


The first book on my list takes a comprehensive look at the world's major scripts, their adaptation to various languages and the attempts that have been made to transpose one script into another. A chapter on the historical development of script conversion points to the various needs that led to transcriptions in ancient, medieval, renaissance, and modern times: the need for communication between peoples; for compatibility of names with their context in Biblical translations; for means of comparison as interest developed in classical philosophy and, later, in the languages of more distant lands, and in the search for a universal language and a universal alphabet; and, finally, for bibliographical control.

Tables of literacy and book-production figures are reproduced (Tables 4.1 to 4.5) as a means of identifying the world's major scripts. The author notes that "the total number of books written in the Roman script is more than two-and-a-half times that of all non-Roman scripts combined." The next five scripts together account for 90% of the world's non-Roman book production, Chinese, Japanese, Devanagari, Arabic. The ranking for adult literates follows the same sequence, except that Chinese and Devanagari move up one, and Japanese takes fifth place. Romanization schemes for these scripts, and also for Korean, Greek, Thai, Hebrew and Yiddish are commented on, and tables show to what extent published standards and national cataloguing codes differ among themselves.

A chapter on the requirements of script conversion examines the requirements for general use, as in making the news pronounceable and intelligible and history books readable when, for example, eastern and western people and places are mentioned; specialist requirements of philologists and geographers; and the requirements of bibliographic control, that is, the use of script conversion in making library catalogues, bibliographies and indexes. The greater part of the chapter is devoted to the last topic.

Unambiguous reversibility into the original script and universal adoption of a single table for rendering one script into the characters of another have been postulated as desiderata (perhaps inspired by the relative ease of early transliterations of the Russian alphabet), as have also respect for traditional renderings (as of Hebrew names which occur in the Bible), and some indication to the reader of the sound of the original—criteria which are mutually incompatible, and which, having been variously stressed in the multiplicity of schemes which have been created and adopted for literary records, have led to chaos. Wellisch had pointed to the reasons for non-compatibility when considering conversion between scripts in an earlier chapter: not all alphabets have the same number of letters; some scripts are written without vowels; the same letter has a different phonetic value to speakers of different languages; and some scripts, such as the far eastern ones, have no alphabet, but use logographs.

Wellisch questions the assumption that for bibliographic control, with or without the aid of computers, script conversion is either desirable or necessary. It is a widespread practice only in western libraries, where romanization has been adopted, but suggests, more for the benefit of the library operators than for the readers. The reader searching for a text in an 'exotic' script may have to guess at more than one scheme of transliteration in going from a bibliography to a library catalogue—often without any guidance to the scheme used—which wastes his time and, so far as he is concerned, is entirely unnecessary. Even for universal bibliographic control, separate scripts could be kept separately and administered by specialists, as is already the practice in controlling the literature of separate subjects, such as medicine and engineering. Numerical identification labels for publications are available, such as international standard serial numbers, to replace verbal citations; new methods of phototype-setting make it no more difficult to produce bibliographic records in non-Roman scripts than to set unfamiliar words in Roman type dotted with diacritical marks.
Practising what he preaches, the author has made separate sequences in his list of references for texts printed in Roman, Cyrillic, Hebrew and Chinese scripts, and to his main index are appended sequences in Cyrillic, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Korean, Chinese and Japanese scripts for entries for proper names.

The book is expensive. It is a luxury production by present standards in that the text incorporates characters in non-Roman scripts, tables and illustrations appear juxtaposed with the passages they illustrate, footnotes are printed at the foot of the page and are relegated to the end of the chapter. The printing throughout is accurate, and paper and binding promise to ensure a long shelf-life for this compendium which brings together scattered material and draws important conclusions from its collation. The writing is scrupulously careful. The organization of the text, together with an excellent index, makes it an easy volume to use. The 200-odd starred titles in the list of references form a select bibliography on script conversion. (The author’s comprehensive annotated bibliography Transcription and transliteration was published by the Institute of Modern Languages, Silver Springs, Md, in 1975.)

