
CCOD (Current Content On Diskette): AN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL TOOL

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1. Introduction

Tremendous progress in various fields of science and technology have resulted into what is popularly known as information explosion. A professional who wants to keep himself abreast with the latest developments in his field/subject of specialization or the area of his interest looks for the latest information through various information sources, which takes bulk of a scientist's scanning time usually spent on current material which are the most read. The current contents provide most current bibliographic data from large number of Science, Technology, Social Science, Life Sciences disciplines.

It is almost impossible to get relevant information immediately with the manual methods of operations. More over, a small part of information documents is utilized, because scientists want to use only that information which can be retrieved quickly and with utmost ease. In order to provide prompt and relevant information services to the users, computers are being used in the library due to their fast speed, accuracy and mass data storage capability.

The current contents on Diskette (CCOD) is an information database for scientific researchers that provides weekly access to the latest contents listings from current issues of the most important and leading scientific journals. It is a product of Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), Philadelphia. Through special arrangement with the Journal Publishers, ISI receives journal issues as soon as they are published. These content pages are immediately processed and included in the Current Contents issue.

2. Features of CCOD

Each CCOD issue contains the same journal contents data included

in its corresponding printing Current Contents issue. Current Contents started in 1960s in print form and is now available on-line as well as diskette. It scans about 7000 journals and 1250 publications. Divided into seven editions as mentioned below. These multidisciplinary editions allow users to conduct high-speed searches or browse through the content pages of the journals published in their own specialized field as well as closely related disciplines.

2.1 Journal Coverage

CCOD is provided in four different editions, each edition covers a group of related disciplines. The approximate number of journals covered at present under each edition are as follows.

Edition	Total No. of Journals	Unique to this Edition
* Agriculture Biology and Environment Sciences (ABES)	930	770
* Life Sciences J-1200(LS)	1230	810
* Life Sciences J-600(LS)	613	600
* Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCES)	820	685
* Clinical Medicine (CM)	890	600
* Engineering, Technology & Applied Sciences (ETAS)	800	670
* Social & Behavioral Sciences (SBS)	1340	1155

Each issue includes, Current Book Contents, editorials, reviews articles, letters, biographical notes etc. SAC Library receives ETAS from 1993 onward which is divided into following disciplines.

3. System Requirements

The CCOD can be used on IBM PC/XT or PC/AT or 100% IBM compatible microcomputer or an NEC 980/ microcomputer with the following minimum configurations.

- MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher
- At least 512 k RAM. 640k is recommended
- A hard disk with at least 6MB space available for loading an issue
- One 3-1/2" or 5-1/2" high density floppy drive.

3.1 Installation of Current Content on Diskette

Current content on Diskette can either be installed on a stand-alone computer system or on a microcomputer-based Local Area Network.

To install on a stand alone computer system, CONFIG.SYS file that specifies at least 20 files is a must. This file should also specify 20 buffers.

3.2 Copy on Config.sys

Files = 20

BUFFERS = 20

Press Ctrl Z and then return

Then type

C: CC install and press return

The first prompt on the screen asks one to specify the letter of diskette drive from which the program would be loaded. In case of IBM PC it is "A" drive.

After the installed program is copied from the floppy disk, the screen displays the CC SETUP main menu which can be altered, if needed. To start Current Content on diskette one has to go to the CCOD directory and type Current Content (CC) and press return.

After the installation is over the default values in the CC SETUP are to be set for directories, files, printer, screen, requester respectively.

Once all this is done the Current Content on diskette is to be loaded into the system. The issue creates a sub-directory to hold the data and related files. Each sub directory contain the issue number, day, month, year and edition.

3.3 Starting the Program

- i. Go to the CCOD directory (e.g. C:\CCOD).
- ii. Type CC and press <Enter>.

3.4 Function Keys

- F1... Display context-sensitive help.
- F2... Browse a CC issue, starting with the issue's first content page.
- F3... Browse a CC issue by discipline.
- F4... Browse a CC issue by source (journal or book) title.
- F5... View the search results for the currently highlighted set.
- F6... View the articles on the Personal Interest Checklist.
- F7... View the articles on the Genuine Article List.

- F8... View the articles on the Request-A-Print list.
- F9... Go to the search session screen.
- F10..... Print Request-A-Print orders.

