
This is the fifth edition of a work first published in 1938 as a slim volume of 176 pages, intended then for students studying for an examination paper in library terminology. The present work is aimed at librarians at every stage of their career, from students to those in management posts, and in every type of library, from those concerned with the book or manuscript as a physical item, to those working mainly with computer terminals. Those for whom knowledge of books is a principal concern are the traditional audience for the Glossary, and the coverage of printing and analytical terms continues to be extensive. Indeed, such coverage has assumed a new importance now that historical bibliography is fading from librarianship courses.

How well does the Glossary cater for the information technology end of the spectrum? One way to put it through its paces is to take a recent important report and see if there are entries for a reasonable proportion of acronyms and technical terms. The report, Making a Business of Information, published in September 1983, was produced by the Cabinet Office Information Technology Advisory Panel. There are entries for ADONIS, Videotex and Videotext, Teletex and Teletext (helpfully distinguishing between the pairs), BLEND, STATUS, Optical Video Disc, Laser Printer, Packet Switching, Electronic Document Delivery, Video Disc, Cable Transmission, Satellite Broadcasting, Information Technology, and many more. The only significant omissions were the Alvey programme (A Programme For Advanced Information Technology, HMSO 1982) and Intelligent Knowledge-Based Systems (IKBS), otherwise called expert systems. In sum, the Glossary has acquitted itself well on information technology terms.

The Glossary has achieved a fine balance between excessively abbreviated and encyclopaedic entries; examples of this are the entries for Public Lending Right and Licentiateship (with a cross-reference to Associate-ship), where the entries could be no briefer without becoming obscure.

A particular strength of the Glossary is the coverage of committees and official bodies, together with details of their reports. For example, I needed to find chapter and verse for the Paulin Report which established the present qualification procedure of the Library Associ-

ation. The Glossary had the required details under Paulin Report. There are many useful entries of this kind.

Another valuable class of entries are those such as: British Standards Institution, which has a select list of standards of interest to librarians; Type Face, with an illustrated selection of type faces; and Paper Sizes, with full details of British, European, and American standards.

Indexing terms are well represented, and include entries for the Society of Indexers and the Wheatley Medal.

The indexing arrangement is word-by-word, and a brief but adequate introductory note advises the user not to overlook the supplement including late entries and additions to the main entries.

I used the Glossary for a month before reviewing it and found it invaluable. I expect to find it even more useful over a longer period of use. The Glossary is strongly recommended.

Tom Norton

The impact of new technology on the publication chain

This report, commissioned by the British National Bibliography Research Fund, summarizes first the traditional roles of author, publisher, printer, bookseller, librarian and end user, then proceeds to discuss the implications of recent technological developments for each link in the ‘publication chain’. There is only one reference to the implications for indexing, i.e. that the new equipment will soon be able to replace ‘not merely manual skills but some which are more demanding, although largely routine, such as indexing, cataloguing and other straightforward ordering of information’. This ignores the fact that usually more than half an indexer’s time is taken up by activities such as reading and entry selection which are unaffected by the new technology—it is only part of the indexing task which lends itself to computerization. There is a brief reference to problems likely to be encountered by authors with regard to lack of standardized, compatible equipment; this is also an important problem in connection with the indexing link in the chain, and its solution may be a long way off. Indexers and others may find this report worth a quick glance, but it covers too much ground too briefly to be very helpful on matters of detail. It contains no index.

A. Campbell Purton
the information and the printing; as Registrar of the Society of Indexers I detect a good deal of information out of date or wrongly transcribed from difficult-to-decipher handwriting; the word processor used for printing could not help with this problem!

The Information Coding Classification (ICC) of the subject areas and subject groups might well be adapted to Indexers available. This new ICC was used to organize the data in the first volume of International classification and indexing bibliography listing classification systems and thesauri, 1950–82. The 727 subject fields are reprinted in systematic order and there is an index to all the codes used in the volume. There are two subject indexes: the comprehensive one starts with the ICC codes and lists also the personal names and their serial numbers in alphabetical order under each subject code; the supplementary index starts with subject field names and is meant (1) to refer to the ICC Codes under which the persons of one field are listed, and (2) to supply immediately the serial number of a person in all cases where someone works in a highly specific field, more specific than the field indicated by the three-digit codes. Personal data includes sex, name, institutional affiliation and address, birthday and birthplace, academic and other qualifications, position in institution, home address, experience in classification and indexing. Despite the elaborate nature of the ICC classification, subject speciality, it is admitted, was in most cases given only roughly. The introductory chapter makes the plaintive comment—'people are so different'. So here is the elaborate framework for a significant reference book, but made slightly absurd by the very small number of personal entries. We may hope that the next edition will make good this deficiency.

