Book reviews

treated by Philip Bradley


'The concept of citation indexing is simple. *Almost* all the papers, notes, reviews, corrections, and correspondence published in scientific journals contain citations. These cite—generally by title, author, and where and when published—documents that support, provide precedent for, illustrate or elaborate on what the author has to say. Citations are the formal, explicit linkages between papers that have particular points in common. A citation index is built around these linkages. It lists publications that have been cited and identifies the sources of the citations. Anyone conducting a literature search can find from one to dozens of additional papers on a subject just by knowing one that has been cited. And every paper that is found provides a list of new citations with which to continue the search.'

The opening paragraph of chapter one of Dr Garfield’s book explains clearly what citation indexing is and its merits. The two words which I have italicized bring out two of the limitations of the system: *almost* all the papers... published in scientific journals contain citations. Failure to cite obviously negates the value of a citation index, and failure to cite is more common in non-scientific fields. It is interesting that, in spite of its title, most of Garfield’s book is concerned with citation indexing in science.

The rest of chapter one neatly summarizes some of the attractions of citation indexing as compared with traditional subject indexing, including simplicity, economy, productivity, search effectiveness, precision and semantic stability—the citation is a precise, unambiguous representation of a subject that requires no interpretation and is immune to changes in terminology.'

Chapter two provides a historical view of citation indexing. Although this is particularly suitable for science, the citation of previous cases and decisions is a long-established legal process and the oldest major citation index in existence is a legal one, Shepard's Citations. However, the citation index as we know it today is definitely Dr Garfield’s brainchild: in 1961 he created Genetics Citation Index and this developed into Science Citation Index, to be followed later by Social Sciences Citation Index and Arts & Humanities Citation Index. Dr Garfield reminds us that there are other citation indexes, such as J. W. Tukey’s Citation Index for Statistics and Probability (R & D Press, 1973).


The second instalment of Hans Wellisch’s annotated bibliography, covering the years 1977–81, continues the wide-ranging references to the literature of indexing and abstracting begun in the previous volume, which covered publications from 1850 to 1976 (reviewed in *The Indexer* 12 (3) 1981, 159). New items, which number 1426, are supplemented by 220 items which escaped the compiler’s net in the first trawling. As the author says, ‘In a current bibliography one must evidently follow literary warrant, rather than a preconceived classification scheme’ (p. xxii), but only minor changes have been made to the arrangement used in the first volume, and the abstracts continue the serial numbering begun there.

Comparison of entries in the two periods covered shows the rise and fall of interest in particular topics, or at least the need to write about them. The earlier volume shows chain indexing (32 entries) and kwic and kwoc (94 entries from 1958 onwards) being expounded on all sides, whereas user studies jump from 2 before 1977 to 40 in the five-year period. Topics new to this volume are the interdependence of indexing and searching in online retrieval, seen as an emergent interest, and subject heading lists, included in this volume because of the same reason of its being covered elsewhere and because its inclusion would have made the present bibliography too large and unwieldy, classification, although admittedly an indexing language, has also been omitted.

The bibliography has been meticulously compiled, and accurately typed by the same skilled craftswoman as the first volume, on acid-free paper. It is easy to use and should remain a permanent reference work.

Mary Piggott
Chapter three takes us through the design and production of a citation index and is followed by a chapter on the application of citation indexing to the patent literature. Chapter five, on the citation index as a search tool, is particularly valuable, containing ten sample searches of Science Citation Index, which should be helpful to those finding difficulty in the use of citation indexes—amongst whom must be numbered some of my best students.

Dr Garfield demonstrates that the value of citation indexes lies not only in their value as a search tool. Chapter six explains how useful such indexes can be in the field of information management by helping us to evaluate the research contributions of individual journals, scientists, organizations and communities; defining relationships between different journals and between journals and fields of study; measuring the impact of current research; providing early warnings of important new interdisciplinary relationships; identifying fields of study whose rate of progress suddenly begins to accelerate; and defining the sequence of developments that led to major scientific advances. Chapter seven explains the use of citation analysis as a method of historical research into science, and chapter eight, which I found rather heavy going perhaps because I am not a scientist, shows how citation analysis can help to map the structure of science.

Chapter nine is concerned with the use of citation analysis to evaluate journals, and ten with the more controversial problem of its use to evaluate individual scientists. Finally there is a short epilogue on the future of citation indexing.

As the pioneer of citation indexing, it is not surprising that Dr Garfield plays down the limitations of the system. One of these limitations is the possibility of too much self-citation, but page 245 states that, although self-citations are (theoretically) a way of manipulating citation rates, 'the practice of citing oneself is also both common and reasonable. Studies show that at least 10% of all citations are self-citations'. It is interesting to apply this to Dr Garfield himself in his own book:

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<td>Epilogue</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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*(including one reference consisting of 12 titles)*

Perhaps one should not read too much into this since Dr Garfield is, as stated, the pioneer of citation indexing. But it does tend to confirm the impression which I formed some years ago, when I had the privilege of participating in a seminar conducted by Dr Garfield in Norway, that he does not pay too much attention to work which is not his own.