The versatile Mr Wellisch is also responsible for editing the second book on my list. The primary aim of the conference was to present the PRECIS indexing system to librarians, indexers and subject specialists in the United States, where it is at present almost unknown.

A historical and expository introduction by Derek Austin discussed the semantics and syntax of PRECIS, that is, the concept-analysis of a text and its summary formulation as a computer-manipulable string of terms in natural language, arranged according to a set of formal relationships between categories of terms. Austin concluded by outlining the sequence of cataloguing and indexing operations in the British Library, and commented that the process would probably be similar in any organization which used PRECIS.

Jutta Sjørensen quoted examples in French, German and Danish which appeared to show that, given coding to deal with such non-English linguistic characteristics as case inflexions and compound word formation, the PRECIS system could operate in many languages. Much experiment would be needed, however, before it would be able to function as the framework of a translilingual indexing system.

Three evaluative studies were then presented. Phyllis A. Richmond compared PRECIS with Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) and KWIC indexing and concluded that PRECIS tended to give more access points and was ‘a qualitative improvement’. Valentina de Bruin set the factors against using PRECIS in the Library, and commented that the process would probably be similar in any organization which used PRECIS.

A preliminary note draws attention to the method of alphabetizing and the devices for indicating currency to recent ideas and research in library science.

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Ann Shabas reported on a Selective Dissemination of Information service relating to monographs retrieved over a period by comparing readers’ profiles with the title and LCSH and PRECIS fields in the UK/MARC tape.

Reports on the use of PRECIS in Canada were given by Audrey Taylor, who spoke of its use without mechanization in a high school library; C. Derek Robinson, who gave a personal account of indexing non-fiction films, for which PRECIS seemed eminently suitable, a conclusion backed by Mary Dykstra, who explained why she had recommended its use to the National Film Board of Canada.

In assessing the practical possibilities of PRECIS in North America, C. Donald Cook stressed its unfamiliarity there and the dependence of libraries on the bibliographical services of the Library of Congress. Against the advantages of PRECIS disclosed in earlier papers, he set the need for training indexers, the greater length of the PRECIS string over LCSH and its consequent requirements of greater computer storage and printing space. However, changes in bibliographic control in North America were imminent. . . .

Brief comments on the Workshop from representatives of different organizations noted the cost of change as a subheading of PRECIS, possibly because complete duplication was intended. One finds, for example, ‘Historical development of PRECIS’ and ‘PRECIS—History’. Certain words occur in the index because they appear on a particular page, such as

- Headings, 9
- Index entries
- Headings, 9
- Semantic relationships, 6
- Syntactic relationships, 6
- Indexing process, 170

although the concepts they suggest form the subject of a good deal of the book.

Altogether the book provides an encouraging introduction to the practice and potentialities of PRECIS indexing. (See pp. 145-8 for further references to PRECIS.)

The two books from Bangalore print the lectures given in 1975 and 1976 in a series designed to give wider currency to recent ideas and research in library science.
Jean Perreault states his theme (p. 13): ‘The fulfillment of the social purpose of libraries depends on retrieval of information, retrieval depends on the structure of the [bibliographic] file; the structure of the file depends on the structure of the headings; the structure of the headings and of the file depend on several philosophical insights.’ Having discussed the general notion of order, he applies it to the problems of integrating the numerous and various units which are the catalogue entries and references into the whole which is the catalogue. Since predictability must be the guiding principle in ordering the catalogue, headings must be consistent and, though to some extent conventionalized, must be sequentially readable, that is, each heading, extended as necessary, must be its own sort-tag. He commends the work of Theodore Hines and Jessica Harris on automatic filing and condemns that of G.W. Morse on simplified arrangement and of M. Nabil Hamdy on the supposed superiority of title entry over author main entry. Not much of the kernel of these rather small nuts remains to be scraped from his sledge-hammer.

Present activities to promote universal bibliographic control concentrate on current publication and largely on scientific and technological publications. William J. Cameron’s interest in recording the hand-printed book has already been demonstrated by his work at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario. There he has created computerized records of hand-printed books (HPB) which might be used as a pattern and developed into a universal bibliography, using the machine’s memory bank to accept input from different sources and its powers of manipulation to collate, select and cumulate.

