

# INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
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Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

I am enclosing my new proposal to NSF. This is the first submission so there certainly is time for revisions that may result from suggestions by advisory committee members. I also intend to submit the proposal to the NIH before their July 1st, 1960 deadline. However, that would mean no decision until December 1960. The NSF could move much faster if it so desires. No matter what I say in this proposal, of course, is not as important as what they really want to do. Adkinson or Gray of the NSF's Office of Science Information Service can push this through if they really want to investigate citation indexes. A call to either of these fellows would not hurt. The last time you said something to somebody about citation indexes things started to happen.

I got a letter from Louis Fields of Starling Corp. He writes "While my interest in your device can only be academic at this point, I must confess I do not completely understand the operation or function of this equipment from the literature supplied. I would, however, be interested in learning more about what appears to be a very unusual and valuable device."

I'm not sure that he can really make the conclusion he does in view of the previous sentence, but I will write a more detailed explanation.

There is a distinct chance that the INDEX CHEMICUS may not come off before 1961 on account of very poor response by the chemical industry. We are waiting for another month to see full results of our promotion.

I know that you would rather we pushed the comprehensive approach to SCI, but I know how picayune those fellows at NSF are. I was just going through GENETICS and see how important it is that we really do the whole darned kit and kaboodle, but the main thing is to get some money. Later we can switch over, from the selective to the comprehensive approach. Gene

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Proposal