The index to the book is competent but no more. The subject index gives references to first pages only, e.g.:

- Bibliographic coupling, co-citation analysis, 99 (instead of 99-102)
- Concept searches, 50 (instead of 50-1)
- Keysave system, 31 (instead of 31-2)
- Mapping the structure of science: scientific specialties, 111 (instead of 111-18)
- Peer validation of citation studies, 131 (instead of 131-4)

As can be seen from the above entries there are some excessively long headings. There is no entry for the important subject of clustering, which is lost in the cumbersome heading 'co-citation analysis and clusters'. 'Russian journals' is a surprising omission from the index, especially as 'French journals', 'German journals' and 'Japanese journals' are there. As one would expect, there is an index of cited authors.

The publisher’s blurb describes this as a ‘fresh, clear, concise book.’ I do not agree that it is always as clear and concise as it might be, but it is a vital tool for anybody interested in citation indexing or, indeed, in modern indexing trends and the organization of scientific literature.

K. G. B. Bakewell


One of a series of Handbooks on library practice, this is the second edition of a work first published in 1980. Of major interest to librarians, it is principally a book about books although its own title is belied by the inclusion of two chapters on non-print material—one on Online Retrieval Systems and the other on Videotex Systems. The reference material with which the book deals is divided by category into chapters about dictionaries, encyclopaedias, directories, bibliographies, periodicals, etc., each chapter considering the use of such tools as well as listing the major standard works. The first two chapters cover reference work in general and it will be of interest to Society of Indexers members to note that two other chapters (Subject Bibliographies and Practical Visual Sources) have been written by our Chairman, David Lee, whilst Vice-President Ken Bakewell concludes the volume with a chapter on Indexes.

The book is intended to replace A. D. Roberts’s Introduction to reference books which had its third (and final) edition in 1956 but specifically disclaims any intention of superseding either A. J. Walford’s Guide to reference material or E. P. Sheehy’s Guide to reference...
books. The Preface to the first edition states that 'the objective has been to provide, for students and researchers; recently appointed reference staff; and practising librarians, working in small information units, with limited stocks, a practical handbook containing: (a) some general remarks on reference materials, their evaluation and use; (b) a consideration of the reference process, including general strategies for dealing with reference enquiries; (c) a series of succinct chapters, each by an authoritative contributor, dealing with the various categories of reference material'.

Turning to aspects of the work which are of particular concern to readers of this journal one finds that indexes are extremely competently dealt with in the chapter by Ken Bakewell already quoted; that the volume's own index (see below) repays careful study; and that references to indexing throughout the various chapters are quite numerous. The chapter devoted to indexes extends to 25 pages and is a brief account of the value and essential characteristics of good indexing rather than a listing of the major published indexes to reference material. These indexes receive treatment elsewhere in the volume. This chapter is one of three new ones prepared for this edition and the cause of good indexing can only be advanced by the inclusion of such an account in such a volume as this by so able an advocate.

To turn to the book's own index—this runs to 63 pages of double-column with set-out subheadings and word-by-word alphabetization and is a revision by our own Mrs M. J. Ford of the original index to the first edition by Ken Bakewell. It is headed by a comprehensive explanatory note and 'contains entries under authors, organizations, subjects, countries and titles . . .'. A brief sampling would seem to indicate an excellent job with only one source of irritation to this reviewer—namely the practice in subheaded entries of repeating under subheadings page references which have already appeared in the inclusive block of page numbers at the main heading. As an example, the 13 subheadings of the main entry 'dictionaries' could have been reduced to one had this 'contents list' approach not been followed. One feels also that the conflation of the separate headings 'indexes' and 'indexing' into a single 'indexes and indexing' would have avoided some confusion, been more economical, and been more helpful to the user. The final verdict must however be that the index seems to be a most capable compilation which should continue to serve the book well.

The importance of good indexing is of course more apparent to librarians than to most other groups, and pleas for the provision of adequate indexes appear repeatedly throughout the volume—'such retrieval can be achieved only if the contents of the work are rigorously indexed'; 'the index (a sine qua non for any self-respecting reference work) . . .' are two passages selected without the need to quote contributors who are also SL members! To quote the 'blurb' on the back cover: 'this handbook will be invaluable to practising librarians; students of librarianship; and anyone who undertakes research using printed reference material.'


Irish books in print is a handsomely produced, one-volume publication which has long been needed. During the past 10 years there has been a great increase in publishing in Ireland and ample evidence of this was given at an exhibition of over 30 Irish publishers at the Royal Festival Hall in London in March 1985. In addition, there has been a growing interest in Irish, Anglo-Irish and Celtic studies which has resulted in many publications on Irish matters being produced in other countries. All this activity has served to highlight the absence of a satisfactory general bibliography of such material.

This deficiency has now been remedied by the Irish publishers S. & J. Cleary who have drawn on three principal sources for the bibliography: Whitaker's British books in print, Bowker's Books in print and their own data base on in-print books published in Ireland. The original source of each entry is shown by the use of initials 'W', 'B' and 'C' respectively.