Elizabeth Wallis


This publication, now in its 77th year of issue, maintains its usual high standard of information and utility for those connected with the book trade. Its format is the same as that of earlier editions. It begins with a section on newspapers and magazines, listing titles for the major English-speaking nations of the world. This is followed by sections on book publishing; theatre, TV and radio; art and music; and a section on a variety of miscellaneous matters of interest to writers. The book repeats its customary warning of the dangers of 'Vanity publishing'.

There is one entirely new feature in this edition: an article on word processing, written by Louis Alexander and originally published in the Spring 1983 issue of The Author. It is a succinct account in non-technical language of the use of word processors by authors. It discusses disc-drives, printers, visual display units and programmes, and how a word processor is actually used, giving authors an indication of what the medium can do for them.
Although an index of only three pages may seem short for a book 500 pages in length, some sections of the work, such as alphabetical lists of journals published in various countries, require no indexing. It is a pity that the entry for 'Indexing' in the index does not agree with the page on which the article appears! Despite such minor blemishes, the work is indispensable for authors, publishers, librarians and others whose work is concerned with books.

Philip Bradley


Hilda Feinberg is a library and information consultant, a writer, and a freelance indexer. Her work and ideas will be known to many of our members through her *Title-derivative indexing and techniques,* issued by the same publisher in 1973, in addition to other books and periodical articles in the field of libraries and information science. At first sight this 8½” × 11” volume, with its fact-filled pages, is somewhat terrifying, and some readers may tend to put its study on one side for a rainy day. This would be unfortunate, for a second glance at its contents page reassures us that here is a symposium that is both reference work and a collection of articles on the more important aspects of indexing.

Thus, pp. 52–249 comprise detailed descriptions of nine notable indexing systems: *Chemical abstracts*; biomedical literature; ERIC (i.e., Educational Resources Information Center); law literature; *The New York Times*; *The Washington Post*; encyclopaedias; videotex systems; and the indexing of periodicals. Each of these chapters is generously furnished with excellently chosen examples, and will prove invaluable to library school students. Incidentally, the contributor of the chapter on ‘Law book indexing’ (pp. 153–179) is Dorothy Thomas, the current President of the American Society of Indexers.

It will be appreciated, therefore, that the bulk of this volume represents a reference tool on specialized indexing systems which is well worth keeping in mind for reference when the need arises.

This leaves us with five chapters that demand our careful study. James D. Anderson, of the School of Communication at Rutgers University, writes on ‘Essential decisions in indexing systems design’ (pp. 1–21). He asks ten questions that arise in making indexing decisions, concludes there are no ‘right’ answers to any of them, and urges more and better co-ordinated research. John Rothman, Director of research and information technology at *The New York Times,* asks ‘Is indexing obsolete?’ (pp. 22–33), and goes on to discuss keyword indexing and free-text searching, defining, examining, comparing and evaluating both systems, but being somewhat hampered by the fact that free-text searching functions only in computer systems, so that any comparisons with keyword indexing are confined to computerized data base services.

Barbara E. Anderson and Carol B. Winson, both at DIALOG Information Services, discuss ‘Database indexing’ (pp. 34–51), focusing on indexing provided by search service vendors. They point out that competitive pricing has impact on usage, and can be a factor in decisions on the extent or depth of indexing; and that, since online thesauri containing ‘see also’ references can be comparatively costly to compile and store online, the usual alphabetical inverted files will in many cases prove adequate.

Theodore C. Hines and Lois Winkel of the University of North Carolina, write on ‘The use of microcomputers in indexing’ (pp. 250–259), adopting a helpful practical approach to everyday problems, and planting their flag firmly to their stronghold with the memorable words: ‘Anyone who suggests a reduction in indexing quality as a necessary comcomitant of computerization should be sternly resisted’.

