Treasurer Bill Bartenbach reported a balance of $4,273. To date, 160 of 260 members have renewed their membership. Marlene Hurst noted that we now have seven institutional members, CIS being the latest.

Newsletter editor Alan Greengrass requested contributions to the Newsletter.

Jessica Harris reported that there were three articles submitted for publication in the October issue of The Indexer. Deadline for the April 1977 issue is December 10th; papers should be submitted to Jessica.

Jim Anderson submitted the copy of the Directory of courses on indexing in Canada and the United States for publication.

Marlene Hurst announced that the Register of indexers was being updated and would be ready for publication in January. Any changes must be submitted to Marlene by the end of the first week of January. Anyone having a listing in the Register will receive a free copy; it will be available for $3.00 to all others. Reprints of the current Register are available for $3.00 each. Bev Anne Ross commented that she had been approached regarding two indexing assignments as a result of her listing in the Register. It was also noted that listings need to be generally more specific regarding the indexers' areas of expertise.

Barbara Preschel stated that approximately thirty-five journals had received ASI meeting notices, and that some feedback from individuals as a result of these notices had been reported.

Barbara also reported on a three-day PRECIS conference she had attended at the University of Maryland. There will be a one-day PRECIS workshop in Syracuse in May 1977; interested parties should contact Jessica Harris.

As ASIS liaison to ASI, Jessica Harris reviewed the October 1976 ASIS conference held in San Francisco.

The 1977 Annual Meeting of ASI will be held on Friday, April 29th in New York. This was voted by default over a Saturday meeting.

There were thirty-nine attending this meeting, including six guests.

Margaret Schied,
Secretary.

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**Book Reviews**


The compilation of an author index to H. G. T. Cannons's classified bibliography of library literature, covering the important period 1876 to 1920, is something that should have been done many years ago. It is therefore with gratitude that we acknowledge the mammoth task so successfully completed by Anne and Melbourne Jordan of Wayne State University. They have at last made Cannons fully usable and have therefore done much to widen the horizons for future research workers in the field of library history. Since Cannons links up with Library Literature, the compilers have now provided us with a clear run of one hundred years of librarianship and bibliography, so that it is now possible to check back through the files in search of the early works of leaders of the profession. There are, however, one or two caveats: forenames are represented only by initials; no corporate names are included; and no anonymous entries survive. Moreover, the index deals only with periodical articles, so that publications in book form appear only when they are the subject of a review, and then only under the reviewer's name. There are no references from one form of a name to another. Few entries are graced by a date—references are usually to volume and page numbers, so that a preliminary chart showing the year-equivalent of each volume of a periodical would have saved the user much time and effort. But to limit our gratitude would be churlish: the compilers have improved on the original work by correcting references and completing incomplete and blind entries. Articles written in collaboration are entered under both names. The compilation of this index must have been particularly difficult since Cannons had a habit of repeating titles under several different headings.

At a rough estimate Cannons comprises some 12,000 references to British and American periodical articles, yearbooks, monographs, and government reports—including the noteworthy series of reports of the Librarians of Congress. It is not surprising therefore to find that Cannons wrote only five articles.
on librarianship over a period of nine or ten years. His output is understandably in strong contrast to that of W. C. Berwick Sayers who is represented by no less than 86 articles—including ten in collaboration with J. D. Stewart, and one with L. S. Jast. Stewart himself fills a page-and-a-half, while Jast is as voluminous as Berwick Sayers, and Savage runs them a close third.

There are many surprises in the index: the young L. R. McColvin is represented by an article on “The relation between the library and the school” (Library World, volume 22, pp.360-362) which must have been written when he was scarcely out of his ‘teens; while J. E. Walker, newly returned from the war, is writing about “The school library” (Library Assistant, volume 6, pp.319-321), putting forth ideas that were to be turned into admirable practice at Hendon some ten years later. Leypoldt had time to write only one article—“Practical bibliography” (Library Journal, volume 31, pp.303-307), but H. W. Wilson managed to find time for five, of which the one on “The co-operatively printed catalog” (Library Work, vol. 2, pp.1-2, 143-147) is of particular interest.

