

or, on the other hand, to assigning it in large sections to editorial contributors who would be expected to sublet the actual composition of the several articles to others, the plan is to make assignments directly from the central office. The method is a laborious one, but it is believed that it will tend to render the whole enterprise more truly coöperative and to secure better collaboration of the authors in thinking through the relations of the sciences and the evolution of social scientific ideas, and in other phases of the undertaking in which joint effort is essential. The expectation is that assignments will have been made for the first two volumes early in 1928, and the appearance of the first volume is forecast for the spring of 1929, a little less than two years from the time of the actual inception of the enterprise.

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Social Science Abstracts. The Social Science Research Council announces plans for the publication of a new monthly journal to be known as *Social Science Abstracts*. These plans are the result of five years of study by a committee of the Council which has canvassed the situation with respect to the needs, resources, and purposes to be served by a comprehensive abstract service in the social sciences. A substantial subsidy has been provided for a period of ten years, until the journal has become self-supporting through subscriptions.

In its report to the Council at Hanover, New Hampshire, in August, 1927, the Committee on Social Science Abstracts stated the need for abstracts in the following paragraphs:

“The founding of the Social Science Research Council is itself a recognition of the fact that leaders in the social sciences are convinced that research in these disciplines is greatly in need of stimulation and direction, and further, that the scholars in these fields should be brought closer together for the consideration and solution of common problems. On the other hand, the deliberations of the Committee on Social Science Abstracts, and much of the information gathered by it, clearly bring out the fact that one great obstacle to the doing of truly scientific research in these fields lies in the tremendous mass of the materials to be considered and in the relative, if not quite complete, lack of appropriate tools for attacking it. There are so many books, pamphlets, and reports constantly being published and so many periodicals, both scientific and semi-scientific, steadily pouring from printing houses both here and abroad, that it is physically impossible for any

one to keep abreast of all the literature, even in his own special field of work. For this reason also, and in making a courageous effort to read what he should, he is likely to take first the publications obviously in his own special field, and for lack of time to do more, to become increasingly oblivious of what is being done in other disciplines upon the same subjects. Thus artificial departmental lines tend to become sharper, and in his mind the social sciences stand as distinct and separate fields.

"To overcome these difficulties, a journal is proposed which will save an almost infinite amount of time and labor on the part of research workers, by giving them in one journal complete citations and short but objective abstracts of all important new materials, and will at the same time draw together the several disciplines by serving them all through one journal based upon some systematic classification and improved by numerous cross-references to the materials in other fields. Other important advantages of such a publication could easily be stated. It will save much duplication and waste of effort, it will apprise the worker of the existence of other specialists working on his problems and stimulate correspondence between them, it will call attention to new methods of research, it will serve as a permanent record of the work already accomplished, and will in many other ways promote the healthy development of the sciences to which it relates."

The Social Science Research Council has appointed an organizing committee consisting of the following scholars, and charged with the responsibility of organizing and establishing *Social Science Abstracts*: Dr. Isaiah Bowman, of the American Geographical Society; Dr. Davis R. Dewey, editor of the *American Economic Review*; Dr. Carlton Hayes, professor of history in Columbia University; Dr. Frederic A. Ogg, editor of the *American Political Science Review*; Dr. Frank A. Ross, editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*; Dr. Clark Wissler, professor of anthropology in Yale University; and Dr. F. Stuart Chapin, chairman, professor of sociology in the University of Minnesota.¹

To assist the organizing committee, a number of advisory committees have been appointed in the fields of cultural anthropology,

¹ At a meeting of the Social Science Research Council held in Chicago on April 7 this organizing committee was reconstituted as a standing committee of the Council on *Social Science Abstracts*. The membership is unchanged except that Professor Chapin, having been elected editor of the journal for the first year, was succeeded on the committee by Professor Ellsworth Faris, of the University of Chicago, and as chairman by Dr. Bowman. *Man. Ed.*

economics, history, human geography, political science, sociology, and statistics. These advisory committees have been asked (1) to suggest the names of scholars who may be considered for the position of salaried editors and unsalaried consulting editors; (2) to draw up a scheme of classification adequate to the needs of the systematic grouping of materials from their respective fields of specialization within the social sciences.

Since the Council is made up of delegates from the national learned societies in the fields of anthropology, economics, history, political science, geography, sociology, and statistics, the purposes of the Council in its efforts to further coöperative scientific research in the social sciences is best served by devoting the new journal to the fields of cultural anthropology, history, economics, human geography, political science, sociology, and statistics, broadly construed.

Social Science Abstracts will be issued monthly throughout the year, and in each issue will appear systematic abstracts of new information published in the fields indicated for the preceding month or months. The journal will be printed in English in this country, but it will attempt to cover the social science literature of the world as originally published in all languages.

Negotiations are under way to establish a satisfactory basis of co-operation with the Committee on Intellectual Coöperation of the League of Nations in working out a modus operandi with the arrangements for economic abstracts undertaken by this international organization.

The test of published materials to be abstracted will, in general, be the criterion of *new information*, in the sense of important factual studies and contributions to theory and opinion, in the fields of the social sciences indicated. This will require the careful scrutiny of periodical literature, pamphlets, bulletins, monographs, and books. It is conservatively estimated that the number of abstracts will run to fifteen or twenty thousand titles the first year. The abstracts will be cross-referenced, and annual indexes will be published. It is expected that the first number of *Social Science Abstracts* will be published at the beginning of the next calendar year.

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Research in International Law. On the initiative of the faculty of the Harvard Law School, a group of Americans has launched a re-