The bibliography is arranged in two main divisions: English language and Irish language publications. 'English language publications' has an author index (7,000 entries), a title index (10,000 entries, including inverted key words), a subject index (12,000 entries) arranged under 32 broad headings such as Fiction, Biography, Education and further arranged by title and inverted key words. A final section ('Annotations') contains short notes on 500 new or important Irish-interest books arranged by titles and these are cross-referenced to full bibliographical details in the author, title and subject indexes. The other main division, 'Irish language publications,' is in 2 sections: an author index (850 entries) and a title index (1,000 entries) with a descriptive note in English in many cases. Finally, there are 2 brief, useful lists of publishers arranged by ISBN prefix, and an alphabetical list of Irish publishers with addresses and telephone numbers.

Irish books in print will clearly be essential to the book trade in Ireland and useful to libraries and booksellers outside Ireland. I personally found it a 'good read' and a pleasure to handle and browse through. No doubt it will be more difficult to do this with increasing size.

There are a couple of developments which could make Irish books in print even more useful. A logical step would be to produce frequent microfiche editions as with the other members of the 'In print' family and perhaps this is under consideration. An attempt should also be made to include relevant items published outside Ireland, the UK and North America, for example, Alfred Bammesberger's three books published by Carl Winter of Heidelberg: Essentials of modern Irish, 1982; An outline of modern Irish grammar, 1983; and 20th century Irish prose, 1984. The publishers will no doubt have their own contacts but friendly correspondents around the world would surely be willing to act as intelligence gatherers and informants.

In case it is not already absolutely clear from this

Geoffrey Dixon

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review, I warmly welcome Irish book in print as a valuable addition to the 'In print' bibliographies.

Tom Norton


'The Critical Quarterly is a magazine for everyone with an interest in English literature, history and its most exciting new developments', whose contributors have included Auden, Empson, Davie, Hughes, Plath, Snow, Wain, and many distinguished reviewers. The present index is based on the original index to the first 8 volumes, compiled by Mary and Lionel Madden. This is a name index, including entries for authors as topics. Mr Freeman's challenge in the Introduction is especially worth noting: 'Perhaps the most compelling index is that in Nabokov's Pale fire' [see The Indexer 12 (4) Oct. 1981, 200]. The production of the index is excellent.

The Ayresford Review index comprises three sections: Index of contributors and their contributions; Name index: and Index of books reviewed. As Father Sewell shows in his Preface, the contributors to this journal represent an equally notable selection of writers though 'some potential swans turned out to be geese after all. The effort to encourage young talent was sometimes misplaced.'

A close study of these two well compiled indexes repays the effort: it is clear that such indexes record original work that needs to be brought to the attention of bibliographers and research workers even though, as Colin Stanley shows, the complete runs of early journals may be hard to come by.

Robert Collison


Emblem books are not everybody's cup of tea. (If you are uncertain what exactly they are, see book review, The Indexer 13 (3) Apr. 1983, 210.) But try to stifle any incipient yawns. Remind yourself that anything written by William Heckscher merits the respectful attention of indexers. Here is a catalogue master-minded by 'the unconventional indexer' (13 (1) Apr. 1982, 6–25). No matter how interested you are not in emblem books, you do care about indexing. Be stimulated by the news that the catalogue has no fewer than five indexes.

Champions of the single index have convincingly condemned multiple indexes and the time-wasting confusion to which they can give rise. Let them examine this particular example of their bête noire. It may not weaken their adherence to a practice which they have come to regard as a principle. What it may do, and probably will, is serve as a reminder that many of the fundamentals of good indexing are still wide open to different and even contradictory interpretations.

Knowing when and why and how to depart from prescribed rules and standards, that is the problem. For such departures there is one outstanding justification: to serve the best interests of the user. In such matters, the Heckscher touch seems to have a special magic. This catalogue, principally through its numerous indexes, leads the user unerringly to the precise objective he seeks, no matter what shreds of information may constitute his starting point.

J. A. Gordon


The use of computers in literary detection has advanced a long way in recent years. Using 'literary detection' in its widest sense this use has developed from the selection and alphabetization of words in the text of a book to compile concordances to these texts, such as the remarkable Harvard concordance to Shakespeare (Belknap Press, 1974), to their use in more recent years in the subject of 'stylometry'. This is the study of word lists to aid in identifying or proving the authorship of texts. In all these uses the computer has one task only, that of picking out words and putting them into some order. The use subsequently made of these lists is in the hands of the user.

The purpose of the word list reviewed here was to solve a stylometric problem, namely to authenticate a number of unsigned works thought to be by Poe. Of more immediate interest to the indexer using or considering the use of a computer, however, is the 14-page introduction in which Pollin describes some of the problems encountered in the computer aspect of his work. A number of these problems are of the sort which may well be faced by indexers. Pollin had first-class technical support and freely acknowledges the great help he received from computer experts and sympathetic typists at the City University of New York, but even so some problems could not be overcome. The problems faced were largely due to the limitations of the computer and of space in the final bound product. For instance, in an attempt to save space the number of headings had to be limited and this leads the user unerringly to the precise objective he seeks, no matter what shreds of information may constitute his starting point.

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In cases where alphabetization had to follow normal practice but where the computer could not cope with this, words had to be adjusted by hand. For technical reasons some words listed may be one line above or below that given in the index. There are no cross-references because, according to the compiler, it is impossible to include these in a computerized list. These peculiarities no doubt cause some difficulties for the reader, but the author assures us that they can quickly be grasped. For the book indexer the problem of programming and of deciding what peculiarities are acceptable are matters for decision in addition to the normal problems the indexer faces.

