
Analytical access: history, resources, needs. Richard J. Hyman. Flushing, N.Y.: Queens College of the City University of New York, 1978. 68pp. 28cm. Index. (Queens College studies in librarianship, no. 2) ISBN 0-930146-12-3. $5.00.


Many indexers who need to establish consistent patterns of bibliographical citation will be familiar with the first edition of the Anglo-American cataloguing rules. The new edition, which came out in December 1978, acknowledges the revolution which has taken place in libraries in recent years and declares that all media are created equal and the rest shall no longer be subject to the absolute tyranny of rules for cataloguing books. Another sign of the times reflected in the new edition is its publication in identical texts in Britain and America: it is in effect a universal English-language standard. In other respects the second edition differs from the first more in appearance than in reality.

The two main parts have been transposed so that rules for description precede rules for choice and form of headings, uniform titles, and references. The first chapter lays down general rules for description which are to be applied to all materials acquired by libraries. Subsequent chapters (using parallel rule numbering) augment as required those rules in their application to particular forms of material; books, cartographic materials, manuscripts, music, sound recordings, motion pictures and video recordings, graphic materials, machine-readable data files, three-dimensional artefacts and realia, microforms, serials, and parts of larger items ('analysis').

The structure of the entry and the naming of its parts have been changed where necessary to conform to ISBD(G): general international standard bibliographic description, which was itself formulated at the instance of the authors of the code, who pointed out that they could not draw up a code that would be in conformity with a number of standards for descriptive cataloguing of separate media which lacked consistency among themselves. Punctuation has been conventionalized, in conformity with the directives of ISBD(G), to encode for both human and mechanical reader the limits of fields and subfields. The language of the rules has been made simpler and more direct. The imperative mood has been used throughout, but that does not impose the same fullness of detail on all
users: three levels of detail are offered, as are also a few options relating to special cases.

There are some other important differences. The physical object in hand is to be primarily described and not the original work of which it may be a version, that is, a microfilm or a sound recording is to be described as such and its connexion with a pre-existing text or score indicated in a note. In prescribing headings for the catalogue, directions are given for the choice of 'main entry', although the editors point out the irrelevance of such a concept in a catalogue which has the facility to present all necessary bibliographical and location details in conjunction with any reasonable entry word. In fact, the first chapter of Part 2 is entitled 'Choice of access points'. It directs which persons or corporate bodies having varying degrees of responsibility for a work should be named (as main or added entries if the distinction is required) as points of entry into the file. The old argument about corporate authorship has, in fact, been resolved by rigorous definition of the kinds of publication to be entered under the name of a corporate body (rule 21.4B), although the term 'corporate author' nowhere appears in the code. Thus section 21.4 'Works for which a single person or corporate body is responsible' is divided into 'Works of single personal authorship' and 'Works emanating from a single corporate body'. It follows that there is no need for directives regarding the heading for serial publications as such: they are already covered by the general rule.

For indexers who are unfamiliar with AACR it is worth drawing attention to certain chapters. Chapters 22-24 give guidance on the choice and form of personal, geographical and corporate names, and on the references required from alternative forms. Chapter 25 is particularly useful for establishing entries for legal, scriptural and musical works. Chapter 26 summarizes, with examples, the instances where 'see' and 'see also' references are necessary from one name, or form of name, to another. Appendixes 1 and 2 contain lists of forms for capitalization, abbreviations and numerals. Appendix 3 is particularly helpful, especially since they are not confined to English-language usage. A glossary defines technical terms used with a special sense in the code.

The whole volume is logically arranged, with headings, subheadings and sub-subheadings clearly numbered. The print is clear and the proof-reading almost impeccable. The running heads repeat the first rule number and its heading on each verso and the last heading and its rule number of each recto, which may sometimes be less than explicit, as 12.7 B22 Item described, or, Other additions 24.4C10. However this is a manual with which the user must become thoroughly familiar and which must be used by reading a subordinate rule in the context of the general rule; its 620 pages would have been immoderately increased by the addition of hierarchical headlines.

The last 47 pages are devoted to the index, which is detailed and well organized, as the by-line naming K. G. B. Bakewell leads one to expect.

