

indexing, from the page number to the printed index words, is necessary, so that when information is deleted the routes which led to it may be traced. Deleted information cannot now be retrieved, but may soon be able to be stored off-line. Built-in flexibility for evolution is necessary in the system.

Mr Bush suggested that every page of Prestel is in a way an index, in that they all indicate further routes. At a previous meeting some indexes were accused of being the tail wagging the dog. In Prestel, the index indeed seems to permeate the whole, to have become an alter ego or Doppel-gänger.

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The different systems at present used for Videotex transmission and possible future uses are noted by Kathleen Criner and Martha Johnson-Hall in 'Videotex: threat or opportunity?' (*Special libraries* 71 (9) September 1980, 379-95; 4 refs, including a bibliography on Viewdata and Teletex, 1980). A longer review of the subject is Roger Woolfe's *Videotext: the new television telephone information services*. London; Philadelphia: Heyden, 1980. 184 pp. ISBN 0-85501-493-8. £7.00 (\$18.00).

## Indexes Past

Indexes of the nineteenth century can prove delightful reading now to practitioners of our craft. We should be glad to receive examples to print in *The Indexer*. Here are some splendid extracts from the index to *Latter-Day Pamphlets* by Thomas Carlyle, published by Chapman and Hall in The Shilling Edition of Thomas Carlyle's Works. No date is given for the volume, but each pamphlet is dated 1850, and Carlyle died in 1881. There is of course no credit for the index, but the volume is 'edited by Thomas Carlyle'.

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