The compiler's own chapter on ‘The thesaurus in indexing and searching (pp. 260–281) consists of a number of significant points based on 24 references to indexing published over the past ten years or so. To this should be added her ten-page Introduction which briefly introduces her contributors' chapters. As she says in her concluding words: ‘The future prospects for indexers should be most challenging.’ A five-page index completes the volume.

The National Federation was originally founded in 1958 as the National Federation of Science Abstracting and Indexing Services (NFAIS), and was the brainchild of G. Miles Conrad, the director of *Biological Abstracts.* Conrad was an outstanding personality; his untimely death in 1964 robbed the young movement of his influential support and guidance at a time when the Federation could least weather such a loss. The Federation found itself at a low ebb in 1966 when Malcolm Rigby and a few of his friends fought bravely to keep the Federation alive against heavy odds, convinced as they were that there was as great a need for the Federation then as in the future. The present volume is ample witness that their instincts were sound, and it is a worthy tribute to Conrad's genius that his name should be given to the Federation's annual memorial lectures which have been given without hiatus from 1968 to 1983.

The Federation has maintained its forward, flexible policy in determining its development, and its decision to drop the word *Science* from its title was followed by that to alter the word *Indexing* to *Information* in 1982, which may give some of our members food for thought! The fifteen Memorial Lectures here reprinted are a wide-ranging collection that will interest many of our members; in particular, Robert M. Hayes' *The changing roles of information services* (1970) in which he says that...
'Marketing, and only marketing, is the means by which user needs will be recognized, understood, and met', adding, 'There are no changing roles, merely changing views of the problems'. Many of the lecturers look into the future, notably Carlos A. Cuadra who, in his 'Surviving the eighties: new roles for publishers, information service organizations, and users' (1980), urges publishers to collaborate in the development of services to users rather than 'sulk and do nothing'!

There is a danger that it may be thought that the territory covered by the Federation is largely American, but this would be to ignore the unique contribution of Stella Keenan, now at Loughborough University, who was the Federation's director in the vital period 1968-1974. Her 'Signposts of the past and future' draws attention to the need for bibliographical standardization, and to Isaac Auerbach's keynote address at the 1982 Federation conference, in which he identifies the three converging circles of technology as computing technology, communication, and information—a unique resource, with particular characteristics.

This is a handsome volume, well produced and ably edited. It is a fine summary of the Federation's achievements during the last quarter of a century. The Federation has been well served by its editors.

Robert L. Collison


The subtitle of **AACR2 and serials: the American view** is misleading: there is not one view of AACR2's directives for cataloguing serials, but several. The only unanimous conclusion to be drawn from this collection of essays of varying length and weight (reprinted from *Cataloging and classification quarterly* vol. 3, nos. 2/3, 1982/83) is that cataloguers, administrators, library clerks, and perhaps readers, will learn to live with the *Anglo-American cataloguing rules*, 2nd edition, just as they assimilated earlier successive codes of cataloguing, and that the adoption of the code, rather than the virtues of the code itself, will bring a welcome standardization to libraries' records which are growing ever more interdependent.

Two quotations: 'The advantages of AACR2 are that it offers easier-to-find main entries, greater compatibility with machine-readable data bases, and more flexibility for serials catalogue formats' (Barbara P. Pinzelik, p. 45) and '... the main effect of implementing AACR2 seems to have been to decrease the efficiency with which a patron can use a library's catalogues' (James E. Rush, p. 47).

The editor has deliberately made no attempt to reconcile opposing views. It is clear that the size and age of files existing before the adoption of AACR2, the purpose of a collection, the way serials control is organized, the extent to which a library has adopted automation, and also individual responses within a library, have all influenced the way AACR2 has been received and the extent to which its impact has both disrupted and improved service.

Several of the essays discuss AACR2 in relation to its predecessors and to specific rules for choice and form of entry and of descriptive elements, especially linkage of related publications. Bonnie Postlethwaite points to the code's inadequacy for recording art exhibition and auction catalogues. Alison Beatty and Betsy L. Humphreys, of the National Library of Medicine, have found that adoption of AACR2, although leading to greater standardization in their official catalogue and CONSER records, has reduced the usefulness of their main catalogue to their serials processing and indexing activities. Problems faced by editors of union lists of serials are set out by Marjorie E. Bloss, who concludes nevertheless that the benefits of standardization accruing from the use of AACR2 in both libraries and union lists 'can only benefit the users of these files, be they librarians, researchers, or the general public' (p. 208).

