OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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Robert J. Palmer, M.A., is an independent indexer in New York City. He has at various times been a book editor, meteorologist, assistant dean at a small university, market researcher and alumni president. Among various projects he is currently writing a historical study of India from 1935 to 1950.

Kenneth I. Porter, M.A., after experience in the Auckland Public Library and obtaining the diploma at the New Zealand Library School, and further experience in the U.S. Air Force base libraries in England and the U.S.I.S. library in London, has been Editor of BUCOP/World list since 1962.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, The Indexer.

Dear Sir,

Citation Indexing of English Law

I read Mr. John Martyn’s ‘Citation Indexing’ (Spring, 1966) with great interest. In his opening paragraph he deals with one aspect of the subject with which I have some acquaintance, namely law, drawing attention to Shepard’s Citations, an outstanding American work of reference. I think it would be desirable to record that a similar service is available to users of English law reports although on a less comprehensive scale than Shepard.

Since 1892 the Law Reports Digest (Incorporated Council of Law Reporting), issued annually with frequent cumulations, has included a table of ‘Cases Followed, Overruled or Specially Considered’, now entitled ‘Cases Judicially Considered’.

From some time before the first World War (I am uncertain as to the exact date of commencement) the Middle Temple Library has maintained on cards, alphabetically arranged, a similar record of cases, known by the rather curious name of a ‘Noter-Up’. The following is an example (fictitious) of the card entries:

BROWN v. PROPERTY TRUST OF DOWNSHIRE
[1893] 1 K.B. 1874.
Dist.: Everyman’s Estates v. Tom, Dick and Harry, 83 Ch.D. 1.
Sun v. Moon, 171 T.L.R. 100.

Regularly maintained, it has proved of immense value to the many users of that library.

The All England Reports (Butterworths) since 1948 has regularly issued perforated sheets of ‘labels’, each of which may be detached and stuck in the appropriate volume near the title or headnote of the case concerned—the following are current examples:


Although in a different manner, the English and Empire Digest (Butterworths), which commenced publication in, I think, 1919, gives similar information. It includes annotations after every case digested, showing those in which it has been judicially considered. Any particular case needed can be identified by reference to the Tables of Cases in the volumes.

I think I have said enough to indicate that Citation Indexing, in one field at least, is nothing new in England.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. Hewitt.
The Editor, The Indexer.

Dear Sir,

**Improving Indexes**

I congratulate Mr. Bryon on his paper 'Let's have an Improvement in British Book Indexes' (reprinted in the Spring issue from Smith’s Trade News) but must express surprise and disappointment that, at the time of writing it, he apparently knew nothing of our Society, its work, or its journal, for nowhere does he mention them. 'There is no consumer protection for readers or students . . . ' he states; but have we not tried, for the past seven or eight years, to provide that protection by constantly crying out against the lack of indexes, or the provision of indifferent or bad indexes? He also asserts: 'Fortunately there is evidence to suggest that some publishers have seen the writing on the wall . . . ' I suggest the Society has added considerably to that writing on the wall.

The Society played a prominent part in the compilation of the British Standard to which Mr. Bryon refers. He also mentions the Wheatley Medal, in the recommendations for the award of which the Society participates. It is a pity that such a valuable paper should contain no reference to the one body which exists to overcome the evils of which the author wrote.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. Hewitt.

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**BOOK REVIEWS**


These annual seminars form an integral part of the courses organised by the DRTC, which was established in 1962, and also sponsors the quarterly periodical *Library science with a slant to documentation*. The subjects of the third seminar were depth classification and subject-heading work; and this bulky volume in duplicate typescript consists mainly of papers on the design of depth schedules for the Colon classification scheme, including tentative schedules for the detailed classification of personal bibliography, food technology, tobacco crops, disease (medicine), and the production engineering of springs, boilers, missiles, rocket engines, electron tubes, semiconductors and transistors, and nuclear reactors. The two papers in the subject-heading area consist of a contribution on the problems of homonyms in chain-derived subject-index headings, and one on chain procedure by Dr. Ranganathan, who also contributes a paper on the DRTC, and the opening address on documentation.

It must be pointed out that, apart from an interesting survey by Ejnar Wahlin (the only European contributor) of ‘Classification systems and their purposes’, the contents may be viewed, effectively, as contributions to the development of the Colon classification and its associated disciplines. The ‘Depth classification’ papers are extensions of its schedules; the examples and problems in the ‘Subject headings’ papers are Colon-derived; and the terminology throughout presupposes a familiarity with Dr. Ranganathan’s philosophy and vocabulary. This is not an adverse criticism, but merely a necessary statement of the scope of the publication. Students of current developments in information retrieval methods, the analytico-synthetic approach, and the Colon classification in particular, as indeed of the problems of classifying in any of the subject fields listed earlier, will find these proceedings both interesting and indispensable; while the papers on subject-heading work are inevitably of wide ‘non-Ranganathanian’ application.

Many will note with interest, and a few with resignation, that the Colon classification now prescribes the additional use of ‘zero’ as a sectorizing device, or empty digit, for notational extrapolation at the beginning of an array, and has also introduced an ‘equals’ sign as a connecting symbol for use with the alphabetical device when representing a multinomial which is not an initialism or acronym. Non-initiates who find this