The author of Analytical access stresses the importance of abstracts or analytical annotation to accompany bibliographical description in library catalogues and published bibliographies, whether in card or book form or presented by a computer. He cites some 19th century catalogues and Library of Congress entries to show how standard cataloguing has always attempted to provide the searcher with a more specific guide to the contents of a book than is furnished by title, class number and subject headings, although means have not always been available to carry the attempt very far. Printed indexes and abstracting journals to some extent fill the gaps, mainly for periodicals. Indexing and abstracting services coded in Ulrich's International periodicals directory are listed in appendix 3, while appendices 4, 5 and 6 show how selections from these services make up the data base of three important computerized information systems. As befits a book addressed primarily to students, appendix 1 is a glossary of technical terms, appendix 2 a chronology of significant events and publications mentioned in the text, and the final section is a bibliography with its own subject index.

The bibliography of design in Britain is an attempt to draw together the literature on the history and theory of design, a subject of fairly recent origin as a generalized study. In order to keep the work to a reasonable size, the compiler has perforce restricted the scope of design applications. Apart from the limits of time and place stated in the title, a high degree of selectivity has been imposed on subjects which already have a well organized literature, such as architecture and civil engineering. A few other subjects, such as weapons and the performing arts, have been omitted altogether as being too involved to admit of summary treatment. Material has been well selected, arranged and described. For the most part, references have been confined to easily accessible publications with, however, some advice on how to obtain more recondite material.

An introduction which explains the scope and arrangement of the bibliography, followed by a chronological list of important dates—committee reports, exhibitions, foundation of schools and societies—orientes the reader, who is then led through the different topical sections and sub-

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sections. Introductory works precede others and comments are made where scope and form are not obvious.

An outline is given in the contents list, but the detailed subdivisions must be discovered as one reads, there being no space at the head of the four-column spread for more than section heading and subheading. Topics are listed in the subject finder, which is described as ‘an index to the sections and major subjects of the bibliography, not an index to all the authors and subjects it includes or touches upon’. In fact, authors are included only when their names as ‘important individuals’ occur as subdivisions of a subject and they are expounding their own views. The subject finder prefers double entry to ‘see also’ references, and makes no attempt to be analytical beyond headings.

‘See also’ references connect subjects in the bibliography. For instance at the head of the general section on William Morris are ‘see also’ references to Wallpaper page 207, Book design page 117, etc. The locations are for divisional headings from which the reader proceeds till he finds the special references he seeks or chooses to explore some of the more general studies on the way.

The bibliography displays a wide knowledge of its subject and an engaging informality, together with careful bibliographical description.

The second edition of the Bibliography of PRECIS is a revision and updating of the work by Poul Steen Larsen, and will itself be supplemented at intervals of about two to three years.

The 164 items are given full bibliographic description, abstract and, where relevant, references to related items. They are grouped under such headings as Sources, PRECIS pre-1974, Vocabulary control, Subject headings, Use of PRECIS according to language, Multilingual working, Teaching courses, etc.

The editors of Library services in transition say that its aim is ‘to present a picture of a dynamic period in the life of a modern research library, starting about mid-1973’. Sixteen essays by members of the staff of the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology Library record recent developments in providing information services to industry and in the use of automation both within the library and as a means of communication with other centres.

I pick out as of special interest to indexers the chapter by P. Sabsay entitled ‘MechEn, a bibliographical data base in mechanical engineering’. Mechanical engineering is a very important industry in Sweden, and MechEn was proposed as a complement to existing data bases, since ‘most of the world’s bibliographical data bases and information systems are conceived to satisfy the needs of scientists rather than technicians’. MechEn concentrates on technical information, which entails indexing technical notes and product announcements usually left out of other indexes. Figures are given showing how much the system is used.

