

Book Reviews

A first course in proof correcting by E. L. Dellow. London: Northgate Publishing Co., 1979. viii, 109+[c.100]pp. 30cm. ISBN 0-85298-411-1 Ring binding £6.

Typescripts, proofs and indexes/Judith Butcher. Cambridge: CUP, 1980. 32pp. 22cm. ISBN 0-521-29739-7 pbk £1.25.

Book design/John Trevitt. Cambridge: CUP, 1980. 34pp. 22cm. ISBN 0-521-29741-9 pbk £1.35.

Copyright/Christopher Scarles. Cambridge: CUP, 1980. 32pp. 22cm. ISBN 0-521-29740-0 pbk £1.50.

Model guidelines for the preparation of camera-ready typescripts by authors/typists: suggestions from an IFSEA-Ciba Foundation Workshop; and, Bibliographical references in scientific publications: suggestions from an ELSE-Ciba Foundation Workshop; ed. by Maeve O'Connor. London: Ciba Foundation, 1980. 47pp. 24cm. ISBN 0-907187-00-5 pbk £1.50.

A first course in proof correcting is addressed to the printer's reader, but good practice for authors and publishers' readers is also noted throughout the book. Believing that the corrector of the press should possess (in addition to intelligence and a thorough knowledge of the language) a technical knowledge of printing processes and an attitude of mind 'which might best be described as perpetual suspicion', and that he should accept the absolute duty to safeguard his employer against the danger of liability for printing libel, the author orients his pupil within the printing works, specifying the equipment he will need, including reference books, and goes through the different stages of the proof-reader's duties. First considerations are to acquire a knowledge of the proof-reader's marks, to know the house style and the law regarding copyright, libel, obscenity, imprint, and the use of trade names.

The different methods of composing are then described, so that the proof-reader will recognize different founts and sizes of type and know what printer's work his corrections will involve. Guidance follows on the various stages of proof-reading, from first proofs to press reading and machine revising, and on the methods of working, with chapters on specialized printing: tabular work and tables, display and jobbing work, technical and scientific work, and foreign languages.

References to further reading are made throughout, and exercises follow the different sections. The 'copy' for the exercises, facsimile typescript or manuscript, is on detachable pages at the end of the book. These are not numbered and once detached cannot be put back.

The author's intention is that the reader shall work through the book, doing the exercises as he comes to them and so getting a thorough grounding. Presumably he would then be sufficiently familiar with the text not to need an index. The contents list is very full.

The writer of the book, himself a proof-reader of much experience, 'stands pat upon the thesis that the aim of the proof-reader can never be less than perfection'. His own book comes very near to his ideal, but how did he miss *Britannica*? And the French passage shown as 'copy' defeated his typist and presumably escaped his reading altogether. But this is cavilling, and I warmly recommend a very useful book.

The three booklets from the CUP continue the series of authors' and publishers' guides begun by M. D. Anderson's *Book indexing*. Each has been written by a member of the Press. Judith Butcher, Chief Sub-editor, explains succinctly how the author can help the 'publisher, the typesetter and the eventual reader by thinking about presentation before the final script is typed, by correcting proofs efficiently and economically, and by making a really useful index'. If her directions are followed the author should be able to organize his typescript, illustrations, tables and bibliographical references and to find out how to deal with alternative spellings, numerals, dates, hyphens, captions, italic type, capitals and abbreviations and contractions, and how to correct his proofs using standard symbols.

The author admits that her directions for making an index are only a brief guide and refers to Anderson's book. The *necessity* for further guidance should have been stressed. Here, for example, is shown how to set out cross-references but not when to make them, and directions for alphabetical arrangement are inadequate.

John Trevitt is Head of Design at the CUP. His book explains how paper, typeface and layout are chosen to fit the text to be printed and to harmonize with each other. The reader can turn from sections in *Typescripts, proofs and indexes* to similar headings in *Book design* to see how the designer may set out his headings and subheadings, tables, quotations, footnotes, bibliographies and index, how arrange his illustrations, and, finally, how set out the preliminary pages and choose binding and jacket. The author's own hand, presumably, is evident in the elegant, asymmetrical layout of the three Cambridge booklets.

