The date of the Annual General Meeting of the Society of Indexers has been changed to Tuesday, 22nd May, and the meeting is to be held at the offices of the Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, W.C.2. Ridgmount Street is a turning off Store Street which runs between Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street.

BOOK REVIEWS


This very useful publication is larger than before. It follows the same lines, i.e. refers to the recently-published articles and books in the field covered by the subject matter of each chapter. The economics of library/information systems, and video cartridges and cassettes are new subjects to be dealt with.

The indexing is much more comprehensive than before (one page of index to 3.1 pages of text as against one to 13.18 in Vol. 6 which I reviewed a year ago), but comprehensive indexing is not the only reason for this. A very high proportion of the headings have been divided into two at a comma, making a heading (with no page reference) and an unjustifiable subheading; unjustifiable because there is only the one subdivision of the heading, i.e.:

University of New Mexico,
Technology Applications Centre, 327
User resistance,
Microforms, 81
Musical literature, storage of, 452

In each case the second part of the entry should have run on. Sometimes this division of entries results in breaking the name of an organization and gives the impression that the second line of type indicates a subheading, e.g.:

Urban Information Systems
Interagency Committee (USAC), 286

There are many references from one heading to another where double entry would save the user of the index time in consultation and would not take more index space, e.g.:

User charges (see Charging for information services)
which refers to
Charging for information service, 50-51, 385

Note the use of 'service' in one entry and 'services' in the other. There is another inconsistency in the reference

VCR (see Video cassette recorders)
which refers to a particular make of recorder which is correctly entered as

Video Cassette Recorder (VCR), 218-219

Fewer subject references and name references have been omitted in this index than in those to previous volumes, but they can still be found, for example, pages 330 and 337 should be included at 'Selective dissemination of information'.

What is still unsatisfactory is the spasmodic and unsystematic way in which authors of articles in the lists of references at the ends of each chapter are dealt with. It is very 'hit or miss' whether any particular name is referred to or not. Sometimes one (and not always the first to be printed) of two or more writers collaborating in an article will be entered in the index but more often none will be entered. There seems to be no consistency whatever in making these entries.

There is, however, a recognised practice in the use of acronyms as headings at last. Acronyms are now used only to refer to the full name (when known) at which page references are given, and the cross-referencing from one to the other appears to be faultless.

More care has been given to the compilation and presentation of this index than with those to previous issues of these annual volumes, and the index is now provided with an Introduction.

There is need however to see that entries are properly 'run on', and also that headings are not divided unnecessarily.

Care is also necessary to see that entries are not divided at the page or column make-up stage. Parts of entries running on to the heads of columns, especially at the turn-over of pages such as 'ices' (part of Services) at pp. 594 and 543; '330' and 'ment' (part of experiment) both at page 602; '224' at page 605; 'tion, 408-409' at page 391; '(U.S.)' part of heading for which there was room in the bottom line of the preceding column, at page 583; heading 'Latin America', at the bottom of page 573 and therefore unsupported by subheadings.
Cumulative index to the Annual review of information science and technology, volumes 1-7. 1972. (Washington, D.C., American Society for Information Science; Chichester, Sussex: Wiley, £2.25, 180pp., paper.)

Recent issues of the Annual review have contained combined indexes to previous volumes as well as an index to the current volume. This year, the combined index has not been included, but has been separately published and includes the entries for the current volume.

The Preface to this combined index states the entries have been updated, expanded and systematized and that it is the result of careful work by a team of professionals including information specialists. The next issue of the combined index will be published simultaneously with vol. 10 of the Annual review.

Although persistent searching will reveal a few missing entries, the work appears to be thorough, e.g. under 'communications satellites 7:32' there are five subheadings all with the same reference. This may be considered too detailed, but it allows for the interpolation of additional entries should they be required because of later Annual review volumes having references to the same subject.

There are a number of run-on entries at the top of columns to which I referred in the last paragraph of my review of volume 7 (above) which would be better avoided.

Bold type has been used, as in the previous combined indexes, to indicate volume numbers. Now that there are sometimes eight lines of numbers at a heading, it is obvious that there is practically no difference between the bold face and the medium face of the type used and it is consequently extremely difficult to pick out volume numbers, especially in artificial light. This was not apparent with the fewer numbers of references in the previous combined indexes.

L.M.H.

THE INDEX TO TABS

In a very critical review in Tabs, Dec. 1972, Vol. 30, No. 4 (published by Lank Strand Electric Ltd.) of Drama in Education; I—The Annual Survey, ed. by John Hodgson & Martin Banham (Pitman. £2.25), Peter Husbands writes: '...it was surely not necessary to reduce the index to a type size which almost warrants a microscope. Why an index, anyway—the list of contents is surely adequate? ' The book has 241 pages, forty-eight contributions, as well as photographs and drawings. One would have thought that in a book of this kind an index was absolutely essential for anyone seeking specific information quickly.

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