The publisher, R. R. Bowker, was indefatigable in his brief contributions on the American book trade, public libraries, library salaries and trade unions, and women librarians; while the great indexer W. F. Poole somehow found time to write nearly fifty articles commenting on almost every aspect of practical librarianship; and his son-in-law and collaborator, W. J. Fletcher, was equally vocal. Henry B. Wheatley is well represented here: his interests were wide—Chaucer, Dr Johnson, Dryden, and Shakespeare jostle with articles on cataloguing, leather for bookbinding, and booksellers’ signs in St. Paul’s Churchyard.

Another frequent contributor to the professional press was James Duff Brown who wrote eloquently on so many subjects. Out of sheer curiosity one is tempted to look up his “In defence of Emma Jane” (Library World, volume 11, pp.161-166), and his “Women as librarians in Clerkenwell” (The Library, volume 5, p.219)—and it is interesting to find him collaborating both with J. H. Quinn and L. S. Jast. What is rather startling is to find Edward Edwards writing on “Researches for manuscripts in the Levant” (Library Chronicle, volume 1, pp.57-64, 81-86, and 105-109), and Andrew Carnegie on “Dead books” (Library Journal, volume 37, p.74). Melvil Dewey was naturally indefatigable, whether it be on “Designating sex in registration” (Library Journal, volume 3, p.311; and volume 4, p.174), “Hunting for full names” (Public Libraries, volume 9, p.281), or “Library schools of doubtful value” (Public Libraries, volume 7, pp.119-120). It is good to see that he contributed an obituary of James Duff Brown to the Library World, volume 14 (pp.161-162).

Looking for familiar names it is somewhat surprising to find no entry for Ranganathan, but M. H. Kantavala is here, along with J. S. Kudalkar, V. B. Metta, and many other contributors to the pioneer Library Miscellany published in Baroda.

Items of special interest to indexers include W. Frear’s “Indexing scientific literature” (Library Journal, volume 10, p.377), C. H. Fuller’s “Indexing technical information” (Special Libraries, volume 5, p.131), J. C. Glazier’s “The seamy side of indexing” (Public Libraries, volume 2, pp.91-92), G. Illes’s “Indexing literature other than books” (US Report 994-9, 1892-93), W. H. McClenon’s “The science of indexing” (Library Journal, volume 43, pp.467-471), and J. T. Mitchell’s “Indexing portraits” (Library Journal, volume 13, p.333)—to cull only a few items from some 140 pages. Perhaps the Editor of The Indexer could consider reprinting some of these examples of thought about indexing in the past from time to time.

As we turn the pages we come across name after name that haunt our memories. Laurence Inkster, the cataloguing expert Minnie Sears, the bibliographer W. W. Greg, the elusive Winifred Gregory, H. R. Plomer who contributed so much to the history of books, R. A. Peddie who took on the mammoth task of compiling an informal index to the modern works in the British Museum, the colourful A. J. Philip who founded the very individual Librarian and Book World, Archibald Sparkes who was synonymous with Bolton, Redgrave and Pollard of STC fame, Harry Tapley-Soper, the Hon. Treasurer of the Library Association for so many years, Ernest Cushing Richardson who was one of the few real philosophers of librarianship, Arundell Esdaile and R. B. McKerrow whose leadership in making the study of bibliography so palatable to students will never be forgotten, J. C. M. Hanson who knew so much about comparative cataloguing, Charles Ammi Cutter who is a byword even today, Sir John McAlister who was one of the most famous of all the Presidents of the Library Association, H. W. Fovargue who was, as Town Clerk of Eastbourne, an expert on the law relating to libraries, and J. C. Dana who made librarianship come alive by his vigorous writings—this index reminds us of our predecessors and makes us turn once again to the back volumes of library periodicals in the stacks. Cannons roved far beyond the list of periodicals he gave in his Preface, and there are some gems he picked up from the Living Age, the Bookman (New York), Printer’s Ink, the Studio, the Engineering and Mining Journal, Printing Art, and many more.