As the introduction explains, the cumulated index to the Unesco bulletin for libraries is in four parts: a subject and country index to articles, news and information items; an author index of signed articles; an index to reviews of books; and an index to illustrations. The introduction goes on to state that references are to volume and page of the English edition, thus 20/191 means volume 20 (1966), page 191. Alas, it does not! The index appears to have been compiled by amalgamating the indexes to the 15 annual volumes, in which locations are shown by the item number, not the page number. In the index of illustrations (which would have been more useful if incorporated into the subject index) the reference is to the page number, however. Thus we find in the subject and country index

Maps, information retrieval system, 20/4
United States of America
University of California
Los Angeles, map library, 20/4
and in the illustrations index
UCLA [sic] Map Library, Los Angeles, 20/26-27

The selection of terms for the subject index to several years’ run of a journal notoriously presents problems arising from changing vocabulary and individual usage of contributors, even when written in a single language. How much more difficult is the selection of subject entry terms when the journal contains articles translated by divers hands from a variety of original languages. The only way to avoid confusion and inadequacy is to keep a record of terms used and to keep it up to date as new terms are found and to connect related terms by means of references. The lack of such precautions is seen in entries such as the following

Book production:
Africa, 17/159
Asia, meeting of experts (Unesco), 21/121
Braille books, 17/49
exhibition, educational books, 17/133
Books:
Braille production, USSR, 19/259
for blind persons, 27/58
production
Africa, meeting of experts, 22/286
Book trade:
exhibition at Fifteenth Frankfurt Book Fair, 16/387

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production of books for emergent nations, 16/408

By the time a cumulation is required it is too late.

The international exchange of machine-readable bibliographical information stored and made available by libraries and by indexing and abstracting services is greatly hampered by the variety of formats and procedures in use, developed independently by national agencies and co-operative organizations. For that reason UNISIST’s recently formed International Centre for Bibliographic Descriptions (UNIBID, part of the British Library Research and Development Department) called, and Unesco sponsored, an international gathering of experts to study 'the desirability and feasibility of establishing maximum possible compatibility between existing bibliographic exchange formats, not excluding the possibility of conceiving a single international exchange format suitable for use within the entire library and information community'.

Participants’ experience of using the various systems, the influence of users’ needs on content and arrangement of data, and compatibility problems were presented and discussed. Finally the Symposium, recognizing that 'the systems used in various sections of the information community are actually subsystems of the total information system', recommended that work should be undertaken, by representatives of different interests and geographical areas, to produce a common exchange format consisting of (a) record structure as defined in ISO 2709, (b) content designators, and (c) data elements, and that any such format should be subjected to testing and revision before being officially promulgated.

The last publication listed above prompts two quotations. The first is a cri du coeur from the compiler’s introduction: 'Looking through the manuscript now, it is hard to believe the amount of tedious work that went into rendering alphabetical orders and cross-referencing—after all, a finished list is just that!' Looking through the printed version, one cannot but agree! However, the compiler’s main work obviously went into collecting the material, writing the historical introduction and designing the layout with a large number of rude pictures, some of which the author admits ‘would offend some people’.

The indexes are of artists’ names with reference to the publications in which their work appeared; titles of the publications with price, date and publisher; publishers’ names with addresses. A second edition is promised, which 'will not only be an update, it will take the indexing and cross-referencing further, include a wider range of materials. . . .'

If, as Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, said,* we cannot without committing the sin of arrogance refuse to preserve any part of current publication since we cannot predict where future interest will fall, we must make the material accessible—hence the need for Comix index.

Mary Piggott


Here, in one well-bound volume, are the first eight issues of Laurence Urdang’s fascinating Language quarterly, Verbatim, originally having made their appearance between May 1974 and February 1976 but still as crisp and appetizing as fresh lettuce. The text is a linguistic feast, with some 170 items on the menu, luscious platefuls of tasty little snacks; not recommended for consumption at one sitting, or even two or three, but to be approached with the discrimination of a gourmet. Nowhere else, I think, could one so happily indulge an appetite for onomastics and toponymy and nounspeak; obscenity (labial), concatenants (or phonopedes) and homonymous antonyms; straightforward mayvendom and the more complex delights of homographic-hetero-semantic-phonoglosses.

