—seem to be accepted without question from the picture agencies, or dashed off by members of the junior editorial staff who may have had a freshman course in science or who may recall a little science from their high school days.

Isaac Asimov's *Intelligent Man's Guide to Science*, for example, was embellished by sheafs of photographs placed with no reference to the text, and with captions that seemed in some cases to be the result of a layman's misreading misinformation. *Life* generally goes to more trouble than this, with the results Throckmorton describes.

Ideally, perhaps, an author should insist on a contract which gives him the right to approve every detail of *his* book. This is not very practical, however, either for the publisher—who has had bitter experiences with hair-splitters who insist on adding footnotes to footnotes or changing 20th century back to 19th century style—or for the writer. Supermarket illustrations are easier for the publisher to get and use than struggling with the author over the rights to pictures that may illustrate well enough but be copyrighted by a competitor.

If reviewers took extra pains to separate the sins of the author from those of his publisher when it is reasonably evident who is to blame, perhaps publishers would eventually mend their ways.

P. SCHUYLER MILLER

Fisher Scientific Company, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania

Keeping up with Current Research: Science Information Exchange

The Science Information Exchange (formerly Bio-Sciences Information Exchange) was originally established in 1950 to help federal research directors and administrators quickly exchange up-to-date information on their current research activities. This service has expanded so that it now serves the entire scientific community. A staff of more than 30 scientists and specialists in life and physical sciences review, classify, and index the resumés of more than 50,000 projects that are annually registered in the Exchange. To cover the many multi-disciplinary relationships, now so evident in modern research, more than 18,000 reference points are used.

In order to provide comprehensive services to the scientific community, the Exchange receives resumés of current research projects on a voluntary basis from all available sources. Notice of new work comes to hand long before it may appear in normal publication channels, and any research scientist or engineer, who is associated with a research institution, foundation, or laboratory may request and receive, without charge, up-to-date information on who is currently working on a specified topic, problem, or project. Research resumés are accepted and released only under the condition that they will not be used for publication or publication reference without the express permission of the principal investigator.

The Exchange is especially organized to provide reference on detailed technical points. It also provides information covering broader fields and topics of basic and applied research, but it should be borne in mind that broad subject fields are difficult to define, especially in terms of their related and interdisciplinary aspects, and usually result in very large and unwieldy numbers of project records. For instance, all cancer research now in the S.I.E. files would include about 6500 records.

At present, the Exchange collection is fairly comprehensive in the life sciences including almost 90 percent of all the basic and applied research sponsored or conducted by the Federal agencies. In addition, more than 100 non-government foundations, universities, and state and city governments actively cooperate in furnishing records of their programs, and an annual growth rate of about 20 percent is being maintained.

Registration of basic and applied research in physical sciences began this year and is now being developed as fast as current research records can be identified and secured. In such areas as chemistry, materials, electronics, and earth sciences, useful information can be obtained already, even if not complete or comprehensive at this point. However, if the Exchange can furnish even a few records of new research not yet known to the scientist or engineer, it will be an increasingly useful service to the scientific community.

MONROE E. FREEMAN

DAVID F. HERSEY

Science Information Exchange, Smithsonian Institution, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington 9, D.C.