The computer can deal with many difficulties, but as Pollin points out, too much programming would have been required to circumvent them all. A considerable amount of the programming was modified or dropped completely while the work was in progress, and the problems encountered and the efforts to solve them stress the point that work of this sort cannot be carried out by using hard and fast rules, but that changes can if necessary be instituted after the work has started. This is certainly the case with indexing too. For those indexers interested in using computers in their work this introduction is well worth reading.

Philip Bradley


A visit to the back stacks of any learned library will surprise most people by the allocation of the amount of space that must necessarily be devoted to two categories of publications: indexes and bibliographies. The quantity of bibliographies grows steadily, and the recent spurt of activity in the field of indexes draws one's attention to the growing realization that indexes are a valuable and necessary contribution to research. The number of publications produced and the fairly high prices asked indicate both the increasing bibliographical awareness and the demand for updated indexes and bibliographies for which the St Paul's bibliographies series and the Scarecrow author bibliographies series are making a substantial contribution. The present volumes here reviewed are handsome additions to these series, and it is said that the prices may prevent some scholars (in the Third World, for example) from even examining them. Perhaps the time has come for the Society of Indexers to consider instituting in this field carefully selected collections that can be used in training in the use of bibliographies.

The two giants of literature under consideration are represented in these bibliographies by at least 8,000 items, and even these are not complete. A glance at their two indexes shows that variations in the type of presentation offer very different lines of approach, each of which will reward the indexer in his quest for suitable models. Each bibliography, similar in most cases to what may be termed standard bibliographies, presents the bibliographer with ideas, and yet indicates possible lines worthy of further consideration. Thus the Borrow bibliography omits entries for George Borrow and John Murray, in view of the frequency with which those names occur. In addition, there is a special index of Borrow's works (pp. 229-231) whose existence may be overlooked since it is not listed in the Contents. The bibliographers of George Borrow face a meticulous task since they have to deal with autograph material scattered throughout some forty collections in various libraries and other institutions in many countries. A grant from the Canada Council supported the initial stages of the work.

The great collection of Borrow material in the Library of the Hispanic Council of America still remains uncatalogued, and presumably will provide the incentive for compiling a third index, for one cannot ignore the Bibliography of the writings in prose and verse of George Henry Borrow, compiled by the remarkable T. J. Wise and published in 1914 by Dawsons of Pall Mall.

The occurrence of the name of T. J. Wise in both these bibliographies is no accident. Despite all the problems which must be kept in mind in trying to achieve bibliographically reliable information, entries by him are numerous in the Borrow bibliography and warrant very careful study. Turn now to the Tennyson bibliography where a fine crop of T. J. Wise items is listed in the Author-Editor index (p. 503) and in the Subject index (p. 528). In contrast to the Borrow bibliography, in which the references cover some fifty closely printed double-column pages, the Tennyson index is quite brief. Included in this material is a growing section of dissertations, and particular attention is paid to manuscript material, translations, and so on.

The workmanship in both these bibliographies is admirable, and their indexes maintain a scholarly standard. For anyone embarking on a major index, it is recommended that a comparative study of the two indexes would repay the time and effort expended. It would certainly convince members of our Society that indexing of a high level is being achieved and would undoubtedly give rise to more and better indexes, for once an indexer has produced a really good index he will find it hard to refuse the opportunity to compile still more indexes within his subject field.

Robert Collison


This work is described in the introduction as 'not a who's who, but the first practical guide to people active in the information/library profession in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'. The editor explains that the direc-
In this first quarterly issue there are articles on UNESCO's computerized documentation system (and the troubles which are besetting that organization with the resignation from it of the USA); information policies and training in India, China and Pakistan; the development of information work-forces; and news of current research, new publications, new products and forthcoming events. Interesting and wider-ranging articles are promised for the following issues.

Information development: the international journal for librarians, archivists and information specialists, edited by J. Stephen Parker. No. 1- . London: Mansell Publishing Ltd, Jan. 1985-. ISSN 0266-6669. Published quarterly. Annual subscription: institutions £36.00 (overseas $58.00); individuals £18.00 (overseas $29.00).

'Information Development,' says the editor's note, 'aims to provide authoritative coverage of current developments in information work throughout the world, with particular emphasis on the information needs and problems of the developing countries'. It is intended to fill the gap left by the demise of UNESCO's Journal of Information Science which ceased publication in 1983.

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K. G. B. Bakewell


The potential for misuse of information stored on computers has been a rich source of inspiration for writers since Orwell's 1984. Towards the end of the 1970s, as advances in data base management and computer communications techniques made such abuses practicable, the pressure for some form of regulation mounted. The Council of Europe responded by preparing a standard (the Convention) for the processing and exchange of personal data.

Although the Convention is purely voluntary, its restrictions on the exchange of information (the so-called trans-border data flow) give it considerable commercial bite. The UK signed the Convention in 1981, issued a White Paper in 1982, and enacted the Data Protection Act which comes fully into operation towards the end of 1985.

