different fonts of the type face selected desirable, to avoid confusion and to aid speedy perusal. A page with lines right across it was appreciably slower to read than two columns with shorter lines, bearing in mind the length of the entries in the text. Furthermore, likely readers were accustomed to two columns from Vol. I. The size of type, as well as type face and format, all required careful thought. The difference in clarity between 10 pt. and 9 pt. in a double column work of this size was surprisingly great; 10 pt. proving too big for the column width.

The number of type faces I was shown, although I gather I saw but a fraction of them, I found bewildering, especially since the difference in some cases was minimal. The serif face seemed the most in keeping with the subject. In the end I asked for Times; this is so extensively used, and its italics seemed to show up slightly better than either Plantin or Bembo.

As there was an increase of 10% in the number of entries and costs had to be taken into account, a slightly bigger book to keep the material within one volume seemed the answer. Size was slightly adjustable by the paper used. When I came to proof reading I learned how much less tiring on the eyes it is to read print on a cream matt surface than on a white shiny one.

Even experienced printers were loath to commit themselves to the precise extent of the work in its slips-of-paper form. This complicated contract terms. The index posed a problem as well. Some names had but two numbers against them; an appreciable proportion ran to five or more. It was therefore difficult to gauge whether a single or double column layout would be the most economical. Bearing in mind the addition of the Lyon Register reference number, I chose a single column layout, unlike Vol. I. This would also avoid the foot loose page hazard, I was told. One of the many new phrases and words the project added to my vocabulary!

And so, a further eighteen months passed. Finally, almost exactly five years from the time work began, this Ordinary saw the light of day; and I hope it will help fulfil Sir James Balfour Paul’s apt definition of heraldry as being the handmaid to History.

Indexing and the Common Market

Anne Ramsay

FLA European Documentation Centre Librarian, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic.

The following report was prepared for discussion at a Library Association Working Party on European Communities Publications.

'Indexes. Arguably the single most pressing need is to improve the ease with which information may be extracted from Community publications. The general aim of Community publications is to transmit information: if they are to succeed in this objective and to reach the widest possible audience then considerably more attention must be paid to improving the means of access to their contents. It is the opinion of many British librarians that inadequate indexing constitutes a serious impediment to the effective use of Community publications. An adequate index is the key with which to open the door to a publication's contents; without it much of the value of the publication is dissipated. Too many Community publications appear without indexes. Where indexes exist their usefulness is diminished by long delays in their appearance and by the use of terminology which is often inconsistent in its application, too broad to provide rapid retrieval of information, or which assumes an unreasonable degree of familiarity with the structure and policies of the European Communities. The inevitable consequence is that to search for a specific piece of information is a time-consuming and often frustrating experience which serves only to prejudice the usefulness of Community publications and discourage their further use.

The Library Association hopes that the Joint Working Party will offer the opportunity for both sides to discuss specific problems relating to individual titles and to agree practical ways in which these difficulties may be resolved. In the meantime, it is sufficient to say that professional opinion in the United Kingdom strongly favours the development of specific subject indexes designed to provide the occasional and ill-informed user as much as the regular and well-informed user with rapid and easy access to the information contained in Community publications.'


1. Having contacted a number of colleagues in this country who frequently use European Community publications, the following general observations on EC indexing policy recur:
1.1 The lack of detailed indexes to such publications as General report on the activities of the European Communities; annual reports; Eurostats series of publications; Documentation Bulletin; Circe list of pending proposals; Com and Sec documents; European Parliament Working Documents

1.2 The delay in the appearance of published indexes: e.g. Official Journal of the European Communities; Bulletin of the European Communities

1.3 The use of Community jargon in the broad indexing terms: e.g. Harmonization of legislation; Internal market; Laws and procedures. These terms are puzzling to all but Community officials and reduce the success rate in tracking down information by the uninitiated.

1.4 The lack of specific keyword headings. (Several law librarians, for example, observed that they never used the Official Journal index but relied on Sweet and Maxwell's Encyclopedia of European Community Law)

2. Perhaps these points may best be illustrated by looking at a selection of titles:

2.1 Official Journal of the European Communities
   (a) The latest indexes received (hard copy) are for April 1980 (as at 2.2.81)
   (b) There is no doubt that the quality of indexing has improved in recent years but the greatest single criticism is still the lack of specific subject headings e.g.
       Butter indexed under Agriculture: milk and milk products
       Laws and procedures used as a heading for legislation
       Court of Justice indexed under Court of Justice and under Institutions of the EC
       Coal indexed under Industry: European Coal and Steel Community, and under Laws and Procedures
   (c) The separate Keyword Index is helpful but would be even more so if it were to be incorporated into the main alphabetical sequence—thus obviating the necessity to search two sequences. Very many more cross-references from headings not used would be welcomed.
   (d) The Methodological Table volume is useful and the arrangement is clear, although the usefulness of sections C111 (Notices) and S (Supplement) is open to question

A pilot project to assess the usefulness of the published OJ index was carried out some time ago. One week of the OJ 'C&L' series in May 1979 was indexed in detail and 257 headings were generated. The results were then compared with the published index (127 relevant headings). The user would have found 10% of the items by using the List of Keywords. He might have found 30% of the items had he been experienced in using the printed index. Had he looked under the specific subject headings his search would have proved fruitless. The failure rate appears excessively high.