In the third of these Christopher Scarles, Editorial Administration Manager of the CUP, explains the nature of copyright and summarizes the law of copyright according to the provisions of the Berne and the Universal Copyright Convention and to UK and USA legislation. Copyright as it affects the publisher is then set out, covering contracts, permissions, illustrations, the copyright notice, copyright in unpublished material, new copyrights from works already in copyright, such as translations, and Crown copyright. Further reading is suggested.

Speedier and cheaper publication of scientific work is made possible by dispensing altogether with typesetting and going straight from the author's typescript to the

photographic plate from which it is printed. *Model guidelines for the preparation of camera-ready typescripts by authors and typists* is the outcome of two workshops organized by the Ciba Foundation in collaboration with two groups of scientific editors.

The outcome of the 1979 workshop held in collaboration with the International Federation of Scientific Editors' Associations (IFSEA), is a model set of instructions as from a journal editor to contributors, followed by detailed instructions to authors, with examples, for providing title, abstract, keywords and tables, with directions on the style and form of the text, formulas and equations, illustrations and lists of references. Instructions to typists concern typeface, paper, margins, spacing, corrections, and the various parts of the text and headings.

The recommendations for citation and arrangement of bibliographic references were put forward by the 1977 workshop, held in collaboration with the European Life Science Editors' Association (ELSE), as a move towards uniformity and 'a compromise between the best of the innumerable systems that at present take up so much time when manuscripts are being prepared for publication'. (Evidence of disparity in minutiae comes from a comparison between these recommendations and those of the CUP. ELSE-Ciba recommendations are more sparing with punctuation, and suggest filing names exactly as spelt, without transposing prefixes, whereas Cambridge files Mc as Mac and transposes certain prefixes in foreign names. Both, however, are emphatic in banning the use of *op. cit.* and *loc. cit.*) A 'master typescript' method of citation and listing is described which can be easily adapted to either the name/date or a numeral system, according to the style of the journal accepting an article.

Each set of guidelines indicates possible variables and is followed by a shortened version and a list of references.

With an editor as competent as Maeve O'Connor, the text covers all necessary points and is easy to read, although a fuller contents list would have made finding specific points easier. The booklet is itself an example of camera-ready text set in Prestige Elite on an IBM MC 82 and shows that camera-ready need not mean repulsive.

Mary Piggott

Examples illustrating AACR 2: Anglo-American cataloguing rules second edition, by Eric J. Hunter and Nicholas J. Fox. London: Library Association, 1980. viii, 184pp. 23cm. ISBN 0-85365-951-6. £4.95 (to members of L. A. £3.96).

The examples are arranged in one alphabetical file of main entries, consecutively numbered. Each main entry is given in full according to the rules and is followed by tracings for added entries. The compilers then note the cataloguing problem(s) for which the entry was chosen and refer to the rule(s) used in the solution, explaining rules where necessary.

The Indexer Vol. 12 No. 2 October 1980

For some of the examples a reproduction of the 'chief source of information' is given, e.g. title page, town plan, cassette with label, microfiche, machine-readable data file. Since books predominate in the collections of most libraries, the bulk of the 383 examples relate to books. Attention is drawn to options permitted by the rules and references are made to entries which illustrate an alternative choice, and also to different conditions which may at first sight appear to be the same.

Added entries and references are exemplified in Appendixes 1 and 2, while Appendix 3 shows the layout of the entry when paragraphing is not used.

Although the compilers suggest that their work may be used for browsing 'to discover how AACR 2 approaches various cataloguing difficulties', its chief use will be to illustrate a particular rule or an identified problem. It has therefore two indexes: a problem and general index, arranged alphabetically, and a rule index, arranged numerically. Entries in both indexes refer to numbers in the main entry sequence.

The sampler should prove of great help to anyone approaching AACR, or this edition of it, for the first time.

Mary Piggott

ALA world encyclopedia of library and information services. Edited by R. Wedgeworth. Chicago: American Library Association. 1980. xxii, 601pp. Tables. Illus. Index. 28cm. £40 (£32 LA members). ISBN 0-8389-0305-3.