It matters not a whit that the book reviews don’t cover recent publications, for every one of them contains something of a timeless interest, and they display a wit and flair and above all a succinctness which put to shame the longwinded pedagogy of the late lamented Times Literary Supplement. There is, for example, a stunningly informative review of George Steiner’s After Babel which will doubtless be an eye-opener even to the SI member who indexed the labyrinthine complexities of that seminal monster.

Enthusiastic amateurs participate at full gallop in pitched battles between recognized experts, on points of usage, etymology, and what-have-you, recklessly flinging around words like ‘ecdysiasts’, ‘nonnative’ (which turns out to mean ‘non-native’), and ‘detetive’ (disappointingly, merely a misspelt of ‘detective’). ‘Binomials’ are discovered to have no connection with mathematics. American scholars shamelessly display blind-spots in their awareness of Brenglish—as distinct from Amerenglish—usage. ‘And to hell with Sir Quiller-Couch,’ writes one

of them defiantly, prompting me to search hopefully but in vain for a mention of Sir Gowers! The Brenglish equivalent of 'one-horse town', writes another, is 'one-eyed village': an expression I personally have never heard or read in more than 60 years.

There's never a dull moment. Flashes of enlightenment and provocation streak across the pages like forked lightning. Frustration, too, though of an oddly pleasant kind, at the limitations of one's own vocabulary—and, in my own case, at the shortcomings of the three dictionaries which I keep by me for everyday use. All in all, a book to treasure and delight in, even though its index gives me the cold shivers.

It's well known that even the most experienced indexers fall out as readily as the proverbial thieves when it comes to assessing indexes. Some colleagues may think this a good index, except that it has no cross-references and no introductory note (particularly to explain the variant usages of typeface, capital initials, and inverted commas). To me, it smacks of extracting words from the text like collecting pebbles on a beach, for no better reason than that they happen to catch the eye. An excellent three-page article on the deterioration of English language teaching in American schools and its effects on standards of literacy, especially at the higher levels of education, has the following index-entries:

'age-promotion', English, Gresham's Law, The New York Times, They Don't Write English Like They Used to, who/whom.

One of these is the title of the article, which does not adequately reflect its content; the other five are almost insultingly irrelevant from the user's point of view. Indexing of this type is repeated ad nauseam. People's names appear in the index exactly as they are printed in the text; of 14 persons named on page 36, surnames only are used for eight of them in the text, and surnames only are slavishly repeated in the index. To be almost brutally blunt, an index of 33 pages, three columns per page, 40-plus headings (no subheadings) per column, is little more than a mindless assemblage of words and numbers, an Autolycan ragbag, a gross and very distressing disfigurement of an outstandingly enjoyable and stimulating publication.

Even Homer nods. Laurence Urdang is a lexicographer of international repute. His quarterly, Verbatim, is, in my opinion, one of the most valuable and quite the most enjoyable publication in the field of linguistics. He is a contributor to The Indexer and a friend of the Society of Indexers. And yet . . . what an index! The Society and its affiliates have achieved much in the past 21 years, but ah, my foes, and oh, my friends, what Herculean labours still lie before us!

But don't let anything stop you treating yourself to a copy of Verbatim. And solve your Christmas present problem by giving copies to all your word-loving friends and relatives. It really is (if I may make use of a binomial) a joy and a delight.

John Ainsworth Gordon


The aim of Indexing Concepts and Methods is to 'provide a basis for a well-balanced course of instruction in indexing' (page x). It may well do so in the authors' own institutions (Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of California, and School of Information and Library Studies, State University of New York) and in other American schools of librarianship, but a work which completely ignores chain indexing must be of very limited value for courses in indexing in British library schools. A survey by Liverpool Polytechnic Department of Library and Information Studies has indicated that chain indexing is easily the most widely used method in British libraries, and it is also of significance through its use in bibliographical tools such as The British National Bibliography (from 1950 to 1970) and, currently, The British National Film Catalogue, Library and Information Science Abstracts and British Technology Index. A bibliography which includes such notable British names as Aitchison, Austin, Cleverdon, Gilchrist, Knight, McColvin and Sparck-Jones, therefore, omits two major British writers on chain indexing—Coates (author of, in this reviewer's opinion, the best ever book on subject indexing) and Mills. And, of course, Ranganathan, originator of the technique, is not mentioned.