The Act is a complex and sometimes paradoxical piece of legislation the interpretation of which is largely left to a 'Registrar', his staff, an appeals tribunal and ultimately the courts. It may or may not be applicable to book publishing where indexing is effected with the assistance of computers. It will almost certainly apply to all forms of indexes for electronically published documents containing personal information.

This can have unexpected implications where the information relates to living persons (the scope of the Act). If a book alleges that Mr John Bull has a connection with a secret society, Mr Bull may sue for libel. If this relationship is electronically indexed, Mr Bull may require that the information is correct and possibly receive compensation if it is not. If the information is to be held on a data base for electronic publishing, it must be kept up to date (or the editor must append some phrase which shows a chronological limitation). Fines (usually of up to £2000, in some cases unlimited) can be imposed, and for many of the offences a guilty intent need not be proved.

In these two publications the intentions and scope of application of the Act are examined. Sterling provides a thorough commentary on the Act in a form suitable for a legal practitioner or a data user who wishes to study a detailed exposition of an individual issue. The full text of the Act is included in an appendix, and the work is briskly indexed against paragraphs in the text in a form best suited to the specialist reader.

For the software developer or data base administrator, J. M. Court's review of the implications of the Act is required reading. The book has a distinct tendency to air well-known platitudes about good systems design and maintenance—but the NCC could well argue that such platitudes are well worth repeating. Systems professionals will be glad to find that their existing procedures should need little modification, while authors of software products for smaller systems (e.g., personal computers) may be surprised by the range of controls recommended. The index is (as so often in the computer industry) a disgrace.

Whether those 'in doubt' should register, however innocent the data that they hold, is outside the scope of this review, but there can be little doubt that computer-supported indexers will wish to review the position with their publishers once the Act begins to take effect.

Simon Dismore

Note: the comments in this review do not necessarily express the views of NEC Business Systems.
died during the preliminary work on its companion volume [his obituary notice appears in *The Indexer* 11(3) Apr. 1979, 168] but the *Dictionary of modern thinkers* is a worthy successor. Nearly two thousand essays describe the lives, thought and achievements of those who shaped, and are shaping, the way the twentieth century thinks: the dictators and practical men as well as the artists and intellectuals. There is an economical system of cross-referencing and details of useful source-books; there is also a Classified Index (initiated and compiled by Derek Langridge) which lists the subjects of entries under broad headings (e.g. Economics) which are further subdivided (Economic Theory; Business, Industry and Management). This is a useful tool, though rather cumbersome to use, especially as no guidewords are provided at the tops of pages; and I found the cross-referencing confusing at first (if I wish to *see also* Economic and Social History I will find it under main heading Humanities, sub-heading History, sub-sub-heading Economic and Social History). Better differentiation of typefaces for the various levels would also have helped; but perhaps I am making too much of a professional quibble. *Modern thinkers* naturally contains far more biographical entries than the preceding volume, but many of those mentioned in *Modern thought* do not appear in *Modern thinkers*; the two books are supplementary as well as complementary, with the biographical one laying perhaps greater stress on the arts. Both demand that we acknowledge a considerable debt to their initiator, Professor Bullock, and to his gifted co-editors, and to their publishers. Indexers may wish to equip themselves first with a general biographical dictionary, but should not wait too long before setting *Modern thinkers* beside it.

Judy Batchelor


The aim of this dictionary is: 'to provide an introduction and encouragement to those . . . who wish to explore the world of thought, literature and the arts beyond their immediate concerns and interests'. The *Dictionary*, with its 320 essay-length articles, is an abridgement of a larger work, *Makers of modern culture* which contains 537 articles. The arrangement of entries is alphabetical by the names of men and women who have made key contributions to modern culture. 'Modern' represents a period from around the turn of the century to the present and 'culture' is defined as 'how we see ourselves'.

The editor seeks to disarm criticism of his selection criteria with an apology in his Preface. However, it seems eccentric to me to have nothing at all about the influential ecology and environmental movements (an entry for Edwin Schumacher of *Small is beautiful* fame, surely?) and to over-represent Feminism and the Women's Movement with three entries (Betty Friedan, Germaine Greer, Kate Millet). The quality of the entries is uneven; some are inflated over minor subjects, others are unclear and it is difficult to discern the contribution of their subjects to modern culture (the entries on Ted Hughes and Philip Larkin, for example). It would also have been helpful to have had some indication of the credentials of the contributors.

While selection criteria are highly debatable, the quality of the index is less so. It is simply unsatisfactory. There is not much wrong with name entries but the entries for 'key terms' leave much to be desired. There are far too many strings of undifferentiated references. For example 'existentialism' has 20, 'expressionism' 17, 'communism' 25, 'cubism' 30 and 'Marx, Karl and Marxism' tops the lot with 48. If space could not be found for meaningful sub-entries then at least the principal references should have been distinguished from the minor ones by bold type or some other means. For example, there are nine references under 'behaviourism' and the seventh of these is the major reference on the subject (to B. F. Skinner). It would have been helpful to have been directed there straight away. 'Save the time of the reader' applies just as much to compilers of indexes as to librarians.

