indexes. Inexperienced and enthusiastic sub-editors can also do much damage by inconsistent meddling with punctuation, capitals, indentation, and other important details. Even spelling may not be spared; one sub-editor altered my 'rat-borne disease' to 'rat-born disease'.

An indirect relation between author and indexer arises when the author makes an index that the publisher considers inadequate or bad—or starts to make an index and gives up in despair—and the indexer is called in to save the situation, often in minimum time. It would sometimes be easier, if not quicker, to start the index again from the beginning, but this would be unduly discouraging to the author, and it is interesting to exercise ingenuity in using as much of his work as possible, without allowing his errors to affect the revised index.

Genuine collaboration between author and indexer does occur. I have several times worked with authors who had themselves commissioned their indexes. Preliminary discussions about the scope and arrangement of the index were followed by one or more meetings or exchanges of letters in the course of the work, to settle any difficulties, and the typed indexes were read by the authors, and on occasion sent back for alterations. The indexes were undoubtedly improved by the authors' help, and the indexer would wish for such participation more often. The chief obstacle is the usual tight schedule for indexing, and the expectation of many publishers that time lost earlier can be recovered at this stage. Little opportunity may remain for consultation.

M. D. Anderson

Erratum

In our reference to the British Standard . . . Codes for the representation of Names of Countries on p.74 of our last issue, the number should have been BS 5374, not 5347.

STOP PRESS


Personalia

We regret to report the death of Mrs Veronica Findlay, a very friendly member who, despite living at Cranleigh, attended meetings from time to time and was a regular contributor to our Extracts from Reviews feature.

In November, Mrs E. Wallis, the Society’s Registrar, was interviewed for a broadcast talk in the Woman’s Hour programme. A small part of this talk was broadcast in January together with an interview with an amateur book indexer. Portions of these two interviews were combined in such a way as to suggest that this was one interview made at the same time. It may also have given many listeners the impression that indexing is an easy leisure-time recreation—which all professional indexers know it is not.

Miss Ann Hoffmann, who has spent four years as a secretary/researcher for the well-known writer, the late Robert Henriques, has written Research: a handbook for writers & journalists 1975/76 (Tunbridge Wells: Midas Books).

Chairman of Council, K. G. B. Bakewell, has a book Management principles and practice: a guide to information coming from Gale Research in May. It is in their Management Information Guides Series.

The 4th completely revised edition of L. M. Harrod’s The librarians’ glossary . . . and reference book is due from Deutsch (Westview Press in the USA) in June. Well over 700 more terms have been defined and 120 expanded, other types of entry account for about 130 additions and as many amendments.

Dr Jessica L. Harris, who represents the American Society of Indexers on our Publications Board, has edited the Cumulative Index to the first ten years (1966-1975) of the Annual review of information science and technology.

Dr Graham Jones’ article “This Incredible Stream of Garbage: the Library Journals, 1876-1975” (The Indexer, April 1976) has been selected for reprinting in the American publication Library literature: the best of 1975-1976.

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