

Ideas Are Information, Too

Questions must come before answers, and we cannot afford to overlook the potential value that may lie behind challenging new questions. Those challenges can lead to innovative solutions with much greater promise than plowing exhausted fields at new angles.

The full scope of research ranges from an initial idea to final conclusions. Seldom do those appear in the same study. Each investigation covers just one small part of the whole, as is evidenced by extensive lists of references. The total picture is a patchwork of individual reports that may range from unproven conjecture based on observation to critical evaluation of one small point.

Every one of those stages is important. They are also very different, so we should be careful to avoid judging all by the same criteria. Arbitrary "standards" can be useful, but they can also confer undeserved credibility or stifle investigation into areas with built-in limitations.

In the field of biology we cannot afford to ignore areas of concern just because they present problems that may seem impossible in terms of preconceived criteria. Columbus would never have left port with that attitude. Such new and unexplored

ideas may have great potential for future study, or they may be of little value. Only time can tell which is true in a specific case, but we can never know the answer until the question has been opened up for consideration.

The editorial goal of the *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST* is to provide a forum for interchanging information and ideas in all phases of study, with a reasonable balance among them. The editor is not a censor, and these pages are not closed to any category of investigation. Careful evaluation, with fact and conjecture clearly delineated, is one of the most important criteria.

An author is entitled to present opinion as long as it is clearly identified as such and not presented as fact. On the other hand, the Journal in no way endorses views that may be expressed by individual authors.

New ideas may sometimes take our readers beyond the security of rote statistical findings. We feel that they have the astute perception to make the most of the stimulating challenges and broadened perspective that such ideas can provide.