This 'Encyclopedia was conceived to provide an ordered synthesis of library and information services as they have developed throughout the world but with emphasis on North America.' It also 'seeks to explain fundamental ideas, record historical events and activities, and portray those personalities, living and dead, who have shaped the field.' This is an enormous task and it has been undertaken with vision and the most effective means possible, by obtaining contributions from knowledgeable people all over the world—from 364 contributors in 145 countries for example. Nowhere else will one find so much information in one volume but the emphasis on North America is apparent throughout the book and this is one of its chief drawbacks, particularly in the articles which deal with the library as an institution and in those on the theory and practice of librarianship.

There are 172 biographies, and this is one area where there is scope for improvement; there are biographies of people who are outstanding leaders, but confining one's comments to British leaders of the past there is no mention of some of the outstanding people who were responsible for significant developments in library and related services between the wars and after 1945.

The important London Library is not given an article to itself but one gleans a little about it from the index where it is referred to in articles on Thomas Carlyle, its founder, and Panizzi.

The first paragraph of the three-and-a-half-page article on Adult Services concludes 'It is in this broad

perspective that adult service coordinators in large municipal public libraries have developed programs of adult services since 1945.' The article deals wholly with the situation in the USA.

The two-page article on the Certification of Librarians has two paragraphs devoted to other countries in which one sentence relates to Great Britain; this mentions the Library Association but ignores the facilities available at universities.

The four-and-a-half-page article on Children's Services does however have brief references to activities in other countries and one of its four illustrations is of mime time in the weekly story period at a Birmingham, England, library.

The book has 300 illustrations which vary greatly in quality; often there is no detail or contrast in them, owing presumably to the method of printing. This is the case for example in the illustrations on pp. 273, 297, 430, 564, 577 and 581. In some cases the subject of the illustration is obscured by foliage. This is so with the Singapore National Library p. 392 which is almost entirely obscured by trees; it is a pity the picture postcard of this library was not used as this shows the whole of the facade without intervening foliage. Incidentally Lim Pui Huen writing about Singapore's national librarian, Hedwig Anuar, does not mention that the library was designed by a British librarian and architect in consultation and its construction initially supervised by officers of the British overseas civil service before Singapore received its independence.

A unique aspect of the book is the innovative parallel index that runs in the wide outside margins parallel to the articles throughout the text. All the articles are in alphabetical order and all the index entries are placed as far as possible alphabetically with them. It is not easy to determine the principles on which entries are included, e.g. there is no index entry under the Bodleian Library to pp. 410-1 where it is mentioned. In the article on Academic Libraries there is on p. 7 an illustration of the slide room in the Ernest Stevenson Bird Library at Syracuse University Library; there is an index entry under Syracuse University Library, slide room, *illus.* 7 but no entry at slides.

Usually the titles of books are included in the index, but sometimes they are not; the *Masterlist of Southeast Asia Microforms*, 160 is in (the word *Microforms* being omitted) on p. 346, but the other reference to it on p. 35 is omitted whilst three other publications in the same article are indexed—one of them being given a wrong page number. On p. 97 two books by Thomas Bray are mentioned: *Bibliothecae Americanae Quatripartitiae* is indexed but *Memorial to the Clergy of Maryland* is not. On this page there is a reference to *Documentation*, the collection of essays by which Dr. S. C. Bradford 'will be best remembered': this, together with another reference to it on p. 177, is indexed as a subject and not as the title of a publication which should be indicated by being printed in italics.

There should be in the index a reference for p. 436 to Justin Winsor, and also for the founding of the American Library Association, for pp. 103 and 438

under the archives administration courses at the American University (Washington, D.C.) and for p. 438 under Archives administration course and Archives education and research.

On p. 15 we are told that UTLAS is the largest catalogue (*sic*) support system in the world outside the United States and the United Kingdom. This reference is indexed under the full name of the University of Toronto Library Automation System (UTLAS) but the full description of it on p. 112 is not given. On the other hand the CONversion of SERials project has a reference 'see CONSER project' where the page references are to be found. The usual practice is for the references to be given under the full names with cross-references from the abbreviations.

