIMUM ARCING FAULT LEVELS ON DC TRAILING CABLES <i>M.M. Hassan</i>	
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libraries. A reference librarian at a major communications research laboratory told us, "We use *ISTP* mostly for verifying papers. People usually come in with only an author or paper title, but they don't know the conference name. Even when the conference name is known, few services list the names of individual authors and titles of individual papers. Mainly, we use *ISTP* to find out if an author really did present a paper at a conference." This explains the need for timeliness because such questions arise in the period *after* the meeting was held.

Of course, most users also rely on *ISTP* for subject searching: "We use *ISTP* for subject identification to find out what's going on, and what's being published, in a particular area. We also use *ISTP* to see if a particular conference has indeed been published. Based on the types of titles listed in the contents section of *ISTP*, we decide whether or not to acquire it."

In the past, there has been some overlap in coverage between *ISTP* and *Sci-*

ence Citation Index[®] (*SCI*[®]). *SCI* has included "non-journal" material—proceedings, monographs, and multi-authored books—since 1977. About 40 percent of this material also appeared in *ISTP*. Overall, *SCI* indexed an annual average of about 1,200 non-journal source volumes containing nearly 33,000 papers. *ISTP* has indexed an annual average of about 3,000 proceedings including some 100,000 papers per year since 1978. While this may appear redundant, *SCI* was the only place you could search the proceedings literature through citation indexing—*ISTP* does not include a citation index. Used together, *SCI* and *ISTP* offered versatile and comprehensive access to conference publications. And it is only in *SCI* that you can determine whether a particular conference paper has been cited.

Almost as soon as we introduced *ISTP*, industrial users encouraged us to provide online access to the *ISTP* data base. This didn't surprise us. Industry accounts for over 60 percent of the use

Figure 2: Example of entries listed under the conference category index, July-December 1980 *ISTP*[®].

CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING TECHNOLOGY	PROC #	CYTOLOGY & HISTOLOGY <i>CONTINUED</i>	PROC #
<i>CONTINUED</i>			
NATIONAL CONF ON REGULATORY ASPECTS OF BUILDING REHABILITATION	P06963	WORKSHOP ON ERYTHROPOIESIS AND DIFFERENTIATION IN FRIEND LEUKEMIA CELLS	P06984
2ND WORKSHOP ON QUALITY HOUSING ENVIRONMENT FOR RURAL LOW INCOME FAMILIES	P07088	ROUND TABLE ON THE REGULATION OF THE INITIATION OF DNA SYNTHESIS	P06994
1980 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOC OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING AND AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS	P07124	SYMP ON THE ASSESSMENT OF QUANTITATIVE HISTOCHEMICAL TECHNIQUES	P07116
INTERNATIONAL CONF ON CONCRETE SLABS	P07133	SYMP ON GROWTH REGULATION BY ION FLUXES	P07190
58TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD	P07353	ALFRED BENZON SYMP ON MEMBRANE TRANSPORT IN ERYTHROCYTES	P07233
CONF ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ROLLED ASPHALT ROAD SURFACINGS	P07379	SYMP ON CELL SURFACE GLYCOLIPIDS HELD AT THE 178TH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOC	P07390
CONF ON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SOLAR HOUSING	P07454	WORKSHOP ON ELECTRON MICROSCOPICAL IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY AND THE INTRACELLULAR LOCALISATION OF MACROMOLECULES. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07522
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ADMIXTURES HELD AT CIBO CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL 1980	P07624	1980 SPRING MEETING OF THE BRITISH SOC FOR CELL BIOLOGY. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07551
SYMP ON SPRAYED CONCRETE HELD AT CIBO CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL 1980	P07625	9TH STEENBOCK SYMP ON RIBOSOMES STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND GENETICS	P07703
SYMP ON FIBROUS CONCRETE HELD AT CIBO CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL 1980	P07626	27TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOC OF CYTOLOGY. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07885
2ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE HELD AT CIBO CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL 1980	P07627	SATELLITE SYMP ON MEMBRANE FLUIDITY HELD AT THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIOCHEMISTRY	P08087
CONF ON NEW APPROACHES TO EVALUATING FIRESAFETY IN BUILDINGS	P07917		
SEMINAR ON CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR AIR TIGHTNESS	P07965		
3RD ANNUAL NBS NATIONAL CONF OF STATES ON BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS JOINT CONF	P08045		
CONF ON AIR CONDITIONING AND ENERGY CONSERVATION	P08280	DENTISTRY & ODONTOLOGY	
16TH WORLD ROAD CONF OF THE ASSOC-INTERNATIONALE PERMANENTE-DES CONGRES-DE LA ROUTE	P08287	CONF ON ETHICAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DENTAL CARIES RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07516
7TH PLYWOOD CLINIC	P08330	SYMP ON PROMOTING THE USE OF FLUORIDES IN COMMUNITIES: PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07575
9TH SAWMILL CLINIC	P08331	COLLOQUIUM ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF DENTIFRICES TO ORAL HEALTH. PAPERS PRESENTED	P08550
NORTH AMERICAN SAWMILL AND PANEL CLINIC	P08332		
INTERNATIONAL CONF ON ENERGY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION RELATED TO BUILT ENVIRONMENT	P08395		
CRYSTALLOGRAPHY		DERMATOLOGY & VENEREAL DISEASES	
32ND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE SOC-DE-CHIMIE-PHYSIQUE	P07685	MYCOLOGY SYMP HELD AT THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MICROBIOLOGY	P06895
2ND HUNGARIAN CONF ON CRYSTAL GROWTH HCCG-2 WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07880	1980 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07845
SYMP ON STRUCTURE AND BONDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN QUANTUM CHEMISTRY AND CRYSTALLOGRAPHY	P07966	SYMP ON THERAPY OF EXTERNAL ACNE VULGARIS. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07855
SESSIONS ON CRYSTALLIZATION HELD AT THE 71ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AICHE	P07988	2ND WORKSHOP ON IMMUNE MECHANISMS IN CUTANEOUS DISORDERS. PAPERS PRESENTED	P07896
SESSION ON CRYSTALLIZATION HELD AT THE 84TH NATIONAL MEETING OF THE AICHE	P07988	INTERNATIONAL SYMP ON PERCUTANEOUS ABSORPTION OF STEROIDS	P08335
CONF ON LIQUID CRYSTALS OF ONE- AND TWO-DIMENSIONAL ORDER AND APPLICATIONS	P08026	PSYCHOLOGY AND SKIN 21ST COLLOQUIUM OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE SOC OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY	P08399
7TH SYMP ON INDUSTRIAL CRYSTALLIZATION	P08362	INTERNATIONAL SYMP ON ATOPIC DERMATITIS. PAPERS PRESENTED	P08546
SYMP ON ACCURACY IN POWDER DIFFRACTION	P08422		