This comparatively small volume is a significant contribution to library history, to the biographies of librarians and bibliographers, and to the development of cataloguing, classification, indexing and bibliography. The compilers are to be congratulated on a most useful and stimulating aid to our work.

Robert Collison.
Mr. Collison was good enough to invite the Hon. Editor to collaborate with him in this review as he is familiar with an earlier generation of writers. This invitation is very much appreciated, but pressure on his time has made it impossible for his contribution to be prepared in time for the April issue. It will appear in the October issue.


This index covers the first five years of Library and information science abstracts (LISA), a classified list issued six times a year. In the nature of things, the cumulative index to an abstracting journal is long and its entries are highly specific, complex and difficult to organize. It therefore needs to be explained to the user, who, if he is serious, accepts that to obtain information from such an index requires some preliminary study and some degree of intellectual application and patience in searching. He may plunge straight into the alphabetical sequence, but sooner or later realizes he is in unfamiliar territory which needs its own map, and so turns back to the guide provided by the compiler.

The Publisher's note states:

'The preparation of the index relied heavily on computer techniques with the aim of creating a machine-readable data base as a by-product of this index. This added to the task of compiling and publishing the index but many additional features obtained to enhance this reference tool.'

[Sic.]

The by-product is a machine-readable version of LISA on magnetic tape. It contains all the bibliographical information found in the printed version from 1969 to 1975. Beginning in 1976, issues appear every two months and contain the full text of the abstracts. Full information on the service available and costs can be obtained from Dr R. B. Bilboul, Learned Information Ltd, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford, OX1 5BP.

The introduction to the index explains that there are two sequences, an author index and an alphabetical subject index, and that references are to year and abstract number, the figures being divided by an oblique stroke, as 73/126. 'Alphabetization is word-by-word (the nothing before something method) with the following filing rules (0/9) space (A/Z), all other symbols are ignored.' (Are not the hyphens misplaced? Word by word is here an adverbial phrase, nothing-before-something an adjective. Should not 'rules' be 'sequence'?)

In the author index the opportunity has been taken to expand the entry from author's name and abstract number, as given in the annual indexes, to include the full title of the article, which, if in a foreign language in the original, is given in English translation. Authors' names have been adjusted where necessary to conform with the latest edition of the Anglo-American cataloguing code. Names of contributors to conferences have been dropped if the abstract merely mentions them as having spoken. Where their contributions have been separately abstracted they are of course kept. Names of conferences and of other corporate bodies have also been taken out of the author index and transferred to the subject index. Neither of these omissions is mentioned. Often corporate bodies are both subject and author, as in their annual reports, but sometimes they are not. However, once one has guessed where to look for conference proceedings which have an acceptable name as author, they are easy to find, and the topical subject entry of course reveals them if their names are unknown or inaccurately remembered. The middle entry in the following sequence from the subject index and the separated entry both refer to a corporate body's deliberations, not on its own affairs, but on the topic of library staffs:

- Library Association Library (stock): Library periodicals 72/26
- Library Association. London and Home Counties Branch (history) 73/2125
- Staff, libraries

The subject index is introduced thus: 'The subject index is a rotating index. The notation [rotation?] follows the rules shown in the following example:

U.K.: Special libraries: Periodicals: Photocopying services (use)
Special libraries: U.K.: Periodicals: Photocopying services (use)
Periodicals: Special libraries: U.K.: Photocopying services (use)
Photocopying services (use): Periodicals: Special libraries: U.K.

Whenever possible terms in an indexing chain are ordered according to their roles.'