Terminology may also present an occasional problem for the British reader. It may be my ignorance, for example, but I have never heard 'pre- and post-coordinate indexing' referred to as 'pre- and post-correlative indexing'.

Apart from the omission of chain indexing, I was impressed by the comprehensive coverage of
the book. There are chapters on indexing procedures; alphabetization; indexing monographs and serials; editing, typesetting and proof-reading; thesauri; computer-aided indexing (including book indexing by computer); subject and author indexes; citation indexes; word indexes and concordances; special indexes (thematic indexes, the ring indexes to Chemical Abstracts, molecular formula indexes, taxonomic indexes, numerical indexes and classified indexes); index evaluation; indexer qualifications and training; and indexing as a profession (including ethical and economic considerations). It is particularly pleasing to see two eminent American library school lecturers devote so much attention to book indexing; the British equivalents of Borko and Bernier so often seem to think, for some reason, that book indexing is beneath them and are unaware that it presents the same kind of intellectual challenge as library and information-type indexing. But then, Bernier is a same kind of intellectual challenge as library and beneath them and are unaware that it presents the same kind of intellectual challenge as library and information-type indexing. But then, Bernier is a Past President of the American Society of Indexers! This is perhaps why the authors pay generous tribute to Norman Knight and the Society which he founded. 'Eminent' indexers and librarians in Britain so often seem to regard us as something of a Cinderella—or is it an ugly sister?

I found the chapters on thesauri, computer-aided indexing and citation indexes particularly useful, though not faultless. I agree that the EJC Thesaurus of engineering and scientific terms is 'one of the best in the field' (page 95), but I am not alone in preferring Thesaurofacet, which the authors do not mention, and no chapter on computer-aided indexing can be complete without any reference to British Technology Index. One British technique which is covered in this chapter, however, is PRECIS, and I was particularly pleased to find (at last) serious attention being given to the small evaluation study carried out by 25 students at Liverpool Polytechnic.

Elsewhere the book suffers from a certain superficiality. The use of roles and links is mentioned on page 24, but there is no indication of what they are. There are three paragraphs of proof-reading hints on page 90, but no table of proof-reading correction marks is provided. ERIC is mentioned on page 211 but the uninformed reader may well wonder who he is, since the authors don't think to mention that it is an acronym for Educational Resources Information Center. The Anglo-American cataloguing rules are casually mentioned on page 221 but are not in the bibliography or quoted as useful guides to the establishment of headings for persons, places and corporate bodies. Similarly the American Library Association's Rules for filing catalog cards are not mentioned in the section on alphabetization.

There are also occasional sweeping or surprising comments, such as: 'A familiar guidance system is the arrangement of books in a library—a positional indexing that some users prefer to catalogs' (page 5). (Only some users?)

'The word that starts the heading [of a book index] is capitalized' (page 21). (Why, unless it is a proper name?)

'Letter-by-letter alphabetization is preferred for subject indexes' (page 51). (I prefer it too but would hesitate to be so dogmatic, especially when the national standards disagree with me.)

'If possible, arrangements should be made for the publisher and compositor to accept and set type from the edited index cards' (page 77). (I emphatically disagree. Typing the index ensures that the indexer retains a copy (but perhaps the American postal service is more reliable than ours in Britain), gives a clear indication of the layout of the index, and allows its size to be estimated more easily.)

The good index has been compiled by Bernier in accordance with the recommendations of the American Society of Indexers. I just have two criticisms. First, my usual one about the use of 'see' references when it is more economical and helpful to make double entry, e.g.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Z39 Committee of, 39
ANSI see American National Standards Institute
LEX see Project LEX
Project LEX, thesaurus of, 97

Secondly, I would have liked a cross-reference from 'Filing' to 'Alphabetization'.

All in all, a 'curate's egg' of a book—very good in parts.

The index to the first 50 years of The Evangelical Quarterly has been compiled by Dr John S. Andrews, Sub-Librarian at the University of Lancaster. As a librarian, I was interested to find the names of at least three fellow librarians in the index—John Andrews himself (five contributions), Arthur Maltby (two contributions) and Tony Newell (three contributions). I was surprised to find that the first author was somebody called 'Anon' (filing in front of Aalders)!