4. Current Content Issue

It holds the list of load, open, delete visit to DOS programme and quits. Through load command new Current Content issue can be loaded, through open command already loaded issue can be opened. To delete a Current Contents issue the delete option is used. Weekly data of Current Content can not be merged hence it can be accessed issue wise only. After loading issues each individual issue is opened for data search. Various features provided by CCOD are explained in the following pages. (Screen Display - 1).

4.1 Browse Mode

Like flipping the pages of a magazine, this feature displays the full contents pages of each journal sequentially.

The current Content on diskette can be browsed i.e. displayed or viewed or scanned in the following three modes.

- (i) Browsing the entire CC issue (F2)
- (ii) Browsing by discipline (F3)
- (iii) Browsing by source title (Journal) (F4)

i. Browsing the CC Issue

To browse the entire Current Contents Issue (F2) Key is used. (Screen Display 2). This gives the content page of the first discipline wise alphabetically and the Current Book Contents forms the first discipline in a issue. Current Book Contents lists the articles of each newly published book. The journals are arranged alphabetically within the given discipline.

To view the articles in this menu, Up and Down arrows or (Pg Up) and (Pg Dn) keys are to be used. To go to the next journal the (Ctrl -Pg Dn) key is used. Browsing CC issue is not much used as the options for discipline and journals are given.

ii. Browsing by Discipline

On selecting Browsing by Discipline, list of disciplines covered in current issue is displayed. To move between the disciplines use Up-arrow, Down arrow, Pg-Up or Pg-Dn keys. In order to move to specific position in a discipline -list, type one or more initial letter(s) and press Enter Key. As the discipline of interest is highlighted, press enter key.

The first publication in this discipline is displayed, use the above control keys to move between articles, publications or disciplines. (Screen Display - 2).

iii. Browsing by Source Title/Journal

On selecting browsing by source title, list of all source titles/journals covered in current issue is displayed. You can move between the source titles using Up-arrow, Down-arrow, PgUp or PgDn keys. In order to move to specific position in source title list, type one or more initial letter(s) and press enter key. As the source title of interest is highlighted press enter key. The first publication in this source title is displayed, use the above control keys to move between articles, publications or disciplines. (Screen Display-2).

4.2. Searching

The search in CCOD is made in the form of a query, which consists of field selection and a search statement. The results of search queries are returned in few seconds and search can be made on the following fields.

Field	Contents
1. Basic	Article's title, author assigned key words list, or key words plus field
2. Title:	Article's title only.
3. Author/editor:	Article's authors and book's editors.
4. Address:	Reprint author address.
5. Source:	The title of journals or books.
6. Ga/Book Page:	The genuine article number of journal or the B number of book, also the first page number of article.
7. Discipline:	Discipline or Current Book Contents.
8. Document:	Type of document eg, letter, editorial, article etc.
9. Language:	Article's language or book's language.
10. Set Number:	The combined result of previous search queries.

Each search query is assigned a unique number. As soon as the query is entered, the number of records which satisfy the query are displayed as Hits (number of records). Search statements (Profiles) and Hits generated during search session are cited at (Screen Display-3).

It will search for the particular word appearing either in article's

title, author, assigned key words list, or the key words plus field, and shows that there are such number of records that satisfy the query, which can be viewed.

The default field in a query statement is Basic. In order to search for a different field, first change the field. Fields list can be displayed by pressing **Alt-F** Key. To select a field for query, highlight the field and press enter key. The search terms can be combined by using boolean/logical operators (NOT, AND and OR). For each field selection CCOD has a dictionary of searchable items in the current issue, which can be displayed by pressing **Alt-D** Key. To select a dictionary term, highlight the term and press enter key. The same search queries can be executed for different issues. To achieve this, number of search queries are saved in a file called Search Profile (Screen Display-3), which can be updated and deleted from time to time.