There are some evidences of hurried editing or proof reading, e.g. on p. 435 'and this appointment offered Poole considerable visibility', a new word 'aftering' on p. 132, Toronto instead of Toronto under the illustration on p. 305, Ranganathan mis-spelt on p. 317, also Urquhart on p. IX, retired on p. 429 and *Index Translationum* and *Index Bibliographicus* (both missing from the index) on p. 266.

L. M. Harrod

Proceedings of the second seminar on freelance indexing sponsored by the American Society of Indexers, held at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington D. C. 13 January 1979; transcribed and edited by Jay D. Tebo from tape recordings and prepared papers. ASI, 51pp, 28cm. \$10 (\$5 to ASI members).

Essential reading for all practising and would-be indexers. Also included are *A guide to freelance indexing* by Cynthia Weber (three pages of commonsense advice based on American experience) and *A book indexing bibliography* compiled by Albert H. Rouslin (four pages strangely omitting Ann Hoffmann's *A select reading list on indexing* for the Society of Indexers). The 93 delegates who attended the conference were given not only practical advice by experienced freelance indexers, but also time to swap experiences in question-and-answer sessions. It was pleasant to read a warm tribute to our founding father Norman Knight amongst all the practical comments on bookkeeping and billing, making contacts, office routines, contracts, should typing an index be charged for? and relations with publishers.

The American Society appears to me to be much stronger in making practical advice available to members than its British counterpart; but on the other hand it does not operate a Register. It does however publish a list of freelance indexers, together with their indexing specialities, which is available for sale to publishers. The Americans appear to believe that if you can find work and satisfy publishers, then you must be a competent indexer. There is no doubt that we all share the same problems though—lack of appreciation, slow payments, inadequate rewards, uneven workload, etc. We also share the same fascination for this exasperating, intriguing and elusive craft.

Elizabeth Wallis

Some statistical indicators of UK abstracting and indexing services. H. East. London: British Library Research and Development Department, July 1979. 31pp. 30cm. (British Library Research and Development Department Report No. 5488.) ISBN 0-905984-40-4, ISSN 0308-2385. £2.50/US \$6.

This report supplements another British Library Research and Development Department report, *Inventory of abstracting and indexing services produced in the UK* by G. Burgess, A. Vickery and S. Keenan (BLRDD Report No. 5420 reviewed in *The Indexer*, 11(4) Oct. 1979, 250). Other indexers may perhaps be more interested than this reviewer in the fact that 157 'service producers' publish 339 services, 231 of them abstracts services, and that between them they publish 2.9 million references each year. Some may also be interested in the many other statistics and charts which are presented, including type of producer, number of services for each type, and annual increments of references. Some may even be interested in the facts that 75 of the service producers are located in London, 30 within 50 miles of London, 49 elsewhere in England, 2 in Scotland and 2 in Wales.

Of greater interest to me are the facts that although less than one-third of the services (101) are available in machine-readable form, 71% of the references are published in machine-readable form. Well over half of the services (76.7% of all services, 73.4% of abstracting services) commenced publication during the past 20 years, indicating the recent growth of the abstracting and indexing industry.

The report concludes with a list of service producers and details of the 'top ten' producers (in quantity, not necessarily quality!).

K. G. B. Bakewell

Guidelines to setting up an expertise index by P. O'N. Hoey. British Library Research and Development Department Report 5519, Dec 1978, 37pp. 30cm. Fiche or photocopy may be purchased from BL Lending Division, prices on application. Original may also be borrowed from same source.

This report provides guidance for setting up an index which explicitly identifies persons knowledgeable in particular subjects or having specific skills and condenses the findings of the BLR & D Department project *Indexes to expertise: an examination of practical systems* carried out by Mrs S. G. Barry between October 1973 and March 1975. Two hundred and fifty expertise indexes were identified for the Barry Report, 35% in the UK and 55% in the USA. One hundred and thirteen (43%) responded by completing and returning a questionnaire on which the Barry report was based. Fourteen indexes were selected for case studies in depth. Motives for setting up, and costs of the operation were investigated.