Under each author, titles are arranged chronologically. This is probably the most helpful sequence for the majority of users, though some might have preferred alphabetical title arrangement.

Although modestly described as an author index, there is a subject guide with very broad headings (e.g. Bible, The Church, Church...
History) subdivided alphabetically. This guide simply refers to the author index, thus:

**BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT**

*CANONICITY*

Schultz; R. N. Smith

It is then quite an easy matter to locate exact references via the author index, as there are no more than sixteen titles listed under any author, though this economical system would have been even more effective if the author index entries had been numbered.

A specific subject index would have been helpful. For example, the subheadings for 'OTHER TOPICS' are a very mixed bag: Anthropology & Ethnology; Archaeology & Geography; Education & Research; Exorcism; Gnosticism; History & Historiography; Jews & Judaism; Literature, Culture & Religion; Philosophy & Ethics; Psychology; Science & Technology; Religious Studies; Social & Political Questions.

A very useful little index for anybody interested in theology.

K. G. B. Bakewell

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This thesaurus is used for indexing input to the INSPEC secondary services and accordingly is mainly concerned with physics and its related subjects. As with previous editions the main part is a thesaurus with preferred terms in bold type. The usual thesaurus indicators such as 'broader term' and 'used for' are employed. A special indicator is the 'top term' which refers the user to the second part of the thesaurus where these 'top terms' are listed with a hierarchical display of narrower terms under each one. Two classification codes are given under each preferred term, one used for the INSPEC magnetic tape services and the other being the full code used as input to the INSPEC database. Many preferred terms also include a 'see also' section in italics indicating terms used as cross-references in the printed INSPEC indexes. Changes that have been made since the previous edition are clearly indicated, as for example most of the headings beginning with the phrase 'nuclear reactions'. There is a useful short introduction.

The thesaurus is well laid out with two columns per page in both sections. The paper quality is good and if previous editions are anything to go by should not yellow rapidly. Although the print is rather small in the main section this is offset by the uncluttered appearance of the individual pages. The print in the hierarchical section is larger. The binding could be stronger and in the review copy was torn. This could be a serious problem in a small library or information department where funds do not permit the purchase of each new edition of the thesaurus.

The order of the entries is word-by-word which is better than letter-by-letter in a field such as physics where there are many compound terms, especially in electricity and electronics. One particularly pleasing feature is the filing of abbreviations and acronyms as if they were words so that they do not appear at the beginning of each letter sequence. There will therefore be no problems in later editions over resorting any abbreviations or acronyms that have evolved into words. A less fortunate idea is the placing of terms beginning with Roman numerals, such as 'II-VI semiconductors', under the letters I and V. Although this practice is mentioned in the introduction, Roman numerals would be better filed at the beginning of the entire sequence where the terms beginning with Arabic numerals are already filed.

Undoubtedly the chief value of the thesaurus is the actual choice of preferred terms and this is generally good. The rapid expansion of the subject is well represented by the inclusion of established new terms such as 'microcomputers'. One notable feature is the frequency of terms combining several basic concepts, for example, 'field emission electron microscopy' and 'radioactivity measuring apparatus'. These may not be strictly ideal from a facet analysis point of view but they are probably helpful rather than otherwise for anyone using the thesaurus. Sometimes, however, this feature is taken too far, as in the term 'infra-red spectra of inorganic solids', which is especially odd as there are no preferred terms for 'infra-red spectra of inorganic liquids' or even 'infra-red spectra'!

Some rather vague blanket terms are omitted. In certain cases, such as 'electronics', this is probably justified but the case of 'microprocessors' seems curious. The thesaurus uses 'microprocessor chips' instead, presumably to avoid possible confusion with 'microcomputers'. However, as the term 'microprocessors' is rapidly becoming established, it would probably have been better to use it.

On the other hand some vague general terms are used instead of more specific terms and this can hardly be helpful for the user. This is especially true of thermodynamics where, for example, 'free energy' is used for 'Gibbs function' and 'thermodynamics' itself for 'Onsager relations'.