of *SCISEARCH*[®], the online counterpart to the printed *SCI*. Industrial users are clearly more conscious of the labor costs involved in manual searches.

While academic use of online facilities is increasing, it is not generally used by students. And the time it takes a student to copy references from an index is not

the most pressing concern of the university library staff!

In principle, we were happy to offer online access to *ISTP*. But online enthusiasts don't seem to realize that very few online data bases are self-supporting. That is, they usually are derived from, and supported by, printed products. We decided to put *ISTP* online only after it had stood on its own as a printed index. Happily, this occurred after a relatively short time.

During this time, an extensive market survey indicated a strong demand for expanded access to multi-authored books as well as the proceedings literature. For reasons similar to those which apply to conference proceedings, multi-authored books present a significant verification and location problem. Although the printed *SCI* has indexed individual chapters of thousands of multi-authored books since 1977, these data were never included in *SCI-SEARCH*. Furthermore, the coverage was not comprehensive, though it did include the most-cited books which appeared in series. Much of this serial literature differs more in form than in content.

We did a detailed study of the costs to produce a more comprehensive printed *Index to Scientific Books*. We also conducted some market research. We concluded that production costs for a printed product would be prohibitive under present market circumstances. Since the proceedings literature and books are different forms of multi-authored monographs, we decided to create a single, comprehensive online data base—*Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings & Books (ISI/ISTP&B™)*. *ISI/ISTP&B* will go online this summer, and can be accessed through the ISI Search Network via Telenet. The online charge is \$.85 per minute for subscribers to *ISTP*. Non-subscribers also can use *ISI/ISTP&B*, at a charge of \$1.70 per minute.

ISI/ISTP&B will include every paper or chapter appearing in the printed *ISTP*—more than 350,000 papers or

chapters from proceedings (books and journals) published from 1978 to the present. In addition, more than 30,000 chapters from 2,000 multi-authored books covered exclusively in *SCI* during the same time period are included.

So *ISI/ISTP&B* users have access to over 400,000 items because *each article and chapter* in proceedings publications and scientific books is indexed separately. The file is updated every month, upon publication of the monthly issue of *ISTP*. About 8,000 items from 300 new proceedings and books are added each month. The maximum time lag between our receipt of the proceedings and accessibility online is two months, but the average will be about six weeks. The file can be updated weekly or even daily after increased use justifies such additional costs.

ISI/ISTP&B's coverage of scientific and technical fields will initially be similar to *ISTP*'s—about 30 percent each for engineering and life sciences, and the rest as described earlier. But these percentages may vary as we increase coverage of multi-authored books. Keep in mind that except for the most prominent books in series, starting in 1982 the printed *SCI* will no longer cover such material.