Management problems are dealt with specifically in essays by Rex Bross, Doris Hagrett Clack, Margaret McKinley, Wilma Reid Cipolla and Mitsuko Coliver. They are constantly touched on in other essays.

The main point of Michael Gorman's contribution (pp. 19-25) is that, while much could be done to simplify and consolidate serials records, it is the serial publication itself that needs to be changed. As things are, serial publication is slow, mostly unread, and costly. 'Serials', says Gorman, 'especially those in the sciences, are eating the monograph budget alive, in research libraries at least.' He proposes electronic journals for access by subscribers with minicomputers, or, more radically, a central clearing house to store writings, index and abstract them and disseminate articles as they matched interest profiles of subscribers. 'By doing away with individually titled serials we will solve many of the problems of redundancy, overlap, and gaps between journals, which are a product of our current chaos.'

The index to this book is useless. No attempt has been made to coordinate entries. The following sequence of entries has obviously been selected to illustrate the point, but other sets could as easily be picked out.

**AACR2**
- changes in processing 2-3
- effects 44, 73-76
- entry choice 102-103
- impact on processing 125-30
- results of use 115-116
- serial cataloguing I [This entry really is there!]
- cataloguing activity, description 11
- choice of entry, AACR2 123
That a publication on cataloguing should offer an index of such abysmal incompetence is disgraceful.

The title of the second book is even more misleading. The whole of modern cataloguing practice in 89 pages including half-title and index? By no means. The introduction explains that the manual was developed from one drawn up for Brunel University library, where 80% of acquisitions are covered by cataloguing data supplied by the Library of Congress through MARCFICHE. The author says 'The manual arose through lack of something better to record the expertise in "Library of Congress" which I and my colleagues have built up over the years . . . The handbook should answer the main questions which arise in day-to-day cataloguing work with LC and AACR2 but it forms only part of any coherent staff training policy and depends on some existing expertise and knowledge of these in the library.'

The book will be useful in those libraries where LC Marc cataloguing data are used as they come, including the LC classification and subject headings, and LC filing rules. Not all such libraries, however, will be satisfied with advice specific to the library where this manual was developed, such as 'To minimize cataloguing, subject headings can be omitted from the entries for pamphlets'.

As the author says, and as her list of publications 'which are more or less essential when cataloguing and classifying with AACR2 and LC' emphasizes, it will be necessary to have a fair knowledge of cataloguing to be able to use this book—and, indeed, to understand it in some places.

The manual has been arranged, not in sequential steps for handling LC copy, but under captions 'in alphabetical order which most libraries attempting any cataloguing should be familiar with'. Whether that phrase reflects the author's carelessness towards her readers or of her literary style I am unable to decide.

The index contains too many entries which are followed by a string of undifferentiated page numbers.

By contrast, the title of the third book exactly states its content. It is an entirely practical book with two main objects. The first section is designed to enable the non-Russian-speaking librarian to recognize the grammatical forms of words, to acquire a vocabulary of terms which recur in bibliographical citations, to identify publications, and to make use of catalogue entries for Russian materials. The object is achieved by presenting the basic grammar by topic, each with its related exercise. The illustrative phrases are compiled from terminology likely to be encountered in bibliographical situations.

The remaining sections of the book give brief information and references for further reading on transliteration, Soviet publishing practice, acquisition and interlending of Russian materials, cataloguing, bibliographies and reference works, and on other languages using the Cyrillic alphabet. The vocabularies comprise a guide to word-endings, Russian abbreviations, names of Soviet publishing houses, and an alphabetized list of Russian words from the text.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1973. The present edition has been revised and enlarged, notably by the addition of stress marking on Russian words and the rewriting of the non-linguistic sections, in which the chapter on Soviet publishing practice is entirely new.

Mary Piggott


This publication translates magazine, journal, and newspaper title abbreviations into full titles. In spite of attempts by organizations and individuals to prescribe standard periodical abbreviations or rules for constructing periodical abbreviations, the uniform abbreviated citation has remained an admirable but elusive ideal.