The ways in which broader, narrower and related terms are used are clearly indicated in the introduction and are generally followed consistently. In fact, the use of these indicators is one
of the best features of the thesaurus. The same cannot be said of the 'see also' sections. These nearly always duplicate information given elsewhere under the preferred terms. As most purchasers are unlikely to use the thesaurus in connection with other INSPEC publications it would have been better to omit the 'see also' sections thus saving both space and therefore costs.

One weakness of many thesauri is the poor coverage of peripheral subject areas and here the INSPEC thesaurus does better than most. Astronomy is particularly well covered although chemistry and biology fare rather less well. For example, under organic compounds the 'used for' and 'narrower terms' categories both contain individual groups of chemicals.

Despite its limitations the thesaurus should prove helpful to any library or information department handling material concerned with physics and its related disciplines. Unfortunately the high price may well deter would-be purchasers so it is hoped that INSPEC will investigate the possibility of removing redundant information from future editions.

J. M. Sweeney

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58-68: appreciation of Smollett's writing, compared to others', with examples from Roderick Random.


The author has deliberately limited her work so that it does not include articles already listed by other bibliographers. She lists nine works of the same sort as her own including, for example, the much more extensive book by W. S. Walker, Twentieth-century short story explication. This work, however, gives references only, without any indication of their content. Some of the literary figures in Seidel have as many as eight references to them although quite naturally many have no more than one. The book is useful as a lead when trying to find information about an author, although a personal investigation of the critical books in a good collection will perhaps produce short interesting items of value not listed in Seidel, and of course the index to individual critical works may well throw up ideas and suggest new lines of thought.

Philip Bradley
Lead Term (without context), Rotated String (as KWOC or KWAC), Articulated Prepositional (after M. F. Lynch), Shunted Relational (as PRECIS after D. W. Austin) and Chain Procedure (after E. J. Coates). Comparisons showed that index term context provides benefit in screening out irrelevant material, thus improving precision. Term order was tested as sentence-like active form and the fragmented form of articulated and shunted: no significant performance differences emerged. Chain procedure led to weaknesses in recall, and increased time and search effort. Future work must take a psycholinguistic direction. Figure A/1 illustrates each of the forms tested, which is a great advantage to readers who are unfamiliar with the rather specialized terminology relating to some of the forms of indexes which are compiled by teams of workers covering wide fields of (usually) periodical literature.

Full abstracts and titles were available for all 392 documents of the test collection and were indexed by the three primary methods, Shunted Relational, Chain Procedure and Articulated Prepositional, and assumed the stature of a master authority file for all future EPSILON indexing.

This is a detailed report containing many tables and graphs recording the findings of those undertaking the survey, and the writer concludes that the design criteria for printed indexes are:

1. Index term context should be fully provided by direct entry under each lead term.
2. When convenient, full function words can be provided, though less provision is not likely to lead to noticeable performance degradation.
3. The constant term order provided by the simplest rotation algorithm, if active sentence-like order, is not bettered by articulation or shunting. There appears to be no good reason to choose complex systems rather than simple ones, nor any reason to reject an existing complex one if it is convenient to retain it.

The two review volumes follow the now familiar pattern of presenting in a standardized form surveys of the literature in their field, not merely by referring to the literature (of which full bibliographical information is given in author order at the end of each chapter) but by giving in continuous literary narrative form an account of the subject matter of the literature referred to, as appropriate.

Each volume has nine or ten chapters grouped under the headings: 1. Planning information systems and sources; 2. Basic techniques and tools; 3. Applications; and, in the case of vol. 12, 4. The profession; 5. Special topics.

They are mainly American in content (although some non-American literature is dealt with) even to the extent, when dealing with European Information Networks in vol. 12, of restricting the coverage to ‘wholly or partly US-owned services with a European presence, some of which are crucial to Europe’s information economy’. In this volume the chapter which may be of most interest to indexers is the one on Subject Analysis.

The index to each volume is preceded by the same—and essential—introduction. The indexing of this series has certainly improved greatly under the present editor but there is still room for a little more thoroughness.