And that is all. In fact, in this volume, the component parts of the exemplary set of entries, as marked off by colons, are rotated strictly in the order 1, 2, 3, 4; 2, 3, 4, 1; 3, 4, 1, 2; 4, 1, 2, 3 and not in the order shown. Did no one proof-read this very important page? Librarians and computer workers concerned with information storage and retrieval will know what chain indexes are and will understand what
kind of categorization is meant by 'roles', but how will other users respond to the citations on, e.g., library history, buildings, legislation? They are likely to deduce that they will find a conventionalized statement of the main topics in an article under any one of the topics that they can name. Looking under 'Buildings', e.g., one would find (among other entries):

Buildings: university libraries: U.S.A. (San Diego, California) 71/993

Each of the component parts of the entry appears as a heading, and therefore two other, full, rotated entries appear under University libraries and under U.S.A. (San Diego, California). But, should one look under 'University libraries: Buildings', one would find only two references and those to general aspects of the subject. A chain index entry of more than two parts, rotated in direct order of 1, 2, 3 ... n; 2, 3, ... n, 1, etc., always leaves at least one relationship unstated directly.

The abstracts in *LISA* are arranged in the order of the classification scheme devised for its subject field by the Classification Research Group. Thus the journal itself is a pre-coordinate index, or listing. The salient points in an abstract are noted, put into the citation order imposed by the classification scheme, supplied with the correlative notation and ordered in the abstracts journal according to this notation. Against the notation is printed a verbal 'feature heading', i.e., a translation into words of the class notation, which indicates in successive steps the broad area of study, the particular class and the divisions and subdivisions of that class, as in this example from the 1973 volume:

S/Z—TECHNICAL PROCESSES
Sac/ap—BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS

It is from this feature heading that the index entries for the abstract are generated and used in the 1973 index as:

Newcastle-upon-Tyne (U.K.): University libraries: Computerized bibliographic records 2932
U.K.: University libraries: Computerized bibliographic records 2932
Computerized bibliographic records 2932
Bibliographic records Sac/ap
Technical processes and services. Library materials S/Z
Library materials: Processes and services S/Z
Automatic data processing. See Computerized, Computers

The general topics are indexed to their class notation and do not appear in the cumulative index. In the examples above, the chain loses its links one by one, each entry becoming more general in denotation.

In the cumulative index, as we have seen, the links are all kept and successively transposed to produce the following:

U.K. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
University libraries: Bibliographical records, automation 73/2932
University libraries
Bibliographical records, automation: U.K. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) 73/2932
Bibliographical records, automation U.K. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne): University libraries 73/2932

Apart from those not subsumed to a particular kind of library, individual libraries are not generally entered in the cumulative index under their own names but under the name of their country or state. (This one gathers eventually after some puzzlement.) It will be seen that entries beginning with 'Automation' and 'University libraries: Automation' will not be generated from the chain devised for this particular abstract, although both terms appear as headings, with a large number of subheadings. In the case of the previous example, the separation of closely related terms is not a serious drawback, since 'Buildings' is an obvious alternative term to search under, but in the latter example it would be easy to assume that one had found all the citations relating to automation in University libraries when one had not.

Another serious impediment to satisfactory use of the index is a discrepancy between entries for the same topic; e.g. there is an entry for Staff dismissals with some names subsumed, and another set of entries for Staff dismissals [individual's name]. There is one entry under:

Government libraries (Ministry of Public Buildings and Works), U.K. (Croydon) 70/924
and another under:


Neither entry appears under 'U.K.: Government department libraries', although some other departmental libraries are named there.

There are also too many verbally but not obviously semantically differentiated headings as e.g., 'Technical processing: Automation'; 'Technical processing, automated'; 'Technical processing, automation'.

No warning references are made between terms commonly used as synonyms but distinguished by *LISA*; e.g. there are separate sequences of entries under 'Staff, academic libraries'; 'Staff, higher education libraries'; and 'Staff, university libraries'.

