

MAR 23 1973



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March 21, 1973

Dr. Orio Ciferri  
Istituto di Genetica  
Universita di Pavia  
via Sant' Epifanio, 14  
27100 Pavia, Italy

Dear Professor Ciferri:

Dr. Lederberg has sent me your letter to him of March 8, 1973, concerning Plant Science Letters. I regret that you did not write to me personally before but I am very glad to learn of Josh's interest in this problem.

With few exceptions, I do not recall a journal about which I have had more discussions in a long time. When I was in Strasbourg last fall I explained ISI's problems in great detail to Professor Weil.

Since I am at home now recovering from the flu, I want to get off a quick note to you assuring you that the matter is being attended to from our side. But your letter is the first time I have heard that Elsevier is willing to subsidize the cost of covering your journal in Current Contents/Life Sciences and thereby in the Science Citation Index. I do recall that we had said we would cover the journal in Current Contents/Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences but that may be contingent upon budgetary or other considerations. In order to add it we may have to drop some other journal.

Let me make it clear that journal selection in CC is not conditioned by payment of a fee. But then we must select those journals of widest interest to our readers.

Cordially yours,

Eugene Garfield  
President

EG/am  
cc: Dr. J. Lederberg

P.S. I have just learned that the problem is one involving the signing by Elsevier of a standard copyright agreement and the renegotiation of existing obligations on our part to provide their journal editors

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exchange complimentary subscriptions to Current Contents. We can no longer afford the latter and we need the protection of the copyright agreement, which we have obtained from Academic, Blackwell, etc.

If the agreement is signed we intend to cover six Elsevier journals, including yours, in Current Contents/Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences. If your journal is to be covered in Current Contents/Life Sciences this year and next, then we must have the payment of \$10 per article to cover the indexing and listing costs involved. No one from Elsevier has indicated to us that this fee will be paid. And, as I have said, we are still awaiting their further word on the agreement. I suggest you telephone someone at the top in Elsevier to see what else can be done to expedite the matter.

When dealing with such a large publisher it is impossible to make individual ad hoc decisions about journals and I am sorry if you feel you are caught in the crunch!