L. M. Harrod

Books Received


Each entry includes the individual’s date of birth and death and a brief description of major activities or projects, and any biographical cyclopedia citations as well as the hidden biographical fragments from never-before-indexed obituaries in nationally circulated trade, technical and popular periodicals.


References to 3,520 items taken from obituary notices in the contemporary engineering press are detailed for the first time.


Lists over 1,000 classical music nicknames etc. An alphabetical guide in four parts; classical music, film themes, radio and TV themes and advertisement themes.

An earlier work by Ambalavaner Sivandan covers the period from 1950 to 1969. Divided into fifteen broad categories (e.g. immigration, history and politics, racism, inter-ethnic relations, employment, etc) and then into subsections, one listing books, pamphlets, government publications, theses and dissertations and another periodical articles. Entries are listed by author or government agency. The subject index assumes considerable importance as for reasons of brevity works are cited only once and placed in the most appropriate broad category. There are also separate indexes for author and title. The compiler is a librarian at Drake Memorial Library, State University, Brockport, N.Y., and the book is published in USA by Greenwood Press Inc.


A model is offered for assessing labour costs, in time and dollars, of library functions. Appendices, which form two-thirds of the volume, reproduce time sheets, tables and analytical printouts, and also the procedure manual for computer processing of the data collected.

Elizabeth Wallis


This is really a bibliography of Author-titles to Science Education. Nevertheless it provides valuable access to science teaching know-how in the USA during the last 60 years. References are alphabetically arranged by authors and suitably cross-referenced to the leading author for multiple-author articles. Where articles have no author they are arranged alphabetically by their titles at the end of their section. The material is grouped in broad subject sections.

The first four sections (88 pages) are devoted to 'Science Teaching and Research'. The remainder of the book is principally concerned with abstract material and book reviews, still arranged in subject sections.

Although this work is going to be useful, users will have to work very hard at finding references for which they do not know the author's name. Obviously, much information is lost without a proper subject index, which is a shame.

C. R. R.

Updates Report no. 52S6 and is enlarged to include services in the humanities. The entries are arranged alphabetically by name of service, and an alphabetical index of the responsible authorities and alphabetical subject indexes are also provided.


Divided into three sections: subject, author and book reviews. Subject headings in first and third sections not consistent. Curious inclusion of authors in subject index cross-referencing their names to subject headings. The compiler is obviously not a professional indexer. E. J. W.


Reproduction of catalogue cards and the author's 'hope to instill in you, dear Reader, some of the joy . . . and . . . love I have for serials' suggest one of the older type of American instruction books. The time-lag in production—the preface (from which the quotation is taken) is dated 1975—precludes reference to much recent development in cooperation and automation. The index is not all that could be desired. There are omissions and 'strings' of references, e.g. under Library of Congress, ISBN and ISDS.

L.M.H.


An index of artists and groups mentioned in 19 magazines, six of which are known to be defunct, six suspected of being so, and seven assigned an address and price.


This list is in no way to be regarded as a comprehensive list of subject headings or as a Canadian substitute for Sears. Only Canadian references are given for headings in this list. Sears must still be consulted under the appropriate headings to identify what general references might also be suggested, advisable or necessary. Useful to consult for subject headings for books about Canada.


A guide to the history of Victorian opinion in the fields of religion, politics, science, economics, travel, law, linguistics, music, the fine arts and literature. This third volume adds a further 15 periodicals to the 13 covered in the previous two volumes. Part A contains a tabular view of the contents, issue by issue, with the exception of poetry. This provides a student with the contents of journals not available in a particular library. Part B is a bibliography of articles arranged under the contributors' names. Part C is the first index of pseudonyms used in 19th-century English periodicals.

E. J. W.

Indexing, the art of

Norman Knight's book, described by its author as having been deliberately made 'rather elementary' (but nevertheless having much of value to experienced indexers), was published by George Allen and Unwin on 23rd August. It is available from booksellers for £8.95; or at a special discount rate to readers of The Indexer (see leaflet inserted). A review will appear in our next issue.

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