

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Board of Directors

PAUL B. SEARS, *President*
LAURENCE H. SNYDER, *President Elect*
GEORGE W. BEADLE, *Retiring President*
WALLACE R. BRODE
PAUL M. GROSS
GEORGE R. HARRISON
MARK H. INGRAHAM
PAUL E. KLOPSTEG
CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE
MARGARET MEAD
THOMAS PARK
PAUL A. SCHERER, *Treasurer*
DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

GRAHAM DUSHANE, *Editor*

CHARLOTTE V. MEETING, *Assistant Editor*

Editorial Board

MARK H. ADAMS	KARL LARK-HOROVITZ
WALLACE R. BRODE	EDWIN M. LERNER
BENTLEY GLASS	WILLIAM L. STRAUS, JR.

Editorial Staff

SARAH S. DEES, OLIVER W. HEATWOLE, YUKIE KOZAI, JEAN MCCARTHY, ELIZABETH MCGOVERN, ELLEN E. MURPHY, ROBERT V. ORMES, BETHSABE PEDERSEN, MADELINE SCHNEIDER, JOSEPH TURNER, JACQUELYN VOLLMER, LENORE I. YODER

EARL J. SCHERAGO, *Advertising Representative*

SCIENCE founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. Entered at the Lancaster, Pa., Post Office as second class matter under the Act of 3 March 1879.

SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and in the *Industrial Arts Index*.

Editorial and personnel-placement correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, book reviews, and illustrations, see *Science* 123, 714 (27 Apr. 1956).

Display-advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 604, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address: The notification should reach us 4 weeks in advance. If possible, please furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscriptions: \$7.50; foreign postage, \$1; Canadian postage, 50¢. Single copies, 25¢. Special rates to members of the AAAS. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.

The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY.



Scientific Information in the U.S.S.R.

All scientifically advanced countries have to cope with the problem of distributing the enormous world-output of scientific and technical information to their own research workers and technicians. That more international cooperation in handling information might be helpful is recognized by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and the American Institute of Documentation in their sponsorship of the 1958 International Conference on Scientific Information.

The international conference itself is still a long way off, but in the meantime it may be of interest to discuss the way information is handled in the Soviet Union. D. Yu. Panov, who was here to help plan the conference, is the director of the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Before returning to the Soviet Union, Panov described the organization and activities of his institute in a talk at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington on 19 September.

The institute, which was established 3 years ago, has 1800 staff members and publishes 13 abstracting journals, which annually contain about 400,000 abstracts from some 10,000 journals. All journals are received by the institute and sent to appropriate sections where the individual papers are classified. If only one copy of a journal is available, it is photographed or taken apart so that appropriate papers can be sent to the editors of the proper abstracting journals. The editors then assign the papers to the 13,000 professional scientists and engineers who prepare the abstracts. Most of the abstractors are members of other specialized institutes or are employed in industry.

Panov pointed out one special advantage of the centralized operation of abstracting services. Selection of papers for abstracts in *Chemical Abstracts* in the U.S. involves search through some 6000 journals, relatively few of which are exclusively devoted to chemistry. The central operation in the Soviet Union permits classification of the chemical and nonchemical papers at the same time. Thus, for example, many papers in biology will be found in journals surveyed for chemical papers. By surveying a comparatively small number of additional journals, it is possible to obtain all of the papers needed for the preparation of biological abstracts as well.

The preparation of abstracts is, in the Soviet Union, as it is elsewhere, a time-consuming process. To meet the needs of industry for up-to-date information, the institute publishes 20 series of "express" journals in the fields of mining, metallurgy, forging, and so on. These publish abstracts of articles within 2 to 3 weeks after receipt.

Among other additional activities, the institute compiles technical foreign language dictionaries (Russian-English, English-Russian, Chinese-Russian, Swedish-Russian, and so on) and is doing work on the mechanical search for information and mechanical translation. The institute also provides another service that must be of considerable help to scientists. It will, upon request, supply any recipient of the abstracts with a complete translation of any paper in any language.

American and other non-Soviet scientists uniformly report, sometimes with some expression of astonishment, that Soviet scientists are very much up-to-date in their information about scientific and technical work in other countries. There are no longer any grounds for astonishment.—G. DUS.