

## **Century of Science delivers a century of groundbreaking research**

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*With the launch of Century of Science in early 2005, Web of Science coverage will expand dramatically. The addition of bibliographic information covering older, core scientific literature published 1900-1944 will enable Web of Science users to access over 750,000 fully indexed journal articles from more than 200 scientific journals published in the first half of the twentieth century.*

The new *Century of Science* backfiles initiative brings this wealth of historical research data to *Web of Science* via *ISI Web of Knowledge*. Complete data includes full bibliographic data, cited reference data, navigation, and links to the full text.

### **Web of Science backfiles data: the foundation for today's knowledge**

In the early years of the twentieth century, Marie Curie discovered the radioactive elements polonium and radium and provided the key to a basic change in the way we study matter and energy ... Einstein's theories of relativity turned classical physics on its head ... Frederick Banting and Charles Best created a pancreatic extract, insulin... Sir Alexander Fleming discovered that the mold *Penicilium notatum* destroyed the bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus* ....

These are just a few of the discoveries from the early years of the twentieth century that caused fundamental shifts in scientific understanding and ushered in new eras of scientific development. But other, less heralded achievements from this era also continue to have a deep impact on research. Until recently, many of the published records of these achievements have been buried in storehouses or restricted collections — accessible to few if any researchers.

### **Century of Science – taking information “lost” for years and making it available**

The *Century of Science* project will make hundreds of thousands of older scientific journal items available in one place and on one platform for the first time. Now, valuable research information dating back to 1900 will be accessible — taken from scattered archives and rare book collections and turned into fully indexed, accessible data available for global circulation via *ISI Web of Knowledge*.

Thomson Scientific editorial staff began by using citation data to identify the most influential, important and useful articles and journals from the years 1900-1944. Subject editors reviewed the selections to ensure that journal items would be included for all of the important, landmark discoveries from the early part of the twentieth century. The next step involved locating the journals. It was a huge challenge to find sets of journals that had been removed from library shelves decades earlier.

### **Partners help Thomson Scientific turn a dream into reality**

The collections were located in renowned libraries' archives, professional associations' historical files, and publishers' archives. The information professionals that helped us discover these records enthusiastically partnered with Thomson Scientific to retrieve, compile, and disseminate this massive amount of information. They recognized the importance of this initiative to contemporary scholarship, and their efforts were key to the success of this significant undertaking.

### **The benefits of extended backfiles**

Here are just some of the benefits that researchers, historians of science, librarians, teachers, and students will enjoy with access to these newly available backfiles:

- Researchers will be able to return to landmark studies of the past for technical details and historical perspective; to learn how and when problems were first encountered and how they were dealt with; and for a fresh perspective
- When a hot topic emerges in an established field and new information changes a field's focus of research, today's researchers will be able to gain new insights and immediate data from work done in the past
- Backfiles reveal how past ideas and techniques have become the basis for today's standards; showing how past work forms the context of today's knowledge.

This will be the first time this seminal, influential information is available on a widespread basis to scholars, researchers, librarians, and students. The first time they will be able to examine, search, and link this data and integrate it fully into their current research efforts. More information will be available soon as the early 2005 launch date for *Century of Science* approaches.