

Time Lapse Between the Appearance of Citations in *Chemical Titles* and *Chemical Abstracts*

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The IITRI Computer Search Center is an information center concerned with providing timely information services to users in industry, academia, and government agencies via machine-readable data bases. One of the results of a market survey we conducted in 1970 was the observation that a number of survey contacts indicated they would be reluctant to discontinue searching *Chemical Titles* (CT) tapes in favor of *Chemical Abstracts Condensates* (CAC). CT tapes are issued biweekly and include citations from approximately 700 core journals in chemistry. On the other hand, CAC is issued weekly and includes citations to all of the abstracts contained in *Chemical Abstracts* (CA)—currently some 320,000 citations per year. Respondants to our market survey said they thought there was a significant time difference between the appearance of a citation in CT and its appearance in CAC. Although CAC is all-inclusive and we had been searching it for two years, we considered the possibility of adding CT as one of the data bases from

nals, and that a significant contribution to the quoted average time span between publication of primary journal articles and appearance of corresponding citations in CAC is due to the foreign articles which require translation.

Inasmuch as we were unable to locate quickly any definitive data regarding the time differential, we did a spot check for selected author groupings in CT, Sept. 20, 1971, and checked the corresponding citations in issues of CA as they appeared.

We checked the CA issues 7 weeks prior to Sept. 20, and 22 weeks following Sept. 20, and found that although 3% of the citations appeared in CA as much as 3 weeks prior to CT the majority of the citations did not appear in CA until 6–7 weeks later. On a cumulative basis considering CA volume 75, issue 12, as corresponding with CT Sept. 20, 1971, the following data indicate lapse times for 500 citations.

A second check using a different group of authors yielded similar results.

CA Issue Number	Cumulative % Citations Located
75: 5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	3
10	3
(corresponding issue to CT Sept. 20, 1971) 11	3
12	3
13	5
14	6
15	6
16	26
17	43
18	60 ← majority of citations appeared 6 weeks later in CA than in CT
19	68
20	75
21	81
22	83
23	93
24	94
25	96
26	96
76: 1	97
2	97
3	98
4	99
5	99
6	99
7	99
8	99

CA Issue Number	Cumulative % Citations Located
75: 5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	1
10	1
(corresponding issue to CT Sept. 20, 1971) 11	1
12	2
13	3
14	4
15	4
16	17
17	31
18	47
19	53 ← majority of citations appeared 7 weeks later in CA than CT.
20	66
21	73
22	79
23	85
24	87
25	89
26	91
76: 1	94
2	94
3	96
4	96
5	96
6	96
7	96
8	96

which we would sell SDI services. When we broached this to CAS it was suggested that CT would probably not provide a significant time lead over CAC except for ACS jour-

Although this check was quite limited it did verify the contention that citations appear in CT significantly earlier than in CA. Apparently efforts are continuing at CAS to reduce the time lag, but it appears that as late as 1971 the time differential is significant enough to justify use of CT tapes as an adjunct to a full CA or Condensates service.

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