Cameron discusses ‘macroscopic’ bibliographic listing—the comprehensive listing of every exemplar of every text within limited portions of the bibliographic universe—and ‘microscopic’ bibliographic listing—the detailed listing of exemplars of single text—and looks towards the increase in the number of short-title catalogues to cover the latter part of the period up to 1801, a task now greatly eased by the application of recent technological discoveries. Listings can be linked by collocation files, that is, indexes of related computer addresses which can be matched against fuller files.

Cameron’s third and fourth lectures try to answer the question: How would a scholar go about obtaining bibliographic information and what bibliographic tools might be used as a pattern and developed into a universal bibliography, using the machine’s memory bank to accept input from different sources and its powers of manipulation to collate, select and cumulate.

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The need is stressed for comparing a number of copies of the same work, again and comments on their arrangement and indexing.
The BBC's most comprehensive news bulletin broadcast on steam radio at 6 pm is now available on microfiche, fully indexed six weeks after the end of each quarter. The sources of the news stories are included in the news-readers' typescripts and the index is based on that used by the BBC for its own internal service. The bulletins represent an output of nearly 1.5 million words per year. The index of names and events in one alphabetical sequence includes everything domestic and foreign but excludes sports results and the daily Financial Times Ordinary Share Index. It also contains material not transmitted because of lack of time. Each entry appears under a main subject heading or sub-heading and is designed to present the story to which it refers in capsule form. This can be somewhat cryptic when for instance reading under MAUDLING, Reginald Portrait of Sir Winston Churchill Lady Spencer Churchill entitled to do what she did Jan 12/34-35 or LLEWELLYN, Roderick Arrives at Heathrow: defends Princess Margaret Mar 26/24

The number after the date in the entry refers to the page number of the bulletin.

The index is clearly printed in double columns and though there are running heads at the top of each page, it is a great pity that the subject headings and name entries are not repeated at the top of each column when a long entry is carried over. Sub-headings would also be easier to pick out if they were in a different type. Some of the entries in 'capsule form' are extremely self-indulgent and lacking in conciseness with insufficient thought to key words. In entries which spread over two columns, such as ARAB-Israeli Conflict, too few sub-headings without typographical distinction and poor key-wording can make for a lengthy search for an item; especially when one has to search four quarterly indexes for each year. I suspect also that the indexes will reveal how selective the BBC 6 pm radio news is when used for research in comparison with The Times Index or Keesings.

API is the published version of the British Architectural Library's (BAL) own periodicals subject index: as such it makes one of the world's greatest collections of architectural information accessible to all working in or interested in the built environment. Published quarterly, it covers selectively 300 of the world's architectural periodicals. The issue for the fourth quarter is cumulative. This index has been published in its present form since 1973 when the method of production was changed to photo-offset lithography from letterpress, to overcome the increasing delays encountered with the latter form of production, and to accommodate the increased number of periodicals indexed.

During 1977, the architectural firm of Hutton & Rose developed a mechanized system of indexing in the BAL, and from the beginning of 1978 this system has been employed to produce the API. This speeds production and provides a higher standard of printing. Computerization, moreover, has made various innovations possible, such as a Name Index in every issue and a Topographical Index in the cumulative issue. In 1979 microforms and magnetic tapes will become available as well as a Card Reproduction Service.

The API is an alphabetically arranged subject index whose headings are derived from the BAL List of Periodicals Subject Headings which will be published in 1979. Commercial restraints prevent the inclusion of cross-references in API. These, too, will be published in 1979.
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The index entry itself is constructed from the title of the article (foreign language titles are translated into English with a note indicating the original language); the name of the author; a statement cross-referencing other articles of similar content; the types of illustration (plans, details, elevations, sketches, axonometric views, diagrams, tables, graphs, models); and the source of the article together with references to bibliographies and cost analyses. If the subject content of the article is not clear from the title, a note in italics at the end of the entry states that the article is part of a series. The entry concludes with the title of the periodical, its volume and issue number, dates and the inclusive pagination of the article.