Appendix III reveals that the benefits accruing from expertise indexes are increased efficiency/economy in: problem solving/enquiry answering, job vacancy

filling; planning training programmes; evaluating corporate strength of organization; personnel appraisal work; preparation of manpower planning/analysis reports; improved work performance by better matching of people with jobs; increased awareness of expertise available; better use of human resources; increased staff morale by recognition of capabilities; savings in time for researchers etc. Appendix XI reveals that the main forms of information storage and retrieval systems may be off-line or on-line computer file or simple card indexes. Appendix XII states that information is mainly indexed under subjects in alphabetical order; subjects in classification/code order; people's names in alphabetical order; or geographical locations. This abstract of the original Barry Report which was over 450 pages with extensive appendixes also addresses itself to three vital concerns ensuring awareness of the existence and contents of such an index, use and performance. How encouraging it would be if all indexes were subjected to scrutiny for use and performance.

Elizabeth Wallis

Case studies in computer-based bibliographic information services by Lucy Tedd. British Library Research and Development Report no. 5463, June 1979. 212pp. ISBN 0-905984-30-7 £5.50/\$11.00.

This is a report of visits to 12 different information services in Europe which use computer-based information retrieval systems.

The information services ranged from the Norwegian Centre for Informatics to the Italian Institute of Legal Documentation, to the Wellcome Research Laboratories near London. As may be expected from a small sample of 12, the services vary widely in their aims and objectives, their clientele and the services they provide. A chapter is devoted to each of the information services, in which such aspects as staffing, the computer systems used, education of staff and users, and costs and charges are examined in a fair amount of detail. One may obtain from the descriptions a good indication of the kinds of service available. They ranged for example from the Institut Textile de France, which with a staff of 22 has developed a multilingual system called Titus which they operate jointly with a number of similar organizations in other countries, to the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which has set up a Library Computer Services Centre which with a staff of one relies exclusively on the use of external services such as UKCIS and BLAISE.

With such a disparate and small sample, the author indicates, quite reasonably, that it was not possible to draw general conclusions about the use of information retrieval systems, but does contrast and compare various aspects of the services in her concluding chapter.

This clearly arranged and well written report would be of benefit to anyone seeking information about the ways in which computer-based information retrieval systems are used in Europe.

Verina Horsnell

Career patterns and the occupational image: a study of the library/information field, by Margaret Slater. London: Aslib, 1979. 334pp. 21cm. (Occasional publication no. 23.) ISBN 0-85142-122-9. Pbk £18 (£13 to Aslib members).

I find this book, the result of a research project funded by the British Library Research and Development Department, extremely difficult to review. This is because I like all research to have a practical purpose and I honestly cannot see any in the mass of statistical tables and quotations which are presented here. Mrs Slater can. She tells us that, 'on the broad national level, the findings should provide data useful for manpower forecasting or planning and for educational programmes', and that, 'on the organizational level, the results could provide guidance in recruiting, staff training, staff deployment plans, even perhaps better utilization of the whole library/information resource within the parent institution'. Perhaps. All I can say is that I don't think I would have used the report for any of these purposes when I was an employer and not a mere academic.

Mrs Slater's research was carried out at various levels. She analysed 307 organization charts to trace the position and function of the library/information unit within the organizational structure and from this analysis, she says, a corporate or management image of the profession is implicit. She analysed mobility and turnover data provided by 1770 library/information units in an effort to discover how many librarians and information workers moved and why. She examined the career patterns and life analyses of 312 librarians/information workers and the work motivation, expectations, experiences and self-images of 303 librarians/information workers. And she investigated the image of the librarian/information worker in the eyes of 107 members of the general public.

Personally, I would have found Mrs Slater's questionnaire to librarians impossible to complete; for example, I would not presume to say that librarians are more important than accountants and computer programmers but I would never admit that they are less important. Mrs Slater regrets the poor response on page 106 and suggests some reasons—but the design of the questionnaire is not one of them. The fact that her survey only covers 312 librarians/information workers when there are nearly 2,000 chartered librarians on the Library Association's register also throws doubt on the validity of her findings.

I regret Mrs Slater's insistence on drawing a distinction between 'librarian' and 'information worker' without explaining what the distinction is supposed to be. I have always regarded myself as both, and I insist that a good librarian *must* be an information worker. (Mrs Slater seems to express surprise on page 217 at 'a tendency for librarians to see library and information work as synonymous'.)