This edition of PTA-A is intended to be used neither as an authority file nor as a standard for periodical abbreviations, but merely as a record of the myriad ways in which commonly used indexing and abstracting services abbreviate periodical titles. While it may be vexing to the user of this work that the same title is abbreviated several different ways, and disconcerting that a single abbreviation can stand for more than one title, PTA-A is none the less intended only as a record of things as they are, not as they should be. At the very least, however, it may be hoped that this volume will serve to prevent the creation of additional abbreviations where none are needed.

In this edition, the contents of PTA-A has a nearly 60 per cent increase over the third edition. It is also more international in scope. The inclusion of medical and scientific sources has been enlarged, and humanities and social science abbreviations have also been updated and expanded.

The abbreviations in this volume are arranged in strict letter-by-letter sequence, regardless of spacing, punctuation, or capitalization. Also, ampersands, articles, conjunctions, and prepositions have been ignored in the alphabetizing. This method of arrangement is particularly confusing in Volume I to those who are familiar with word-by-word, and not with letter-by-letter arrangement, especially when this takes no cognizance of punctuation, spaces, conjunctions and capitalization. For example, entries beginning with an abbreviation for the word 'journal' (which occupy pp. 509 to 574) may appear like this on p. 566:
If one takes the abbreviations beginning on page 353, one finds that on three pages there are 98 entries beginning with Eng; of these, 65 are Eng-alone, the remainder consisting of Eng plus one or more letters. This whole sequence begins with one Eng entry followed by Engage/Soc Act; then there are 15 Eng-alone entries. The 98 entries end up with a group of 10 Eng-alone entries. In between there are short sequences of Eng-alone entries interspersed with Eng plus one or more letters. If all the Eng-alone entries had been placed together it would have been much quicker for the eye to find them.

These examples have been taken from Volume I, which consists of the abbreviations of publications that have been used by authors or the publishers of the journals concerned or by compilers of journal contents subject or author lists when referring to an abbreviation of the title of a journal instead of its full name.

Volume 2 contains the full names of the periodicals arranged alphabetically and followed by the abbreviations used for them.

The publication of this volume was a natural corollary of publishing the first volume. To give an example of the usefulness of this volume, if one looks up the Engineering and Mining Journal, one finds that five forms of abbreviation have been used for this title; in Volume I, two of the abbreviations are on p. 351 and the other three are on p. 354. Due to the filing instructions already referred to, finding quickly the entries one is seeking is here not a straightforward and speedy operation, as the two following examples show:

Reports. Research Institute of Industrial Science. Kyushu University—Rep Res Inst Ind Sci Kyushu Univ
Reports. Research Institute for Strength and Fracture of Materials. Tohoku University—Rep Res Inst Strength Fract Mater Tohoku Univ
Reports on Researches by Grantees. Ministry of Education (Japan)—Rep Res Grantees Minist Educ (Jpn)
Reports on Rheumatic Diseases—Rep Rheum Dis
Reports of the Science of Living—Rep Sci Living
Reports. State Board of Health of California—Rep Bd Health Calif
Reports. State Board of Health of Ohio—Rep Bd Health Ohio

Reports on Technological Research Concerning Norwegian Fish Industry—Rep Technol Res Norw Fish Ind

Food and Agricultural Legislation—Food Agric Leg
Food Business—Food Bus
Food in Canada—Food Canad
Food Chemistry, Microbiology, Technology—Food Chem Microbiol Technol
Food and Cosmetics Toxicology—Food Cosmet
Food and Cosmetics Toxicology—Food Cosmet Toxicol
Food Development—Food Devel
Food, Drug, Cosmetic Law Journal—Food Drug C
Food and Drug Packaging—F & D Pkg

These two volumes appear to be of the greatest use to the readers of articles and bibliographical entries who have no clue as to the titles of the journals referred to—providing they remember the parts of titles and abbreviations already referred to as being omitted in the alphabetizing of the entries. They have become the most illuminating example of the awkwardness—especially to a person needing information in a hurry—of consulting a large number of entries where the letter-by-letter arrangement has been used.

