An index entry should enable the user to say, "Yes, I want to look up the entry", or "No I do not want to look up the entry". The entry should not make him say, "Maybe I want to look up the entry". Lack of modifying phrases or those perceived to be too broad cause the searcher to say, "Maybe" and to look up the entries—only to find that many references are irrelevant to his interests. The percentage of entries without modifications can be measured from a random sample of index pages and calculated as a percentage based on the number of entries in the index. In some indexes 100% of the entries have no modification.

There are doubtless many more specifications that can be derived for indexes, such as point size of type, set solid or leaded, quality of typography, type face, presence or absence of running headings, line length, width of gutter margin, quality of paper, and legibility. Which of these specifications will actually be found useful can be determined by trial. While guesses could be made for values and usefulness of the specifications described here, guessing seems to be a waste of time. Measurement, calculation, and reporting of specifications will serve the purpose of establishing those most useful. Feedback (stimulated and spontaneous) from users of specifications should suffice. Specifications should help users in deciding to acquire the index and in how to use it, as well as in upgrading indexes in general. Once specifications are found to be useful, then standards for them can be developed. Such development may take years or decades. There seems to be no useful purpose served in depriving users of accurate specifications while standards are being developed.

Users should find specifications for indexes to be useful for the same reasons that they now find specifications for automobiles, books, bridges, buildings, phonograph pickups, and weather to be useful. Indexers should find specifications useful as goals to surpass and as recognition of quality work. The index-publisher can benefit for the same reasons. He can also justify extra expenditure for high-quality indexes on the basis of valid specifications and can take pride in publishing indexes of top quality as advertised by specifications. In the early days of automobiles, no purchaser or driver knew horsepower, acceleration, miles per gallon, expected mileage for tyres, or much else that is now taken for granted. Today, specifications are very useful in choosing among automobiles and in their use and maintenance. Indexes have been produced longer than have automobiles. It is time that valid specifications were published and used for indexes.

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**Specialist Indexers**

Members of the Society of Indexers who are on the Register and who index books and other material for which a specialised knowledge of the relative subject matter is required, and who would like to be put into touch with registered indexers working in the same field, are invited to send a S.A.E. to the Registrar, Mrs. E. Wallis, 25 Leyborne Park, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, who will send them the names and addresses of other Registered Indexers.