Each quarterly issue contains a list of periodicals indexed by dates and volume numbers, a list of subject headings used in the issue (without cross-references), then the entries themselves in three columns, clearly laid out with subject headings in bold type and the periodical from which the article is taken in italics. Each entry is numbered alphabetically and chronologically under its subject heading. This number is required with other information when ordering photocopies of articles from the BAL. Finally there is a name index.

All in all a marvellous service which has evolved over many years with painstaking effort. The clarity of the operation is a model which could be followed in other disciplines with considerable benefit.

An evaluation of effectiveness is an evaluation of user satisfaction. Such an evaluation should determine how well an information service satisfies the needs of its users. Frequently, however, this type of evaluation is restricted to a consideration of how well the service meets the demands (i.e. expressed needs) of users, the latent (unexpressed) needs being completely ignored. Though Lim is aware that presence of an English summary is noted and if the article is part of a series. The entry concludes with the title of the periodical, its volume and issue number, dates and the inclusive pagination of the article.

The section on 'The Evaluation of printed indexes' is a must for all practising indexers, who should be seeking quite distinct intellectual steps: the conceptual analysis of this conceptual analysis into a particular vocabulary. It is rare that these two steps are clearly distinguished.

The report also makes many direct statements on indexing: "the subject indexing process involves two quite distinct intellectual steps: the conceptual analysis (or 'content analysis') of a document and the translation of this conceptual analysis into a particular vocabulary. It is rare that these two steps are clearly distinguished.'" The section on 'The Evaluation of printed indexes' is not an example of a card index entry: George Brown Smith, file d.c., baptised 17 June 1865, in the parish of St Philip, parents George Brown Smith and Sarah Smith. Father's trade—clockmaker.

The records consist mainly of baptism information filed chronologically by date of baptism, not in birth order as this information was not always shown. The index entry itself is constructed from the title of the article (foreign language titles are translated into English with a note indicating the original language); the name of the author; a statement cross-referencing other articles of similar content; the types of illustration (plans, details, elevations, sketches, axonometric views, diagrams, tables, graphs, models); and the source of the article together with references to bibliographies and cost analyses. If the subject content of the article is not clear from the title, a note in italics at the end of the entry states that the article is part of a series. The entry concludes with the title of the periodical, its volume and issue number, dates and the inclusive pagination of the article.

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(2) Parents of the baptisms: (a) by father and mother combination, (b) by mother and father combination.
(3) Unattached mothers, eg singlewoman, spinster and widow.
(4) Exiled families. Those whose address in a baptism entry was outside the confines of Birmingham.
(5) Query forenames? Those where there is doubt as to the word, the spelling, or the actual name itself.
(6) Miscellaneous section. Sources other than baptisms. (a) Males in the Burgess Roll of 1854. (b) Marriages—St Georges, Hockley. (c) Wills, poor rate, census etc.
(7) A list of 435 different trades and professions for Smiths. These are in alphabetical order but not cross-referenced back to the forenames.
B. Other surnames recorded in detail. Very similar information to section A is available for the majority of the occurrences: Austin, Berrow, Billington, Job, Tidmarsh, Worrall. Plus some associated spelling variations; e.g. Barrow, Barrow, etc.
C. Very uncommon surnames. Details of some of the occurrences of rare and unusual surnames taken from the baptism registers. Full entries have not been recorded but information can be supplied showing where these are; that is, parish, volume and page number.
D. Random surnames of families who baptized the majority of their offspring en bloc on one visit to the church.
E. Four hundred other different surnames.

After three years, working mainly in his spare time, Mr Billington is a registered business. He will surely give much information to those desiring to trace their ancestry, and reap some reward for his painstaking efforts.

Elizabeth Wallis


The vocabulary has been produced as a draft for development preparatory to being issued as an International Standard. Each entry is printed in English, French and German and the majority have an accompanying diagram. Russian terms are to be included in a later issue. There are two indexes, one of the proper names used to describe specific apparatus, the other to the apparatus itself. British Standards referred to in the draft are also listed.