Judging from Gale's current advertisement, the third volume of this work has been published at $100. It has the sub-title New periodical title abbreviations and consists of the inter-edition supplements which provide new information on over 10,000 abbreviations.

L. M. Harrod

As a discipline human geography has experienced several major changes in the last few years. Major disciplinary changes are associated with linguistic innovations, and a dictionary is required to codify current conventions. This dictionary defines current linguistic conventions of human geography for professional geographers, tertiary level students, other social scientists and secondary school teachers, all of whom need up-to-date definitions of words and terms in current usage.

To facilitate the dictionary’s use, two linkage systems are employed. The first is cross-referencing. Within an entry, certain other entries are referred to in capital letters. Reading these entries will both expand the understanding of that originally referred to and place it in its broader sub-disciplinary context. The second is the index, from which the reader will be able to find other entries in which a term is used, and therefore gain a wider appreciation of its usage. Together, the cross-referencing process and the index allow the dictionary to be used to enrich our understanding of human geography, its language and literature. Thus, in part, the dictionary is also an encyclopaedia. Nearly every entry is followed by suggested readings and in addition some also have references.

The 36-page index (printed in double columns in small type) to 374 pages of text is impressive. It includes references to authors whose work is discussed in the text or are cited as major references. Page numbers printed in bold type indicate a substantial discussion of a topic. In the preface, a great many people are thanked. Eighteen academics from universities in the USA and UK are listed as contributors, but there is no acknowledgement for the compiler of this exhaustive index. This paperback edition, published two years after the hardback edition in 1981 at £27.50, is remarkable value at £4.95.

Elizabeth Wallis


This, the successor to the Technical translator’s manual (Aslib, 1971), contains a wealth of information on just about every aspect of translating. Although aimed primarily at the practising translator, there is much in this volume to interest indexers, for, like indexing, ‘The translation business must be one of the few in the service sector in which the person providing the service is far more concerned with the true quality of the product than is the user’ (p. 47).

The book is divided into eight parts, plus appendices on cover-to-cover journal translation, transliteration of Russian, and British/U.S. proof corrections. I found Part I, ‘Introductory survey’, rather heavy going, and could not help feeling that the author was indulging in a little satire with his own use of language, for example (pp. 7–8):

And that in the fight against dead perfection, lifeless and pedantic correctness, dry academicism etc., and in favour of lively modern language, the release of the ‘undertext’ (in brief, what the author meant, rather than what he wrote) referred to by Michael Meyer as the ‘sub-text’, the spirit rather than the letter, the activity rather than the product etc., it must, shall we say in the ’80s, in a climate of science and verification (that is the main principle) be on the whole illegitimate to stretch the meaning of a word beyond its hitherto usage, unless one is neologizing; it is wrong, and this principle applies to the translation of all texts (unless they are poorly written) say to translate caractères généraux as ‘general features’ rather than ‘general characteristics’; usually the translator is reluctant to use a word so like an SL word, when in fact he should seize the opportunity since it is the one that is nearest to the ‘truth’ or to accuracy.

Part II, ‘People who do the job’, contains some useful information on the training of translators, with a list of courses by country and institution. Indexers will appreciate the author’s comment in chapter 3 on the need to educate colleagues as well as customers as to what the translator can and cannot do; also his assertion that ‘It is an unfortunate fact of life that the more obliging by nature a translator is, the lower will be the standard of his work and also his own standing in the company’ (p. 34).

Part III, ‘How is the job done?’, underlines many of the basics that a translator may easily overlook or take for granted. Much applies equally to the indexer, for example the chapters on presentation, checking, revision and editing. The value of subject awareness and research using journals and reference works is stressed. Glossaries, card indexes and term banks are also dealt with (the latter are indexed as Terminology Data Banks, and the correct page references are 75, 76–78, 213), and there is a brief note on classification and filing. Indexers too face to some extent the questions of accuracy raised on page 44: to what extent should one correct inaccuracies in the original text? And I wonder just how many of the translator’s personal qualities can be expected in the typical indexer? There is also an informative section on office ergonomics and occupational health—something which few of us ever consider seriously. Office technology is explained clearly, and illustrated by case studies; machine translation is also dealt with clearly and simply.

