Notes for contributors to The Indexer

The Indexer is published twice yearly, in April and October. We welcome reports of research or personal experience in indexing, and comments on indexes. Contributions should be sent to the editor as early as possible, and must be received before:

6 January for the April issue
6 July for the October issue.

Preparation of copy. Two copies of each manuscript are required. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced, approximately 54 characters to the line, on one side only of unfolded white A4 paper. The top copy should be on heavy bond paper (not flimsy). The title should not be typed in capital letters.

Copy can also be accepted on floppy disc, 40-track, 5¼", to BBC format.

Use the spelling of the Oxford English dictionary (-ize). Indicate italics by underlining; do not type any words (other than acronyms) in capitals. Use single quotes (double within single).

For articles of 2,000 words and over, an abstract of up to 150 words should follow the author’s name and be separated from it and from the article itself by typed or drawn lines the full measure of the typing. It should indicate with brevity and clarity the subject matter, scope and coverage of the contribution, also any conclusions arrived at by the author.

Short sectional subheadings are desirable for long articles; they may appear on separate lines, not indented, where appropriate. They should be in lower case, underlined and without a final point, and not preceded by numerals.

A short note on the position/s held by the author should be submitted. Papers are accepted subject to editorial amendment.

Abbreviations of names of organizations should be used without points; those which are not generally well known should be used in full in the first instance with the abbreviation following immediately within parentheses.

Bibliographical references should be indicated in the text by superior numerals in consecutive order, and listed separately at the end of the article. Each corresponding reference number should be typed at the end of the article and be followed only by the relevant bibliographical information. A reference to a journal article should begin with the author’s surname followed by forename or initials, and the title of the article, the name of the periodical followed by vol. no. (underlined by a wavy line), issue no. in (), full date (if a daily or weekly), month, year in full, inclusive page numbers, as:


References to the authors and titles of books are to be in the same style except that titles are to be underlined, and followed by the edition statement (when not the first). The place of publication should be given: to avoid confusion, towns may be followed by the abbreviations of the country, county, or state, as:

Cambridge (Mass.); Cambridge (England) followed by a colon, the publisher’s name (only full enough for identification), year of publication, and inclusive page numbers of the reference. Example:


Note that no capital initials after the first, except for proper names, are used in the titles of articles or books. This practice is also to be used in the text of articles, and the titles of books are to be underlined.

We regret that no payment can be offered to authors; but ten offprints of articles are supplied free if requested in advance of printing.

Proof Correction

Galley proofs should be carefully checked and returned immediately. Authors’ amendments to the text cannot normally be accepted at proof stage. Proof corrections should be made in the margins and should be in accordance with British Standard 5261: Part 2: 1976 Specification for typographic requirements . . . and proof correction.

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