The poor motivation and generally disgruntled attitude of librarians/information workers, especially those in industry, conflicts with my own experience and

again causes me to doubt the validity of the sample. Or was it all a big joke by the people completing the questionnaires? Is it really true that, as reported on page 187, 3% of respondents would prefer to be models, dancers, film stars or bunny girls? Experience in placing students from Liverpool Polytechnic suggests that not only the grammar of the following sentence on page 163 is questionable: 'Over-production of librarians and information workers continues while the number of posts available shrink.'

In spite of my reservations about the validity and usefulness of the research, I enjoyed reading the book—difficult though this sometimes was because of very poor proof-reading and the introduction of newly coined words ('biogram', 'organigram'). As a parent, I was amused by the 'mothers' who told their fictitious children that if they wanted to be librarians/information workers they should begin by filing their toys in order, or that they would need to keep their work tidier than they did their bedroom at present. I found the final section, on the media's view of librarians, particularly interesting (and sometimes horrifying—e.g. the atrocious librarian in Margaret Drabble's *The needle's eye* (p. 297-298). (There is even a section here on librarians in pornography, but a very small one: "Circulation lists" are fairly restricted, and the material is unlikely to fall readily into the hands of a female working on the fringes of "a nice clean respectable" field like librarianship.)

What is there in the book for the indexer? Not very much, but we are told on page 171 that 12% of the sample of 303 librarians/information workers considered specific professional techniques (such as cataloguing and classification) to be the best aspect of their job, and on page 266 that 9% of the 107 non-librarians/information workers interviewed would have liked better catalogues, indexes, etc. in libraries. Most important, perhaps, there is a warning to the Society that we still have a major task in the education of authors and publishers in the value of an index—here we have an individual and an organization, specifically concerned with the transmission of information, offering a 334-page book containing the results of what they regard as important research, charging £18 for it, and not providing an index! It really isn't good enough.

K. G. B. Bakewell

No fond return of love, by Barbara Pym. London: Jonathan Cape. First published 1961. Reissued 1979. 254pp. 20cm. ISBN 0 224 01769 1. £4.50.

There has long been a jibe against librarians that they know about books but seldom read them. This can hardly be said of indexers but, since indexes to novels are rare indeed, for a change some of you may like to read a novel which starts by describing an indexers' conference and subsequently revolves round the relationships started there.

Barbara Pym is an idiosyncratic writer and those who are already addicts (and I choose the word deliberately)

need only to be told that *No fond return of love* is the mixture as before, as sweet and sour as ever.

The publisher's blurb quotes a phrase which is used more than once in the book. Indexers and bibliographers are referred to as those who work on the 'dustier fringes of the academic world'. This is typical of the way Barbara Pym gently denigrates and pokes fun at all her characters, most of whom have middle-class or clerical backgrounds. Catty she may be but her claws are sheathed and one can feel affection behind the irony.

Her style of writing is wry and muted and she is admittedly an acquired taste. For 14 years she was largely neglected; many people thought she was dead. Between 1950 and 1961 she had written six ironic, witty novels, but, though well reviewed, they were never widely read. In 1961 Cape turned down a novel she submitted and no more was heard of her until, in 1977, the T.L.S. asked several distinguished literary figures who they thought was the most under-rated writer of the century. Philip Larkin and Lord David Cecil both chose Barbara Pym. Philip Larkin said she gave an 'unrivalled picture of a small section of middle-class post-war England' and that she had 'a unique eye and ear for the small poignancies of life'. Lord David calls her novels unpretentious and subtle and considers at least two of them to be 'the finest examples of high comedy to have appeared in England during the last 75 years'. She, who had resigned herself to obscurity, suddenly found herself in the limelight. *The Guardian* gave her a big write-up in September 1977 and Macmillan published two books *Quartet in Autumn* (1977) and *The Sweet dove died* (1979). *Quartet in Autumn*, a study of old friends struggling to come to terms with retirement, was short-listed for the Booker Prize. All the novels came back into print and Barbara Pym seemed launched on a new wave of esteem and favour. But, alas, she died in January 1980 so we shall have no more delicate witty vignettes from her. [Since this review was written a posthumous novel by Barbara Pym has appeared: *A few green leaves* (Macmillan, £5.95).—Ed.]