Quality, standards and specifications are covered in Part IV; Part V includes some accounts of translation services in a cross-section of countries, and details of depositories and published indexes of translations. The address list may well prove useful to the indexer, and illustrates the involvement of libraries in translation work. Part VI, ‘International and national professional organizations’, provides more useful addresses, and perhaps indexers can learn from the International Federation of Translators’ Charter and the Unesco recommendations on the status of translators (both reprinted

First published in 1956 by the University of California Press, this edition is a photographic reprint of the original edition, with no changes in the main text. The author, professor (now retired) of English Literature at Brown University, Rhode Island, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship which enabled him to spend a year, 1954–55, in Britain. The time was well spent in research for Library catalogues and, one suspects, for the Library of John Lumley (1956), which Dr Jayne and F. R. Johnson jointly prepared for The British Museum.

The enthusiasm with which this volume was originally compiled still comes across in its 55-page introduction. The list of acknowledgments includes most of the leading bibliographers of the last quarter-century; the index, of some 1800 topics and headings, was compiled by Mrs H. M. Nixon.

Robert L. Collison


A book likely to be read with pleasure by visitors to and residents of the city. They will need no map other than its charming end-papers of Edinburgh in the seventeenth century, but they are inextricably served by the Edinburgh publishing house of Canongate which has failed to provide an index and leaves readers bent on retrieving events and opinions to grope their way unaided through a capricious chronology and a random arrangement of authors’ names.

Dorothy Dainty


A question frequently asked by organizers of amateur theatricals is, what plays are available with a specified number of male and female parts? No doubt many librarians can recall helping actors to choose sets of plays. One way to solve this problem is by using Play index. The second of the four parts of this book, the ‘Cast index’, lists plays arranged by those with men only, women only, mixed casts, puppets, unidentified and variable. It is therefore quite simple to find a list of plays with the number of characters required. This section of the book, however, is only one part of the work. The first part consists of a single alphabetical sequence of authors, titles and subjects of the plays listed, mostly British and American. The author entries give a summary of the plays together with brief bibliographical details; the title entries refer the reader to the authors; the subject lists enable the searcher to find what plays have been written on a particular subject. These subject lists range from a single entry, such as those for coups d'etat and kitchens to several columns such as that for husband and wife. The third section is a list of collections indexed, and the work is completed with a directory of publishers and distributors. In the first two sections plays suitable for children of various ages are indicated by symbols. The
book is intended not only for performing organizations, but also for those studying plays, and includes translations and adaptations of such playwrights as Aeschylus, Shakespeare and others.

This is the sixth collection in the series, which began in 1949. Its scope makes it useful for all readers requiring a wide view of the field of drama, and the 3,429 plays listed make it a comprehensive work. Philip Bradley

Our reviewers

Philip Bradley is Senior Librarian of Dundee College of Technology.

Robert Collison is Editor-in-chief, World Bibliographical Series, Clio Press; distinguished librarian/educator of librarians; author of works on librarianship and of two of the outstanding books on indexing; President of the Society of Indexers.

Dorothy Dainty is a teacher who has acted as tutor on the Rapid Results College Course in indexing.

John A. Gordon is a retired social worker, army Major, schoolteacher, and company secretary; formerly Secretary, then Chairman, now Vice-President of the Society of Indexers.

L. M. Harrod was former Senior Lecturer in charge of Overseas Librarians' course, Polytechnic of North London; Editor of The Indexer, 1964-78, and of Indexers on indexing; author of several major works on librarianship; winner of the Wheatley Medal for 1973; presented with the Carey Award, 1982; Vice-President of the Society of Indexers.

Tom Norton is Chief Librarian, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and former Editor of State Librarian.

Helga Perry is Librarian of Canterbury and Thanet School of Nursing.

Mary Piggott is former Senior Lecturer, School of Library, Archive, and Information Studies, University College London. Deputy Editor of The Indexer 1977–80, Vice-President of the Society of Indexers, and the Society's Librarian.

Dr. A. Campbell Purton is a freelance indexer and part-time tutor with the Open University, University of Cambridge Extra-Mural Department, and the Workers' Educational Association. He has been a lecturer in Philosophy at the University of St Andrews, and at the University of Alberta.

Elizabeth Wallis is a librarian, a long-standing member of the Council of the Society of Indexers, and its Registrar.

Publications received and publications noted