Like *ISTP*, *ISI/ISTP&B* offers many entry points for online searching. Figure 3 lists the methods by which users can search the file. Suppose you want to locate papers from a conference on the biochemistry of oxygen, but you can't recall exactly when it was held, who sponsored it, or what it was called. Turn on your terminal, dial up the ISI Search Network through Telenet, and ask for *ISTPB*. Now you would simply key in *CN=OXYGEN. Figure 4 provides an example of one record in the *ISI/ISTP&B* file with the word "oxygen" appearing in the conference name.

On the other hand, if you know that B.A. Wittenberg presented a paper at this conference, you would key in *AU=WITTENBERG B A. Figure 5 shows how this item is presented to the online users. Note that the first six lines

Figure 3: Online entry points to *Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings & Books (ISI/ISTP&B™)* data base.

PREFIX	FIELD NAME
AN	ACCESSION NUMBER
AL	SOURCE AUTHOR
BN	CURRENT BOOK CONTENTS NUMBER
BT	BOOK TITLE
CC	CATEGORY CODE
CD	CONFERENCE DATE
CL	CONFERENCE LOCATION
CN	CONFERENCE TITLE
CS	CORPORATE SOURCE (SOURCE AUTHOR'S AFFILIATION)
DT	DOCUMENT TYPE
ED	EDITOR
EA	LANGUAGE
ON	OATS NUMBER
PN	PUBLISHER'S NAME
SO	SOURCE JOURNAL
SS	SPONSOR
ST	SERIES TITLE
TI	SOURCE ARTICLE TITLE (DEFAULT)
YR	PUBLICATION YEAR

Figure 4: Example of proceedings book item retrieved from *ISI/ISTP&B™* data base by conference name search.

AN ST0008463
 CN SYMP ON THE BIOCHEMICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS OF OXYGEN
 CL COLORADO STATE UNIV, PINGREE PK, CO
 CD 78/9/24-29
 SS COLORADO STATE UNIV, DEPT BIOCHEM
 BT BIOCHEMICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS OF OXYGEN
 YR 79
 ED CAUGHEY WS
 PN ACADEMIC PRESS (NEW YORK) 865 PP, 51 CHAPS, US\$45.00 HBD, LC 79-23522, ISBN 0-12-164380-8, AVAILABLE FROM ACADEMIC PRESS 111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10003
 BN B077X
 PR 05488
 CC UM CQ

of this entry deal with his specific paper. The rest of the information is identical to that in Figure 4.

Items retrieved from the *ISI/ISTP&B* file will include all the bibliographic information needed to acquire them from the publisher or through interlibrary loan. Every item will include article/chapter title, all authors' names, the first author's address, page numbers, document type, and language. In addition, journal items will include journal

Figure 5: Example of proceedings book item retrieved from *ISI/ISTP&B™* data base by author name search.

AN ST0008467
 TI MYOGLOBIN IN ISOLATED ADULT HEART-CELLS
 LA ENGLISH
 DT ARTICLE
 AU WITTENBERG BA
 CS ALBERT EINSTEIN COLL MED, DEPT PHYSIOL, NEW YORK, NY
 CN SYMP ON THE BIOCHEMICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS OF OXYGEN
 CL COLORADO STATE UNIV, PINGREE PK, CO
 CD 78/9/24-29
 SS COLORADO STATE UNIV, DEPT BIOCHEM
 BT BIOCHEMICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS OF OXYGEN, PP35-51
 YR 79
 ED CAUGHEY WS
 PN ACADEMIC PRESS (NEW YORK) 865 PP, 51 CHAPS, US\$45.00 HBD, LC 79-23522, ISBN 0-12-164380-8, AVAILABLE FROM ACADEMIC PRESS 111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10003
 BN B077X
 PR 05488
 CC UM CQ

title, volume, and issue. Books will also list title and subtitle, series title, and the names of editors. Proceedings volumes will include conference title, location, date, and sponsors.

As with all other ISI online data bases like *ISI/BIOMED™* and *ISI/Compu-Math™*, *ISI/ISTP&B* can be used as a computerized current awareness service as well as for retrospective searching. Publishers of books will increasingly realize the importance of such selective dissemination techniques as microcomputers become standard lab equipment. We have great expectations for *ISI/ISTP&B* online because it was developed in response to the demands of many clients. It remains to be seen whether they are a small, vociferous minority or the wave of the future. For more information on *ISI/ISTP&B*, you can phone ISI toll-free at (800) 523-1850, extension 1418. Pennsylvania residents can call collect at (215) 386-0100, extension 1418. European users can call ISI's office in Uxbridge, England, at 44/895-30085. ©1981 ISI

REFERENCE

1. **Garfield E.** ISI's new *Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings™* lets you know what went on at a conference even if you stayed at home. *Current Contents* (40):5-10, 3 October 1977.*

*Reprinted in: **Garfield E.** *Essays of an information scientist*. Philadelphia: ISI Press, 1980. 3 vols.