To those of you who consider novel reading a rather inferior pastime this piece may seem an irrelevancy in *The Indexer*, but you cannot fail to be interested in *No fond return of love* if only to get some idea of what kind of human beings other people think indexers are! Anyone who has ever attended a week-end conference will also be delighted by the author's minute attention to details and precise observation of the physical discomforts, social awkwardness and small anxieties of a clutch of grown-up academics thrust together in an empty girls' boarding school. Nothing very informative is said about indexing or compiling bibliographies but all will recognize stereotypes among the delegates and be all too familiar with the pattern of lectures. Too many of these are entitled 'The problems of . . .'. The conference is the meat of only the first two chapters but it is the catalyst that brings the characters together, stimulates their interest in each other, and subsequently leads to some strange entanglements and emotional relationships. Throughout the book there are

discussions between characters about indexes and bibliographies and this thread of common interest, these tasks which *must* be completed, affect very obviously their way of living (as we all know from experience!).

No fond return of love was the last novel before Barbara Pym's long period of obscurity. She was not strident enough for the 1960s: her humour is too wry and her characters mostly middle-aged and not at all trendy. Personally I would commend all her novels but indexers should read this one, if no other, though they will find the portraits of themselves and their colleagues all too brief and tantalizing.

Cecilia Gordon

Jailbird. Kurt Vonnegut. Cape, 1979. 246pp. 23cm. ISBN 0 224 01772 1. £5.50.

In your lifetime (whatever your age!), how many new novels have been published *with an index*? In my three score years and (almost) ten, this is the first I've come across. If you didn't already know that Mr Vonnegut is one of the Society's most valued friends, the mighty blow he has struck for the cause of indexing may surprise you. Novelists everywhere, please copy!

What every reader of *The Indexer* must surely know is KV's dictum (in *Cat's cradle*), 'Never index your own book'. Did he forget, or defy, his own advice to authors, I asked him; and was it his assertion (in the same book) that a name-index cannot be 'a shameless exhibition' that led him to decide against a subject-index? 'Of course I didn't index my own book,' he replied decisively, almost indignantly. 'I instructed my publisher to hire an experienced professional.' And his answer to my other question lifted me far above the 'dustier fringes of the academic world' (thank you, Barbara Pym). This is what he said. 'I was hoping for accidental poetry, and poetry might best be encouraged, I thought, with an index of names.'

Jailbird is KV's surrealistic yet stunningly pertinent account of the part he played, under the alias of Walter F. Starbuck, as the least significant—and hitherto entirely unknown—conspirator in the villainies of Watergate. No, it isn't. It's a love-affair with language and ideas. If you read the publisher's blurb (which God forbid!) you'll be utterly misled by a prosaic example of abstracting at its lowest ebb, totally devoid of poetry, imagination, style and, (sin of sins) Kurt Vonnegutness.

Why haven't I reviewed the index? Why should I? Even if it were eligible for Norman Hillyer's 'Indexes censored' collection, I should still jump for joy, simply *because it's there*.

J. Ainsworth Gordon

Royal Aeronautical Society. *Publications index 1897-1977*; comp. by Francis Maccabee. London: The Society, 1979 [i.e. 1980]. 560pp. 21cm. Spiral binding. £25.

Three indexes are printed here: the main index in one alphabet of authors, subjects and lecture series covering *Aeronautical journal* vols. 55-81 (1949-77), *Aeronautical*

quarterly vols. 1-28 (1949-77), and *Aerospace* vols. 1-4 (1974-77); and two previously published indexes to the *Journal*, covering respectively vols. 1-30 (1897-1926) and vols. 31-54 (1927-50). It is easy to see why no attempt was made to integrate the three indexes: in few subjects can the technology—and hence the terminology—have developed at such a rate. Aeroplanes of the first index have become Aircraft; Glued joints [for plywood struts] belong to history; Heliports, Missiles, Noise, Space-shuttles belong to our own time.

Main headings are listed in front of the index. They are given *see also* references and classified subheadings within the index. Where subheadings are numerous as, e.g., under History and under Structures and Structural Design, a guide to their sequence is given (though without the sub-subheadings) under the main heading. *See* references are provided.