The Search Conventions are

- * The search in CCOD is made in upper case only.
- * The truncation symbol: a wild character(*) can be used anywhere in the word stem, thus making search wider eg., CHLOR* (searches for all the words which starts with CHLOR) eg. Chlorine, Chlorophyll, etc.
- * An asterik both to the left and right of the same stem. eg. *CARDI* will retrieve Myocardial, Myocarditis, Cardiology, Cardiovascular etc.
- * In case of multiple words in a search statement the CCOD searches for the exact match.
- * The boolean operators can be used to make relationship between multiple search terms, for which the order of precedence is, NOT, AND OR and THRU.
- * The set number field can be used to combine the results of all previous searches.
- * The THRU operator is available for set number search eg. 1 THRU 4 is equivalent to 1 or 2 or 3 or 4.
- * The author name is entered as last name followed by comma and one, two or three initials with no space between the elements and no period following initials between the elements and no period following initials eg. *FREDE RICKSON,L.
- * Customised search profile (Reusable group of sets) can quickly retrieve and run against future CC issues without having to

retype the same information use <ALT R> for run profile.

4.2.1 Viewing Search Results

The search results can be displayed by pressing function key F5 or from the article menu, four lists are available from articles menu are...

- i -- Search Results (F5)
- ii -- Personal Interest Checklist (PIC) (F6)
- iii -- Genuine Article(GA) (F7)
- iv -- Request -A-Print (RAP) (F8)

The entire contents page of highlighted article can be displayed when viewing the search results or in browse mode.

1. Full Record-which includes Author, Title, Source, Pages, Keyboard, Keyboard + (Significant word), GA/Book N. (GA number of journals or B number for Book), Discipline, Document, Language, Address (reprint, Author Address), Editor(for book only), ISBN (for book only) and Publisher. (Screen Display-4).
2. Author-Title-One line display of articles first author and title.

After the search PIC, GA & RAP are generated by selecting articles and designating them.

ii. Personal Interest Checklist (PIC) Articles

When the results of search query are displayed/viewed or the CC issue is browsed, one can choose the articles of one's choice using the Personal Interest Checklist (PIC) articles facility, which can later be printed or exported to text file.

iii. Genuine Articles (GA)

Genuine Article (GA) is ISI's fast and dependable document delivery service. GA article list can be created when the result of query are displayed or when the CC issue is browsed. Only article and not the books can be added in GA Articles list, which can later be printed from print GA order or exported to text file. These requests are processed within 24 hours by ISI.

iv. Request-A-Print (RAP)

Using Request-A-Print option the reprint of article can be directly requested from the reprint author, Request-A-Print list of article can be created when the results of query are displayed or when the CC issue is browsed, which can be printed from Print Request-A-Print option.

With "AP" feature, the program will automatically format request,

so that the author's name and the requester's name and address are all properly placed on the RAP cards supplied by ISI (eg. Display 5).

4.2.2 Search Print

All or selected articles can be printed. First display the Content page/First page of article list you want to print. The records can be printed in the following three different formats. These records can be saved and down loaded on to floppy diskettes or if an Electronic Mail facility exists can be transferred to particular user at working desk.

1. Bibliographic-which includes articles, authors, title and source (including volume, page and year).
2. Full Record - which includes Author, Title, Source, Pages, keyword, Keyword + (Significant word), GA/Book No (GA number of journal or B number for Book), Discipline, Document, Language, Address (reprint, Author Address) Editor (for book only), ISBN (for book only), ISSN (for journals) and Publisher.
3. Full + Abstract-which includes full record and abstract.
4. Custom Record where by one can select the required fields only.

4.3 Exporting

The CCOD records can be exported into various different formats to use in different file management and word processing programs. The CCOD records can be exported into the following different formats.

1. Bibliographic -which includes articles, authors, title and source (including volume, page and year).
2. Full Record-which includes Author, Title, Source, Pages, Keyword, Keyword+ (Significant word), GA/BOOK No (GA number of journal or B number for Book), Discipline, Document, Language, Address (reprint, Author Address), Editor (for book only), ISBN (for book only) and publisher.
3. Full+ Abstract-which includes full record and abstract.
4. R-A-P/Comma delineated-Fields are separated by commas, contents of each field are enclosed in quotation mark and record ends with carriage return.
5. DIALOG-Medline-MEDLINE database format.
6. NLM-Medline-NLM-Medline database format.
7. Sci-Mate-Sci-Mate format.
8. Pro-Cite-Pro-Cite format.
9. Reference Manager-Reference manager format.

