The thesaurus automatically posts cross-references under a term in order to cut keying time and errors. System reports allow for selection by individual terms and provide a numeric listing showing all standards with all terms assigned.

'Perhaps the most innovative aspect of the system is the dual function of BRS Search, which was used not only to identify similar indexable concepts, but also for data entry. When a search strategy is formulated, it is saved and given an identification number which is then linked to the subject heading and a batch run automatically moves those standards from the document number screen to the selected subject term.'

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We offer our congratulations to all these indexers who bring so much prestige to our profession.

Doreen Blake
Chairman of the Joint Selection Panel of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers

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**Obituary**

**Theodosia Cecil Robertson**

1921–1984

Secretory of the Society of Indexers (1979-84)

Rarely, this journal has the opportunity to celebrate the life of one who, while not a practising indexer, yet served the cause of indexing with distinction.

Cecil Spring-Rice was the daughter of Margery Spring-Rice, author of *Working-class wives* (republished by Virago, 1981, with an enlightening Foreword and Notes by her daughter); and a great-niece of Dame Millicent Fawcett and of Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. After obtaining a degree in mathematics at Girton College, Cambridge, she married Martin Robertson, later Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art at the University of Oxford. They had two daughters and four sons; there are now twelve grandchildren. As her family grew up, Cecil embarked on a career in teaching, becoming in time Acting Head of one school, Academic Registrar of a non-university college in Oxford, and Head of a small boarding school in Norwich.

After leaving the teaching profession, she agreed in 1979 to become the SI's Honorary Secretary. For the next five years, her remarkable capacity for hard work and her farseeing grasp of detail were placed at the service of indexing, and above all of indexers. Administration was handled with a combination of grace, pragmatic intelligence, and fearsome efficiency. She was the instigator of the publication *Indexers available*, now approaching its fourth issue; to this, as to her editorship of the Newsletter, her servicing of meetings, a huge correspondence, she contributed not only her creativity and wide experience, but a zeal for communication and for caring human relationships.

She was a lover of life, and of music, books and gardens. She died after a fall, sustained while working in her own garden. To her family we can readily extend our sympathy, for, truly in the tradition of G. Norman Knight who founded the SI, she made all indexers feel part of a single devoted family.

Adapted by Judy Batchelor from a fuller tribute by John Gordon circulated earlier to members of SI.