2.2 Bulletin of the European Communities
   (a) The latest separate index is for the 1978 volume and no index has appeared for 1975 or 1976
   (b) The index is no more than a contents list with a string of paragraph references many of which are very broad e.g.
       Bananas under Commodities and World Agreements
       Vocational training under Employment and Social Policy
   (c) The differing typefaces for headings and sub-headings are not easy to scan

2.3 General report on the activities of the European Communities and similar annual reports
   (a) No detailed index is included although a contents list appears in each volume
   (b) The amount of detail included in these valuable publications warrants a detailed keyword index for easy retrieval of information

2.4 Circe list of pending proposals
   (a) A useful publication which would benefit from a keyword printout for speedy retrieval

2.5 Eurostatistics
   (a) The publications policy of this series has become much easier to follow since the appearance of Eurostat News
   (b) An index to the contents of all the titles would make the job of sifting through the vast quantities of detailed statistics so much easier
   (c) The inclusion of an alphabetical index to the recent annual Statistical Yearbook Transport Communications and Tourism is a praiseworthy attempt to index one title

2.6 Europe Today
   (a) A useful publication with a reasonably specific index—but still not always as detailed as it might be in topic headings
   (b) Annual updatings are welcomed

2.7 Documentation Bulletin
   (a) An excellent weekly publication but lacking an index, which makes detailed searching very time-consuming
   (b) One of the best publications in which to locate Com documents and track their progress to final legislation—making it an especially useful bibliographical tool

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2.8 Euroabstracts
(a) The latest index is 1978 for Section I and 1979 for Section II
(b) A useful attempt has been made to provide separate subject, author and EUR number indexes

2.9 Reports of Cases before the Courts
(a) No complaints have been voiced with regard to the numerous indexes to these reports

3. Those who have criticized the indexes are only too well aware of the problems involved in detailed indexing of publications. A group of Northern European Documentation Centre librarians attempted to index the General Report ... on a co-operative basis, but found that the variation of standards, and the task of collating the efforts of a number of individuals, did not justify the time spent on the project

4. The Library Association Working Party welcomes the opportunity to discuss these points with the Commission officials

* * *

Since the report was compiled two further indexes have appeared.

(a) Bulletin of the European Communities and Ninth General Report Index 1975. The indexing terms used in this volume are much improved (ignoring the time delay in publication!), so that criticisms under 2.2b) and c) are not valid in this case. I understand that the work for this volume was put out to tender.

(b) Register of Current Community Legal Instruments (2 vols. with an alphabetical index). Some of the headings used in the index are excellent; e.g.
- Product liability
- Silkworms

 whilst others are somewhat mystifying; e.g.
- For the recovery of claims in the customs or agricultural fields
- General (repeated 15 times with individual references to sections in the main body of the work)
- Other sources of energy

 No doubt improvements will be made in later editions.

 The work has been made possible by using Celex, a computerized documentation system for current European Communities law, which should be available in English via EURONET by 1982.

The joint consultative committee of the five major library organizations in the UK (Library Association, Aslib, Institute of Information Scientists, Sconul and the Society of Archivists) has been reconvened, not having met since 1975. It has appointed a sub-committee to deal with problems concerning copyright.

F. T. Dunn

Indexes Past

The following extracts from the index to Thomas de Quincey's Collected writings (edited by David Masson and published in fourteen volumes by A. and C. Black in 1896-97) may be found especially interesting, since the index was 'compiled under the superintendence of Mr H. B. Wheatley, F.S.A., ... whose name ought to be a sufficient guarantee for the accuracy and thoroughness of this portion of the work'.

Aldermen not necessarily gluttons, xi 103
Anecdotes, on eating peas with a knife, i 323 note
Aristocracy, feelings of the, with regard to letting their houses, vi 391 note
Bed, early retirement to, of the Ancients, vii 13
Bull, Irish, what is it? i 219 note
Bulls, Milton's, x 415
Christenings, Royal, often hurried, iv 19 note
Coffee, atrocious in England, iv 346 note
Cookery, English, the rudest of barbarous devices, xiv 266
Devonshire men good-looking, xiii 82 note
Dogs in Greece, xi 103
Dogs in Greece, vii 337
Fleas in Greece, vii 336
Greece, Ancient, its people a nation of swindlers, vii 215
Horses, weeping, vi 36
Hotels, colossal, of America, i 268 note
Johnson, Dr, at dinner, an indecent spectacle, vii 35
Leibnitz, died partly from the fear of not being murdered, xiii 33
Life, instances of long-sustained powers of, in a murdered woman, vii 441
Lisbon earthquake and its effect on the religion of Germany, iv 402
Mahomet not a great man, vii 272
Meat, barbarous cookery of, in Great Britain, xiv 268
Muffins, eating, a cause of suicide, xiv 372
Music, English obtuseness to good, x 135
Newspapers, the fearfulness of their contents, viii 289
Pig-grunting, mimicry of, x 294
Readers, actors usually bad, iii 430
Rhinoceros, first sale of a, ix 162
Servants, England the paradise of household, i 31
Sheep-bells, none in Northern England, ii 403
Solon, what did he do for Homer? vi 53
Spitting, art of, x 265
Talk, too much in the world, x 267
Toothache, that terrific curse, iii 226 note
Translation really impossible, vii 285
Veracity a marked feature in the English character, vii 362-365
Waterton's adventure with a crocodile, xiii 288
Women, can die grandly, v 407

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