one topic reference was used. This method was adopted also for referring to topics in the Bible. Historical scholarship in its extreme form may regard each great author as the creator of his own intellectual world—expressing himself in isolation rather than joining in a conversation with other great minds, as the Syntopicon suggests. The creators of the Syntopicon, for their purpose, took the view that the authors should be seen as more in communion than in isolation. The risk of distortion through this approach was knowingly undertaken in the interest of showing that the great authors can be read as though in conversation on the same question or topic, even when their positions and language are so disparate that more cautious scholars would hesitate to ascribe unity to the topic, or coherence to the conversation.

These and many other such problems discussed in the essay provide fascinating reading.

Both the Propedia and the Syntopicon represent advances in thinking that will certainly capture the imagination of anyone interested in the construction of indexes.

A contributor to the French journal on information handling, Documentaliste (15 (3) mai 1978, 3-7), G. Pierson, has had the curiosity to look in general French dictionaries for the date of first appearance ascribed to the word documentaliste. While the sense given to the word remains generally the same, its use is dated variously from 'around 1932' onwards. Early in its history it was challenged by the word documentiste, which had the blessing of the Office de la langue française, but which did not gain currency. At the Congrès de la Documentation Universelle in 1937, documentaliste was formally adopted for use in French, English and German.

An index is a necessary implement, and no impediment, of a book, except in the same sense wherein the carriages of an army are termed impediments. Without this, a large author is but a labyrinth, without a clue to direct the reader therein. —Thomas Fuller, Worthies of England (1662).

A retrospective index has been compiled by L. J. Anthony to volumes one to thirty of the Journal of Documentation, covering the years 1945-1974. * The seventy-one-page index is in three parts: 1. alphabetical author and title index to articles, letters and contributions to the section of the journal reporting progress in documentation; 2. index to books, reports and conferences reviewed in the journal, arranged under author followed by title and numbered sequentially; 3. subject index to items covered in parts 1 and 2. In the subject index there are two columns of references. The first gives volume and page number in the journal, the second the number in the index to reviews, thus permitting the index alone to serve in the compilation of bibliographies when the run of the journal is not to hand.

Although the first column of subject references in the subject index may have a 'string' of references under some headings, this is not necessarily unhelpful. Co-ordinate indexing', for example, has twenty-seven page references. It is itself a quite specific term. The volume numbers indicate which mentions referred to early stages, which to later, and at what period interest in the subject was at its height (which I deduce to have been in 1966 and 1967).

In his introduction the compiler refers to 'the chaotic condition' of terminology in this field, which leads him to impose his own choice, rather than the author's, in indexing many articles. Where terminology has changed, as from 'mechanization' to 'automation', he has generally preferred the later term. He notes a difference in emphasis on such terms as 'librarianship', 'information science', 'documentation' as one moves from one country to another, particularly in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Western Europe; and also a most inexact use of terms among contributors. The term 'documentation' itself he has used as an entry word to designate the whole field, as a subheading to mean the literature of a subject and its exploitation.