One is easily misled into thinking that one has found all the references to a specific topic when one has not. If one becomes aware of duplication of heading there
is then no knowing when a search has been completed.

In cumulating index entries to an on-going current-awareness journal from its annual indexes, it is inevitable that such discrepancies and ambiguities will occur. How, but by adding to and changing its vocabulary, can such a journal keep up with new concepts and changing emphases? So the editors were faced with an unavoidable situation which could be remedied only by a rigorous scrutiny of entries, adjustment of headings, and the creation of a system of cross-references. The intellectual work involved would then have had to be followed by the punching of a corrections tape and by programming the computer to act upon it—in all, a costly undertaking to be added to the vast amount of careful work already done in compiling the index. (Misprints in proper names belonging to a variety of languages, in titles and in abstract numbers appear to be so rare and slight as to be negligible.) The publishers obviously decided that the additional burden would be too great.

Although the Publishers' note says the index is published 'in collaboration with the Library Association' and in particular thanks the editor of LISA, I understand that the staff of LISA had no editorial responsibility for the cumulative index and no hand in its production. Had they had, I feel sure that they would have given more help to the user by incorporating more cross-references and particularly by explaining the derivation and peculiarities of the index entries, and suggesting a search strategy, as they have done in prefaces to the annual indexes. Merely to have explained that two different drafts of the classification scheme had been in use during the period covered, with a note pointing to a major change in placing primary emphasis on the library process or technique instead of, as formerly, on the user, or kind of library, would have prepared the user to make a twofold approach. Eight references to articles on LISA cited in the introduction to the cumulative index do not supply this immediate need.

Now that a revised version of the classification scheme has been published—the earlier drafts were not easily available—there will be hand a help in choosing subject areas and terms for searching. The published classification will reveal, for example, that the headings 'Academic libraries', 'Higher education libraries', and 'University libraries' are used in a hierarchical sequence of decreasing comprehension, and may, perhaps, all need to be used in a single search, not as a ploy of desperation, but as a planned strategy. Published in 1975, the scheme will not of course be an accurate reflection of use in the 1969-73 index, and, should there be a second five-yearly cumulative index, its appearance halfway through the period will present its own problems.

The index under review typifies the as yet unsolved problem of how to keep the ideas, arrangement and terminology of a current-awareness journal really current and at the same time to make cumulation of the indexes an automatic process and lead to satisfactory use of the final product.

Continuous surveillance of the vocabulary and formal conventions used in constructing the feature headings (and hence the index entries), a record—for subsequent listing in the introduction to any new cumulation—of new and newly defined terms, and careful provision of cross-references can present the editor of a further cumulation with an easier task, but it remains his responsibility to offer to the user a well-organized explanation of the peculiarities of his index and of how best to use it.

Lacking such guidance and the sympathetic approach which it engenders, the volume under review does, however, with patience, persistence and sheer guesswork, eventually reveal the valuable bibliography which LISA provides for all who are concerned with preserving and using recorded information, including, of course, indexers.

Reference


M. Piggott.


In Mr Dunn's article in The Dickensian (1975), called 'On indexing The Dickensian 1905-1974', he describes how the emphasis of the journal has changed over the years from Dickens the man to Dickens as 'subtle, complicated, and influential literary artist'. He ends by saying 'material for a thousand theses can be prised from The Dickensian of the last 70 years if the Cumulative Index is used as the key'. An examination of the index shows this claim to be fully justified. References to the immense mass of miscellaneous material in the seventy volumes have been most skilfully organized into compact form, interesting to read in its own right, and easy to consult once the arrangement is understood.