The printing from camera-ready typing is clear, but the relatively small format sometimes makes for tricky navigation through the subheads of this impressive bibliography. M. P.

Publications received and publications noted

Aslib directory of sources of information in the UK. Vol. 2. Social sciences, medicine and the humanities. 4th ed.; ed. by Ellen M. Codlin. London: Aslib, 1980. £40 (£32 to Aslib members).

Central film library catalogue 1980-1981. Prepared by the Central Office of Information. Over 1,200 titles in industrial and management training, education and general subjects. London: HMSO, 1980. 159pp. 29.5cm. £1.50.

Author and subject indexes by Lester L. Miller, Jr., to *Field artillery journal*, v. 30-44, Jan. 1940-Dec. 1976; *Field artilleryman (Artillery trends)*, v. 1-16, 1957-72. Available free on request to L. L. Miller, Morris Swett Library, US Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.

Greek and Latin authors: 800 BC-AD 1000 by Michael Grant. New York: Wilson, 1979. xvi, 492pp. 0-8242-0640-1. \$25 US and Canada; \$30 other countries. Sketches of the life and work of 376 authors, with bibliographies.

Microprocessors and intelligence. Proceedings of an Aslib seminar held 14-15 May 1979 at the Holiday Inn, Slough; ed. by L. J. Anthony. London: Aslib, 1980. viii, 62pp. 30cm. ISBN 0-85142-126-1. £5.50 (£4.50 to Aslib members).

Refer: journal of the RSIS. Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1980. Published twice yearly, in spring and autumn, by the Reference Special and Information Section of the Library Association. Annual subscription for non-members is £2 (\$6) post free. Hon. Ed. David Butcher, Dept of Librarianship, Birmingham Polytechnic, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2SU.

SEARCH: an interaction unit introducing library skills, by Paul Dekock. Interact, Box 262. Lakeside,

California, 92040.

Members of the American Society, notably librarians, will be glad to have their attention drawn to *Search*, which is intended for use with students who have had little or no instruction in the use and organization of a school library.

It is a course of programmed instruction, presented like an elaborate game, adjustable to suit pupils of all ages. Teachers and librarians must collaborate closely on preparatory work, and there are numerous forms to complete, questions to answer and individual records to keep. Prototypes of these are clearly printed and conveniently laid out for photocopying. Those who wish to time-table a separate programme for learning library skills will like this manual, having adapted the suggestions to suit their particular needs. Pupils will enjoy the competitive element which is introduced by dividing them into groups and awarding grades and marks to individuals.

British librarians have recourse to numerous articles and some excellent books on what is now usually referred to as 'user education'. *Search* covers the same ground, but in a way that relates closely to American curricula and time-tables. British librarians and teachers mostly prefer to link the learning of library skills directly with a pupil's own project or research.

The Indexer is hardly the proper place to offer a bibliography of British books on library instruction: but if anyone cares to write to me I would be pleased to send suggestions. Cecilia Gordon

Short story index: collections indexed, 1900-1978; ed. by Juliette Yaakov. New York: Wilson, 1980. 375pp. 0-8242-0643-6. \$25 US and Canada; \$30 other countries. A cumulated index, by author and title, to seven previous cumulative indexes, covers 8,355 collections including 121,404 short stories.

Twentieth-century American nicknames, ed. by Laurence Urdang. New York: Wilson, 1979. 389pp. ISBN 0-8242-0642-8. \$18 US and Canada; \$21 other countries. Alphabetical list of 4,000-odd American nicknames, refers to formal name with brief identification and dates.

Zeus: Zentralblatt für Erziehungswissenschaft und Schule. Jahrgang I, Band I (März 1980)—Duisburg: Verlag für Pädagogische Dokumentation, 1980—23cm. Six issues yearly. ISSN 0172-9357. Subscription: DM45 per copy. DM36 for personal subscription. (Sample copy—first issue, 280pp, DM 18.)

The most one can hope to be is a moderate index to a damn good library.

Does any reader recognize this quotation? The reference librarian of Bexhill Area Library has been unable to trace it in the major quotation dictionaries, and now turns to the Society of Indexers to find its source.