The best use of this book is for casual browsing, and from that point of view it serves its purpose well. It could have been really useful if more attention had been given to producing a proper index.

Tom Norton


I was prepared to shelve this book among anthologies of poetry for the euphony of its lists: Beys of Tunis (and Deys of Algiers); Landgraves, Margraves, Electors and Counts Palatine; Jarls of Orkney, Amirs of Najd, Alafins of Oyo; in fact it has already proved an invaluable reference book, thoroughly practical for checking up on Roman emperors (Western, Byzantine, and odd-men-out), Dark Age rulers of Leinster, Dalriada and Powys, and the Ruritanian relations of the House of Windsor.

The first, shorter section is an encyclopaedic guide to dynasties and states. A typical page has a paragraph apiece on Mithridatids, Modena, Moghuls, Moldavia, Mombasa, Monaco and Mongolia/Mongols; each is cross-referenced to other entries within the encyclopaedic section and ends with the subject's reference in the book's main section of Dynastic Lists. There are also some 'family trees' showing how some dynasties are interrelated.

The principal section contains the names of countries, arranged geographically, under which are set out chronologically, dynasty by dynasty and where necessary by region by region, the names of rulers with dates of accession (and where applicable also with dates of ends of reigns) and a simple code to give the relationship which made each one eligible for his (or if asterisked, her) throne. For instance in Section 6—Britain: kings of England/Great Britain—no. 34, appearing in subsection b—Norman and Plantagenet kings, 1066-1485—is Henry IV of...
Lancaster, 1399, g32 (i.e. grandchild via son of no. 32, who was Edward III). As a bonus, the non-dynastic series of popes and of US presidents are included. All the well-recorded lists of rulers are to be found, covering five continents, a few going back for nearly five thousand years.

The scope of this book is very great, and the content ingeniously and economically arranged; it is easy to suppose that Tapsell, like Crockford or Roget, will replace his book's title as the name by which it is generally known, and deservedly so. Nevertheless I suppose that Tapsell, like Crockford or Roget, will continue as a bon de bonus, the non-dynastic series of popes and of US presidents are included. All the well-recorded lists of rulers are to be found, covering five continents, a few going back for nearly five thousand years.


After reading this thoroughly researched biography the reader is tempted to question whether the achievements of Thomas Birch in the eighteenth century would be possible at all for a Thomas Birch born in England today. Without the benefit of university education, this son of a Quaker coffee-mill maker in Clerkenwell (London) was ordained at the age of 27, became a foremost English historian and distinguished biographer, and the breadth of his scholarly interests was recognized by the accolade of a Fellowship of The Royal Society. What he developed from his teens was a pleasant personality, a love of study and a capacity for hard work. By the time of his ordination in 1730 he had become known in literary circles, and through the offices of a friend in 1732 he was asked to make some translations of biographies from Bayle's Dictionnaire historique et critique, as a qualifying exercise for the subsequent invitation to become one of the three editors of the proposed A general dictionary, historical and critical. This was planned to appear in eight volumes with adequate representation of worthy Englishmen; the work appeared over the years 1734-1741 and had grown to ten volumes. Of the 889 new biographies that were included 618 were attributed to Birch, who became the most active editor and a great controlling influence.

For most of the second half of his life Birch kept a diary (1735-1764), and the volume, of some 850 pages, has survived. With good reason, Gunther, the author of this Life, writes 'It is to be regretted that Birch's Diary did not start in 1732 when he was first engaged on the Dictionary.' As it is, the Diary records much of interest to students of the Dictionary's compilation, and the author of the Life uses it to give interesting glimpses of Birch's working method and the important acquaintances he made, many of them men of science. His election to The Royal Society in 1735 followed the early interest of the Society in the Dictionary, and the author notes that four of the ten volumes were dedicated to scientists. Since Birch was later to become secretary of The Royal Society and its historian it appears that his electors might be thought to be far-seeing.

As an example of the careful background preparation Birch undertook for his biographies, it is revealed from the Diary that he regularly attended lectures at the College of Physicians to make himself familiar with medical subjects. The origins of a number of later works by Birch are traced in this Life to friendships made with scientists and others during the years he worked on the Dictionary. The Life of Robert Boyle by Birch (1744), an important scientific work resulting from such friendships, is used by Gunther to provide as well a revealing insight into eighteenth-century publishing practices.

This detailed account of the life of an exceptionally active intellectual of the period, the creator of a famous Dictionary and a prolific correspondent, can be read with pleasure. Unfortunately, neither proofreading nor index preparation can be rated as strong points of this author/publisher.


The Plain English Campaign is very dear to my heart. Its intention—to persuade people in public life, administration and commerce to write in simple, decent English—seems to me wholly admirable. Consequently I would love to be able to enthuse over this anthology by Chrissie Maher and Martin Cutts, since the book is a product of the Campaign. But although I would love to be able to, I honestly can't.

Firstly, the book does not represent value for money. It is only 92 pages long (and that's with the title page as page 5) and many pages are far from filled at that. Since the book costs £8.95, an average of about 10p a page, it seems to me a bit pricey.