The arrangement of the vocabulary is based on the use of the apparatus. There are nine main sections: (1) conveying and shutting off, (2) containing, (3) basic operations, (4) measuring, (5) determination of physical characteristics, (6) determination of chemical elements and compounds, (7) testing materials, (8) food, medical and biological purposes, (9) accessories. Where an item is known by more than one name, the preferred name is given first followed by the alternatives in parentheses. Where appropriate the contents also contain cross references.

This is one of the largest vocabularies ever prepared by the British Standards Institution and will be particularly useful to translators and readers of scientific literature. Some items of obsolete equipment have been included as they will still be referred to in the literature.

The second part of the draft, which is still in course of preparation, will deal with technical terms and their definitions and will be applicable to the manufacture, adjustment and use of the apparatus.

E. Anders

PLOTS AND CHARACTERS IN THE FICTIOUS OF 18TH-CENTURY ENGLISH AUTHORS: VOLUME 2: HENRY FIELDING, TOBIAH SMOLLETT, LAURENCE STERNE, SAMUEL JOHNSON AND OLIVER GODSMITH.


Over the years there have been many indexes to characters in fiction. In more recent years there has been a tendency to produce indexes of a more comprehensive kind, perhaps including places and events as well as characters, or combining an index with other information resulting in a work which is a handbook rather than an index to the works of the authors concerned. The first work of this kind, Volume 1 was published in 1977 on the same lines. The present work deals with the fictional writings of Fielding, Smollett, Sterne, Johnson and Goldsmith. Their novel titles are arranged alphabetically ranging from The Adventures of An Atom to The Vicar of Wakefield. There is a comprehensive summary of each story, usually about eight pages in length. Such summaries are usually fairly straightforward to produce, but in some cases, such as Tristram Shandy, the compiler has gone to the trouble of adding a chronological table of events to the main summary. When we consider the complexity of Tristram Shandy and the numerous digressions contained therein such a sorting out of the principal events in the story is of considerable value.

Each summary is followed by a list of characters and following this section there is a descriptive list of all the characters in the novels.

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The author, on the staff of the University of Pittsburgh, uses several methods in his citations in the character list. Humphry Clinker, being written in letter book form, uses several methods in his citations in the form which may suggest further fields of research. The book does not treat the novels in a critical fashion, nor is it the author's intention. It summarizes them and explains what the authors are attempting to do and this, combined with the character index, makes the book a valuable work for those studying the authors covered.

The second book is simpler in design, it consists of an index to all the characters in Meredith's fiction followed by an alphabetical list of the novel titles with a list of the characters in each. The index to the characters contains a short account of each person, and names the stories in which they appear, but no more detail is given. For instance, if a reader wishes to know exactly where Clare Fossey dies, the index simply says it is in The Ordeal of Richard Feverel. It does not specify that it is in chapter 61. The reader must search for that himself. However, one should not make too much of this. The work is a dictionary of characters, and does not set out to give an exact location of events in their lives.

The introduction points out the importance of 'dictionary data' to 'the discovery of various tendencies, patterns and techniques'. This can certainly be done in the case of dictionaries arranged in ways intended for that purpose. However, a dictionary of this sort is intended to do no more than locate the book in which characters appear. It is difficult to see how an index of characters will help, as the compilers claim it will, in the reader's understanding of the steady refinement of Meredith's philosophy, or the evolution of heroines and heroes 'towards the objectification of certain ethical imperatives'. The entries are not sufficiently detailed to give much assistance in this matter. However, even if there were sufficient information in them, the reader would have the time-consuming task of rearranging the books section in chronological order and then referring to the alphabetical list of characters.

All characters who take part or who are mentioned in the text are included. Such beings as Susan (The Egoist, Ch. 6) and Filberghibog with (Ch. 8) are perhaps rightly considered to be beyond the scope of characters and are not included.

A group of novels in series or with a central theme can be made much more valuable if they have some method of guiding the reader. Anthony Powell's A Dance to the Music of Time is such a series, covering nearly 60 years, and this handbook is a valuable adjunct for those interested in the novels.