For this understanding, attention must be paid to the two long entries for 'Dickens, Charles', and 'Dickens Fellowship'. The first is sub-divided into (1) as literary artist, (2) opinions and attitudes, (3)
personal, (4) public reader, (5) reputation and influence, (6) works (editions only, individual works and main characters being each indexed separately), (7) articles, etc., attributed to Dickens. Mr Dunn comments on the occasional difficulty of allotting entries to the right sub-division; e.g., should 'popularity' be indexed under 'literary artist', 'personal', or 'reputation and influence'? He decided to place it under the last-named. The reader sometimes feels the same difficulty in tracking a reference to the right sub-division. The sub-division 'as literary artist' is much the longest, and includes three very extensive sub-headings:

(1) CD as: caricaturist, city novelist, dramatic critic, dramatist, essayist, historian . . . symbolist;

(2) CD's depiction of: actors, animal life, aristocracy, babies, battlefields, birds, boys, breakfasts . . .

weddings, widows and widowers, women;

(3) CD's use of: allegory, American words, analogy, antistrophe, Australian themes, Bible, Blue Book facts . . . symbolism, tragic relief, 'v' for 'w'.

A few of the topics in the complex entry for Dickens (e.g. Christmas, Parliament) have also their own entries in the main body of the index, but most of them have not, and consequently it is essential to realise what the entry contains, and how it is classified.

The entry for 'Dickens Fellowship' is divided into:

(1) general, with such entries as accounts, annual reports, charitable activities, Presidents;

(2) branches, ranging geographically all over the world, and in numbers of references from a single one for 'Eugene, Oregon', to thirty lines of undifferentiated references for 'Manchester'; very many short items in the text are included here;

(3) The Dickensian, recording changes of format, cover designs, prices, printers, etc.

It may be noted that in the previous cumulative index for 1905-1934 (97 pages), the entry for CD occupies less than half a page, and that for the Fellowship one-and-a-half pages; in the index for 1935-1960 (66 pages), the figures are five lines (for personal appearance only), and nearly one page, whereas in the volume under review (200 pages), there are eleven pages for CD, and ten-and-a-half for the Fellowship, so that together they occupy rather over 10% of the whole. But once the reader has mastered the structure of these two major entries, his way is clear, for the rest of the index is simple and straightforward.

The references are given in the form 26 205, where 26 stands for 1926, not for volume number. Articles, as distinguished from notes, letters, reports of meetings, etc., appear in the form:

Thirkell, Angela: art. 'David Copperfield Reconsidered' 49 119-22

In the entry for David Copperfield, the sub-heading is:

Angela Thirkell on 49 119 ff

and this differentiation obtains throughout, references being given with f or ff after the page number, if required, in all entries except for articles under authors' names, where the length of the article is shown. There are no commas between text of entry and reference, or between year and page numbers; successive references in the same year are separated by commas, and references in different years by semicolons. Sub-headings are run-on in all entries except the two major ones, and those for the individual novels.

The compiler's note at the beginning of the index states that 'Phiz' is indexed under his real name (Browne, Hablot K.), and similarly with all other pseudonyms: it has been overlooked that George Orwell and Mark Twain are pseudonyms.

It is possible to find an occasional item that might have been added to the index, for example the pleasing anecdote about the Paris pickpocket who returned Dickens' watch on finding whose it was (06 247). But omissions are insignificant, and may be intentional, in view of all that is included. References to some 16,000 pages of text have been condensed into 182 pages of index (with another 18 for the illustrations). This means an index of only about 1.5%, very short by ordinary standards. But it is so well designed, and its entries are so judiciously chosen and formulated, that it provides better access to the text than many an index of several times the relative length—a remarkable feat of compression, supported by excellent typography, which contributes to be clear in spite of close packing.

M. D. Anderson


Again sponsored by the (American) Council of National Library Associations and with Frank L. Schick as Consulting Editor, and with Madeline Miele, Roberta Moore and Sarah Prakken as editors and compilers, this annual is particularly useful because of its first five-year cumulative index. This is especially useful as it is the practice of the editors to include once-and-for-all chapters on certain subjects, particularly concerning library developments in particular countries (this time it is the turn of the U.K., Norway, Korea and China), and the cumulative index brings five years' entries of these subjects and also those of the regular features together in one alphabetical sequence. The publisher has wisely included this feature on the spine. The cumulative
index takes only sixty-nine pages against twenty-four for the previous edition with its one-year index.