One might not mind so much if the text itself were something special, but really it isn't. Each page contains an example or two of 'bad' English introduced by editorial comments of a rather arch sort. But to what end? If the writers wish to educate, then they need to do rather more than simply point a finger and say 'this is awful'. (Gowers's Complete plain words is a fine example of how this might be done.) If, on the other hand, the aim is simply to amuse, then I am afraid for me
they have failed. The examples are predictable and really rather dull, and there is not enough editorial wit to make up for this. A further reservation is that the book seems random and indiscriminate. I could detect no organizing principle, no attempt to group the extracts by context, by nature of linguistic offence, or in any other way. They are merely a collection of discrete examples. This means that potentially useful opportunities for comparison of like items are lost.

And the authors' comments are sometimes a bit suspect. They will say pretty nasty things like 'cleverly designed by the Home Office to make people give up reading for ever,' but there is no attempt at analysis and one is left reluctantly with the impression that one of the things they object to in principle is complex English of any description, even if grammatically and syntactically correct and using only words necessary in the context. For instance, an extract is quoted from a TV rental agreement: '... the Renter shall not sell, assign, pledge, underlet, lend or otherwise deal with or part with possession of the Equipment ...'. That is wordy, certainly, but it seems to me that every word is necessary if the company is to protect itself adequately. It would be a shame if people of the reputation of Martin Cutts and Chrissie Maher were felt to be directing their efforts towards the universal use of the simple sentence of no more than ten words, as though this were a virtue in itself.

I wholly applaud the Plain English Campaign and wish it every success, but I do not believe it has done its cause any good by the publication of this rather smug little book.

Ann Edwards


Indexers must seek to anticipate and satisfy their users' expectations. Authors are in the happier position of being able to choose the readership whose appetite they aim to satisfy. This book's title suggests that the target may be pun-lovers who picture themselves as intellectuals.

Fruitful sources of wit and, alas, of solecisms are the oxymoron (two normally contradictory terms placed in conjunction, e.g. 'the wisest fool in Christendom') and the pleonasm (use of redundant terms which add nothing to the meaning, e.g. 'free gifts, opening gambit'). Hughes gives numerous examples of each, few of them unfamiliar, none hilarious.

Working from the disputable assumption that each of these 'bulls', as he calls them, consists of adjective-plus-noun or adverb-plus-verb, he proceeds to analyse what he regards as their more complex forms. 'When the two terms of the pleonasm are joined by a copula,' he asserts, 'it is a tautology.' Oxymoron, in similar manner, requires only a copula to become a *contradiction in terms*; thence it extends or subdivides into *figure/ground reversal, self-reference, self-contradiction*, and such other logico-grammatical wonders as *mind over matter* ('An idea deduced from life is imposed on life,' e.g. 'Because of lack of space a number of births have been held over until next week'). Some readers may be illuminated by these excursions into ever-decreasing particularization. Your reviewer became so blinded by complexity that only by delving into Gowers, Fowler, et al., could he rediscover what *pleonasm* and *oxymoron* really mean.

How gratifying that Hughes saves his best wine until last: an appendix of 'Goldwynisms'. Yet even here he finds it necessary, as throughout the book, to assume the reader's total inability to understand any of the quoted examples without the aid of an editorial gloss. Sam Goldwyn's immortal, 'I can give you a definite perhaps,' requires eighty words of explanation: "'Perhaps' means "possible but uncertain," while "definite" means "certain."' Furthermore, a "perhaps" is not something you can give; it is not a noun. You can give a "definite no" or a "definite yes". Goldwyn bends the rules ...", and on, and on, and on. So contemptuous is the author of his readers' insight and intelligence that he devotes more than half of his text to such outpourings of Olympian wisdom. His punning title disguises what he seems to have had in mind: *Oxymoron for morons*.

One unusual feature: seven of the twenty chapters present distortions of visual imagery, roughly equivalent to the figures of speech. Magritte, Dali, M. C. Escher, and pictorial provocateurs of lesser fame are the sources of seventy illustrations. Each one, needless to say, is thoroughly explained; after all, it would be just too awful if we missed the point!

J. A. Gordon


Successor to the three editions published since 1977 by the British Computer Society; explains more than 750 computing terms in simple language, in fifteen sections, with 8-page index at the front. Well may explanation be needed; to what type of book might one otherwise suppose the following extracts from the index to be taken?

- absolute address
- bubble store
- buffering
- buggy
- bursting
- bus
- drum
- dump

While we have alphabetization under the first letter of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most significant bit [a different reference from bit]</th>
<th>Very large scale integration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>warm start</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, a most useful booklet to those entering, bewildered, the brave new world of the bit, byte, and mouse.

Hazel Bell

*The Indexer* Vol. 14 No. 4 October 1985

Let us be clear about one thing: this book is not about marketing, direct mail or otherwise, despite its title. According to the author (p. 1) ‘Frequently, the inclusion of an order form and the publisher’s address adds a mail order facility—not just direct mail promotion but direct mail marketing therefore . . . ’. An illustration then contrasts the ‘marketing leaflet’ (order form including publisher’s name and address) with the ‘promotional leaflet’ (order form referring to ‘your usual bookseller’). Even given the author’s definition of marketing, this is the only reference to that topic in the work, the remainder of which is concerned with direct mail and its use, not the content of what is mailed.