Handbooks contain varying kinds of information. They may deal with sources, problems, criticism, history and other matters according to the author's purpose. This work consists of four indexes, to characters (real and fictional), books, paintings and places mentioned in the novels. Some of the entries are long, but even the briefest mention of a person in a story warrants an entry in the index. The method of entry can be seen from this brief example taken from The Kindly Ones:

BARBER, Mary Shares Jenkins' governess in 1914, her father killed in the first war.
KO 51. 74

In the character index, which is by far the major part of the book, most entries are arranged in historical sequence and therefore not in the order in which they appear in the text. This is accompanied by a brief index at the end of each entry so that no difficulties are encountered in finding in which novels particular events occur. The work is completed by a synopsis of the novels themselves.

The work does not set out in the conventional way, nor does it claim to be. If one wants to find the whereabouts of Widmerpool's overcoat, an important subject which is mentioned in his school for years afterwards, one cannot look up 'overcoat'. There is no subject index. Nor does it contain some of the more general aspects of the novels, which its title suggests it might do. However, within its limits it is a comprehensive and painstaking work and a valuable addition to works on Anthony Powell.

Index to characters in children's literature by
Arthur D. Mortimore, MA, FLA. Published by D. Mortimore 1977. 21 1/2cm. 191pp. £5.60. ISBN 950566000.

This is an unorthodox index compiled to meet a specific need. It will be welcomed by teachers and by all librarians who work with children. They know that children often remember the names of characters in books but not the author or title. Television serializations add to the confusion when a series is given a different title from the book, though the characters' names remain unchanged.

Arthur D. Mortimore looked at the various reference books available to help adults find specific children's books and decided something much simpler was needed. So he compiled a list of characters (including animals) and of things (a ship, a school) which are memorable. The entries, rarely more than one line, give only a thumbnail description and the author and title of the relevant book. When a character appears in a series it is the series which is cited, not the titles of individual books. The list includes collective names such as 'Harrison family'.

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Arthur D. Mortimore, MA, FLA. Published by D. Mortimore 1977. 21 1/2cm. 191pp. £5.60. ISBN 950566000.

This is an unorthodox index compiled to meet a specific need. It will be welcomed by teachers and by all librarians who work with children. They know that children often remember the names of characters in books but not the author or title. Television serializations add to the confusion when a series is given a different title from the book, though the characters' names remain unchanged.

Arthur D. Mortimore looked at the various reference books available to help adults find specific children's books and decided something much simpler was needed. So he compiled a list of characters (including animals) and of things (a ship, a school) which are memorable. The entries, rarely more than one line, give only a thumbnail description and the author and title of the relevant book. When a character appears in a series it is the series which is cited, not the titles of individual books. The list includes collective names such as 'Harrison family'.

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What is peculiar to this index is that characters are listed under their first names (e.g., Kay Harker, not Harker, Kay) on the tenable assumption that young children recall first names much more readily than surnames. Helpful though this may be to adults when a child seeks help in finding a book about ‘Harold’ or ’Susan’ I would question the wisdom of allowing children themselves to use it! They could become dangerously confused about the basic principles of indexing, which some of us are trying to instil into them.

Including books (in English) by American, Australian, Canadian and French authors, nearly 4,000 books available in British libraries during 1975/76 have been indexed. A severe combing through by two librarians has failed to find any significant omissions!

The book also lists series, alphabetically under authors’ names, but only those in which book titles do not indicate the name of the series. Some series are inevitably incomplete, as additional books have been added since 1976. At least one book is included in a series to which it does not belong. It is a pity that C. S. Lewis’ Narnia books are arranged in publication date order in defiance of the author’s specific request that the series should always be listed in reading order sequence.


The 1977 edition of The Bowker annual was of particular importance in one outstanding matter; it gave the complete text of the new Copyright Law 94-553 (19 October 1976) and devoted over 70 pages to considering various aspects of its provisions, many of which were, and are still, controversial.