In 1976 America celebrated not only the bicentennial of its birth but also the centenaries of the formation of the American Library Association and of Melvil Dewey's Decimal Classification Scheme—subjects which it was obviously desirable to be specially included. About half the chapters in parts I (reports from national associations and agencies), 2 (developments in librarianship and publishing) and 4 (library statistics) are new, and there are new ones in most of the remaining parts. All the chapters, the subject matter of which has appeared in earlier editions are new-written and mostly contributed by authoritative writers intimately connected with the subject or concerned with the organization(s). The result is an up-to-date account of the library and book publishing fields in the U.S.A.

Oh that something similar were published for the U.K.

The index cannot be faulted. L.M.H.


This volume, under new editorship, follows the same lines as previous editions, there being four sections (the fourth in this volume being The Profession instead of Special Topics) and eleven chapters. The work has achieved such distinction and acceptance as now to refer to itself as ARIST but occasionally, as on p.246, as ARIST.

I am glad to see that the literature references continue, wherever possible, to summarise briefly the theme of the works referred to rather than, as was so annoyingly frequently the case in the early volumes, merely to give little more than the reference particulars. In all the chapters, authors' names are given in capital letters instead of, as previously, lower case followed by the chapter bibliography numbers which are no longer provided. These bibliographical entries are arranged in author order as before. Full bibliographical information necessary for identification, and also where not obvious, from whom and where copies can be obtained is now provided when necessary. When a reference is made to a 'paper' which is included in conference proceedings, the authors and titles comprising the rest of the publication are also given. This is a great advantage.

Again there is an 'Introduction to Index'—and necessary it is too. Who would expect the 3M Company to come after the Zs? In the ten year Cumulative index, volumes 1-10 it is entered in its alphabetical sequence as Three-M and in the Bowker annual... 1976 as 3M Company in the alphabetical sequence as if spelt out three. This last is in accordance with the British Standard 3700: 1976 Preparation of indexes... which also provides that symbols and numerals may be used as entry words in separate sequences preceding the alphabetic sequence, in the order: symbols, Roman numerals, Arabic numerals, English alphabet. The Introduction to this computer produced index states that 'The sort sequence employed sorts on special characters first, followed by alpha characters and then numeric characters. Thus O'Neill precedes Oakman and 3M Company follows the Zs.'

It is somewhat odd to find O'Neill coming at the beginning of the 'O' sequence for the 'O' are part of the name and the apostrophe should be ignored as is recommended in BS 3700 : 1976, and is the practice in the ten year Cumulative index already referred to. It is a pity that ANSI Z39.4-1968 Basic criteria for indexes does not give specific guidance with examples to indexers.

The use of acronyms has proved a trial to indexers, and the indexer has taken the decision to list them 'either under the acronym or under the fully spelled-out form depending on which form is more commonly used and known.' This is an area where decisions are not always easy to make, but with the greatly increasing general use of acronyms in the literature, particularly in the field of information science, often where the fully spelled-out name is not given, the acronym is more likely to be remembered, especially where the full name is lengthy or bears little relation to the acronym. As there are cross-references from the forms not chosen for the heading, little inconvenience is caused in this index; except that one may have to be cross-referred to the heading the indexer decided on.

There are, in principle, index references under authors' names for writers whose works are referred to both in the text and in the chapter bibliographies. This is very useful indeed, especially as the bibliographical references are italicized to distinguish them from the textual references. Sometimes these page references are omitted and this is unfortunate when they are textual references as were Terry, Rothwell and Robertson on p.36 and Magson on p.37—the only two pages I checked.