CCOD Comparison with Printed Current Contents

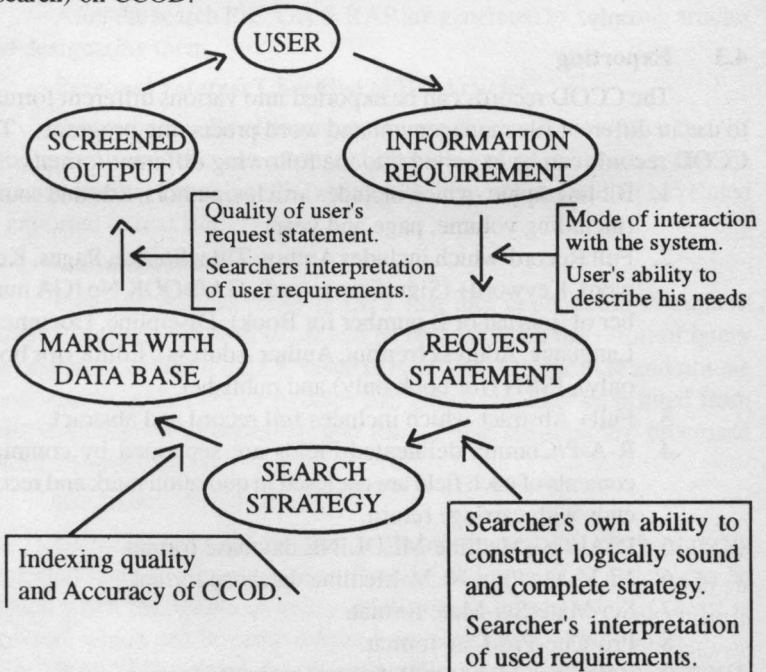
The following information is not available in CCOD:

1. Subscription information.
2. Subheading regarding language, such as articles and abstracts in English.
3. Special subheading such as FASEB Journal-formerly Federation Proceedings.
4. Section headings such as correspondence and original articles.

The following differences are in data representation.

1. Author's first name do not appear in CCOD, only initials. If there are two or more initials, they are not separated by spaces or periods.
2. CCOD does not use question marks, mathematical equality or inequality signs, subscripts, Greek letters and other scientific or mathematical notations.

Following figure explains the factors affecting performance (search) on CCOD.



Limitations

In CCOD each issue has to be searched separately i.e. if a user has to search more than one issue, he will have to open each issue and then search. It has no provision on to merge data of each issue which is a time consuming process. However, the search profile can be made for the users and the CCOD issue can be searched accordingly.

As browsing by journal and discipline is already provided, the browsing of CC issue from start to end is not much of use. Instead, ISI would have provided citation classics.

Conclusions

With the rapid advancement of science and technology the modern library is not merely a store house of information but the main aim of the library is to provide right information with much ease and in minimum possible time. The CCOD plays vital role in achieving the above mentioned goals.

The CCOD, interactive menu driven package provides almost all the facilities to its users for searching the latest information (Current Contents). The on-line help feature and use of function keys made CCOD more user friendly. Viewing/Browsing CCOD by discipline wise, source title wise and searching on various fields are its distinctive features. The added feature of CCOD are Genuine Article (ISI's fast document delivery service) and Request-A-Print of particular article directly from the reprint author on ISI card which saves correspondence efforts. It can be used effectively for preparing specialised bibliographies. Some of the discontinued journals Content pages can also be regularly displayed for users perusal. Literature can also be scanned for any new project work taken up.

The CCOD provides immediate, fast, accurate and to-the-point search facilities of latest information (Current Contents), which is the need of the hour.

The library, Space Applications Center was subscribing for printed Current Contents (Engineering, Technology & Allied Sciences) before January 1993 and readers were used to consult the same. From January 1993 onward only current content on Diskette (CCOD) is subscribed. About fifty user profiles are prepared and twelve Project Literature profiles are developed for regular retrieval. Search results are regularly sent them in print forms. Few users have Electronic Mail facility at their end search results are mailed at their desk by E-Mail.

Wide circulation was made about various features and ease of operation provided by CCOD. With the introducing of few training programmes and by providing guidance to individuals the response for the use of CCOD will increase rapidly. It is planned to place one separate personal computer 286 for CCOD users in the library.