This edition records important developments that have taken place at the Library of Congress following the final report of the Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning which made 33 major recommendations. One immediate result was the creation of the Office of Planning and Development. New reference services have been offered to patrons, a Computer Catalog Center (with six public computer terminals and two printers available). The decision was taken to stop filing new entries in the massive card catalogues on 1 January 1980, after which date users will rely primarily on automated data to provide access to the collections. On the same date the Library will adopt the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules and the 19th edition of Dewey’s book classification. Nearly 1,600 publishers are cooperating to provide publication details (cataloguing in publication) on the versos of title-pages of their books. The new Copyright Law has thrown much more work and responsibility on L. C. which will have to establish American television and radio archives.

The Center of the Book was established by P. L. 95-129, and this is also at L. C. The McGraw-Hill Book Company made a grant to assist in establishing the Center, which is supported by public funds. Its aim is to ‘organize, focus and dramatize our nation’s interest and attention on the book, to marshal the nation’s support—spiritual, physical, and fiscal—for the book’. Another new division of the L. C. is the American Folklife Center, which by law is to ‘preserve and present American folklife’.

A chapter is devoted to ‘improving the library service to American Indian people’, who are receiving much more attention and consideration by the American people than previously.

There are the usual chapters dealing with American library and publishing activities; also some new ones, one of which is on the long-awaited White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held in October 1979.

Turning to non-American matters, there is an interesting and informing chapter on recent developments of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). There is another on the Ligue des Bibliotheques Européennes (LIBER), the first General Assembly of which was held in 1972. It is an association of large research libraries in Western Europe, mostly university libraries, a few national libraries and one or two large research libraries.

The only national library and information systems to be described this year are those of Pakistan.

The Council on Library Resources made a small grant available to J. Periam Danton to enable him to complete a supplement, covering the years 1966-1975, to the Index to festschriften in librarianship.

Another (second) grant was made by the same organization to develop mechanized indexing procedures that can be applied to the production of a subject-enhanced keyword index.

The book has the usual tables of statistics relating to libraries and their use and to book production in different countries, lists of library awards and prizes, best sellers of 1977, notable books, best children’s books and young adult books of the same year; also the directories of library organizations and book trade organizations.

All the chapters are written by people responsible for, or closely concerned with, the subject matter of the chapters.
The comprehensive index is clearly laid out on the same principle chosen for Indexers on Indexing.

LMP is the standard annual reference book for anyone in the US who is in any way connected with any aspect of book production, from writing and illustrating to selling the finished result. It is commonly known as LMP and is an essential reference book for the various groups of people concerned with book production—and of course librarians.

The contents list is divided into 12 sections, with its own index of five pages. The 'names and numbers' in the title refer to 211 pages of names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals referred to in the book.

Other publications issued by Bowker include the American book publishing record [BPR]; the annual cumulative 1977, published in 1978; this provides a cumulative list of the monthly issues of American book publishing record. The total number of books included is 34,000.

Books in print supplement 1978-1979 is a spring update of (a) books published since July 1978 and scheduled for publication up to the end of July 1979, (b) titles that have registered changes in price, binding, ISBN or distribution and (c) 15,000 titles that have gone out of print since the publication of the base volumes. Another is Books in print 1978-1979, containing details of half a million new titles and editions. A companion set is the Subject guide to books in print 1978-1979.

Now Pierian Press (whose editorial board consists mainly of American librarians and professors in library schools, plus the well-known English librarian, A. J. Walford) has filled a librarians' and booksellers' need by starting the publication quarterly from the spring of 1978 of Best buys in print. The editor-in-chief is C. Edward Wall, and the publication complements Books in print by providing information on sale prices of books listed therein at higher prices. It also lists pre-publication discount information on forthcoming titles. Books in print provides access to special reprints and imports offered by remainder houses; these also are labelled out of print, but have only been sold by the publishers to remainder houses and are still available to libraries at discount prices, though they are not listed in Books in print.

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Wills Proved at Chester, 1831-1833. Ed. by L. M. Harrod

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The Directory of Fee-Based Information Services 1978-79. By Kelly Warnken. Information

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