In this volume the strictly correct cataloguing practice of putting government departments as sub-heads of the country name has been adopted plus some other subheadings which must necessarily go under the country name. American departments or agencies appeared under the heading 'United States' in vol. 10 but the agencies whose names began with words other than Bureau, Department or Office were entered under their names as main headings; a
very practical arrangement. In this volume, the main heading is U.S. and organizations which previously appeared under their own main headings, e.g. NASA, National Bureau of Standards, NSF, NCLIS, NTIS, now are subheads of U.S. The national libraries are not under U.S.—not even the Library of Congress—however.

The pages on which the U.S. entries appear indicate clearly how much easier it would be for users if entries which run over to second and subsequent lines were indented so that the subheadings become more noticeable. The House of Representatives, National Science Foundation and Senate entries are very trying on the eye because of this lack of indentation. This indentation has been provided, accidentally presumably, at TYMNET, TOXLINE, Turning Test, Thesauri and System Development Corporation all on pp.450-1 and immediately proves my point. This heed for indentation is also noticeable in the ten year Cumulative index also reviewed in this issue.

Inevitably in a fifty-three-page index to a complicated book of this kind there are inconsistencies and omissions. I have happened to notice a word missing in the full title of COMCAT, an incomplete sentence—probably a missing line or two—on p.230. Descriptions instead of Descriptors at MARTIN, M. D. on p.260, a missing reference from EPA to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and page references 232/or 233 at BIBNET, Networks, OCLC and MARC have been omitted.

Despite these criticisms, which I am sure are due to work carried out hurriedly by a small team of people, and will be avoided in the next volume, this is a very workmanlike and comprehensive index to the latest volume in a series of very important books to those working in the field of librarianship and information science.

L.M.H.


This is a most valuable index to this authoritative series of annual publications. It has been specially compiled and is not an accumulation of the indexes to the individual volumes, and is a very competent piece of work.

It has a three-and-a-half-page Introduction (with useful examples to illustrate some of the indexing practices adopted) which almost needs an index itself!

Generally, there are no page references at acronyms which are references to the fully spelled-out names of organizations. They have page references however if they are the names of 'systems' or 'products' and so become full entries. They are also duplicated as modifiers under the fully spelled out names.

There are a few omissions, e.g. MISS, the acronym for Minicomputer Interfacing Support System, is not entered as a reference to the full name; the subheads CIM and DARE at Magnavox have fewer references than at the full entries; the TOXLINE reference 10: 72 is omitted from the TOXLINE entry as a subhead to the National Library of Medicine; the MARCIVE sub-subhead of Machine Readable Cataloging appears to be incomplete—fortunately the entry under the heading MARCIVE indicates that the missing part is with 'OCLC' 10: 70.

The method of arranging surnames beginning with Mac and its abbreviations letter-by-letter (which method is also followed in volume 11 and in the previous index to volumes 1-7) results in separating the MacDonalds from the McDonalds, and the MacKays from the McKays by five or six pages. As one cannot always be certain of the exact spelling one has to remember to look at both.

This volume is essential for anyone possessing the individual volumes.

L.M.H.

Indexers' reactions to the PRECIS Indexing System.

With a grant of £2,000 from the British Library, the Department of Library and Information Studies at Liverpool Polytechnic, a study is being carried out on the impact of PRECIS on local indexers and of the extent to which it has superseded (or is likely to supersede) other indexing methods. Views of indexers who are not applying PRECIS, as well as those who are, will be sought by questionnaires. Full details from Ken Bakewell at the Polytechnic.

Information retrieval

We have received a copy of a newsletter entitled Information retrieval & library automation, which is published monthly by Lomond Systems, Inc., Mt. Airy, Maryland, 21771, USA. for $28 a year, inclusive of second-class postage. The news items and notes of relevant English-language publications are brief but clear, and adequate for following up.

The twelve-page typescript issue in hand, the last for the year, May 1976, contains seven news items and notes on six new, or changed, publications, together with the four-page annual index of subjects and two-page index of books reviewed. The indexer's name is given.