Chapters cover the use of mailing houses, compiling your own list, costings, Post Office services, consolidation services, use of computers. Most useful, if one could trust them, are the lists of lists appended to most chapters. Here are some oddities from chapters 2 and 3: of Sweet & Maxwell, it is stated (p. 38) that it supplies order facility—not just direct mail promotion but direct mail marketing therefore . . . ’. An illustration then contrasts the ‘marketing leaflet’ (order form including publisher’s name and address) with the ‘promotional leaflet’ (order form referring to ‘your usual bookseller’). Even given the author’s definition of marketing, this is the only reference to that topic in the work, the remainder of which is concerned with direct mail and its use, not the content of what is mailed.

Needless to say there is no index.

Janet Shuter


‘This paper, backed by a Committee of nearly fifty well-known scholars and writers, reviews the history of the present proposal for a new British Library, and presents the case against building a major, new, all-purpose, science and humanities library (Library City) on a disused goods yard near St Pancras. The Government’s proposal is that this would replace, and put out of library use, the British Museum’s Round Reading Room at Bloomsbury, which has been the main British national library for over a hundred years. The proposed new library would offer community and similar facilities as well as library facilities. Implied in the Government’s plan is that the new library would become a library of first as well as of last resort. It is here argued that this would dilute and damage its present prime role as a central source of knowledge and scholastic excellence serving the needs of the highest levels of scholarship. It is pointed out that the holdings needed by other levels of scholarship (student, school and general public) are different and are already available in other publicly funded libraries. The national importance of the highest levels of scholarship being efficiently serviced and being able to operate efficiently to lead Britain through this technological age are emphasised.’

Need a review for this journal say more than the above abstract? Except perhaps to point out that, in addition to Lord Thomas, the International Committee of the Campaign to Save the Round Reading Room includes such literary luminaries as Kingsley Amis, Sir Arthur Bryant, Antonia Fraser, Iris Murdoch and Veronica Wedgwood amongst its 44 members. This report is now two years old and it remains to be seen whether it will prove to have exerted any influence at all on the British Library’s future plans.

Geoffrey Dixon


Those whose lives are led in blissful ignorance of publishing in Britain today might be forgiven the belief that just as all writing arrives by unaided inspiration so all authors are generously rewarded for their labour. Who shall tell them otherwise? Certainly a mass media with a penchant for spotlighting the commercially successful author would find no glamour in advertising the fact that by far the majority of authors earn less in a year than a junior typist.

Authors themselves, loners by nature and lacking the co-operative enterprise of workers in other occupations, have long been their own worst enemy. Bernard Shaw, a life-long campaigner for authors’ rights (particularly his own) railed against the ‘imbecilic’ author and his beholden attitude to his employers as much as he castigated the ‘crook publisher and sweating editor’—a fact entertainingly revealed in Author! Author!, an anthology of writing from ninety-five years of The Author, the journal of the Society of Authors. The book is compiled and compiled by the journal’s editor, Richard Findlater.

Though far from being the only concern of The Author, the vexatious subject of author-publisher relations taxed a great many literary minds in the early
days of the Society when a royalty system of payment was unknown, and when publishers were regarded as avuncular fellows who looked upon authors as mere scribes to be encouraged with a little pocket money now and then. Bennett, Forster, Kipling, Galsworthy, Walpole, Wells, Shaw and many another eminent writer made it their business, through the pages of The Author, to improve conditions for their colleagues, re-define their status in society and help them overcome their occupational isolation.

As well as monitoring the treatment of authors and ventilating their problems, the journal has long provided a forum for a dialogue between authors on the nature of their trade. In the editor's 'personal choice of personal voices', L. A. G. Strong puts the case for a civilized tripartite of author-agent-publisher; John Brophy signals an author's 'lending right'; J. B. Priestley attacks the BBC tradition of getting writers on the cheap; Malcolm Bradbury and Angela Carter consider the literary benefits of Award travel; William Trevor, in love with imaginary friends, writes of post-novel depression; Allan Prior reflects on thirty years of television drama; Tom Stoppard describes, wryly, the story behind the play that launched his theatrical career; and John Mortimer, humorously examining the Obscene Publications Act, concludes that individual taste is the only tribunal for obscenity in art. For H. G. Wells it was 'one of the modern forms of adventure'. For Shaw it was at times not so much trade as gambling. But for poet, critic and novelist John Wain authorship is the act of defying the 'old Wall of Death'. A writer, he says, stays pinned to the wall by pressing on at full speed and defying the facts—the facts of how any writer these days earns a living. Most, as we know, do not. Faced with the sad economic realities of their business lives, many must look to means other than writing by which to supplement their incomes—some, innocents that they are, drifting into the equally impecunious field of indexing. Needless to say this collection has no index.

John Walker

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John Walker is a former journalist, now a writer of fiction.

passim

Cassell's new Latin dictionary defines passim as here and there, up and down, far and wide. A fine example of this definition exists in the index to Scott, Rohan & Gardner. The BBC micro add-on guide. London: Collins, 1985:

BBC Buggy, 119–20
BBC Micro
comparison with other computers, 3
general description, 2, 3–8
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Beasty, 121