Our reviewer writes:

My statement was indeed incorrect and I apologize. The conferences are listed and analyzed. I was misled by the Index! There are five indexes: two Personal Author indexes, one for the first author and another for the second and further authors, and a Corporate Author index, all described as referring to the serial number of all the entries (p.ix); a Systematic index, arranged according to the Classification Literature Classification (CLC), covering only the conference papers, excluding even the subjects contained in the conference titles; and a Name and Subject index, referring to the whole volume, some entries referring directly to the bibliographic entry number, others (denoting the subject of conference papers) referring to the CLC notation.

In the Corporate Author index I found 'Aslib' and 'Aslib Library' but no further subheadings. However, lower down the page I found 'Coordinate indexing Group' and one reference—to abstract no. 1366, which cited the first Informatics conference in 1973.

I should not, of course, have stopped there. The Name and Subject index would have given me

Aslib Coordinate Indexing Group, 1974 conference 1544 1728

which would have added two more, since the numbered abstracts referred to the second and third Informatics conferences. The same index also gave Informatics Conferences

1—1973 1366—1385
2—1974 1544—1558
3—1975 1728—1739
4—1979 2700—2729

which would almost have given the complete sequence for a single looking-up. The fourth conference was not a full Informatics conference but a one-day Colloquium entitled 'About Aboutness', and it was reported only in summary form. The reference to that summary appeared in the Name and Subject index as,

Aboutness, colloquy 1977 2240

From all of the foregoing I draw a number of conclusions.

1. I should have suspected that in such a thorough piece of work as Dahlberg's bibliography an important sequence of conference reports would not have been omitted, and I should have searched the text under the appropriate year headings for the sought citations.

2. An incomplete index entry under a specific heading is more misleading than no entry at all under that heading, since in the latter case the searcher is forced to think of alternative leads.

3. A multiplicity of indexes is, generally speaking, to be avoided. The five indexes to this one volume would have been less confusing had the two Personal Author indexes been amalgamated and the Corporate Author index been interfiled with the Name and Subject index, which, inspection reveals, partially duplicates it.

MARY PIGGOTT

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Publications received and publications noted


**Data protection guidelines for library, information and related services**, prepared by the Joint Consultative Committee Working Party on Data Protection. This work, due for publication in January, 1986, was prepared under the chairmanship of J. E. Davies, and is intended to assist in the registration of books. It is available from the Bibliographic and Information Technology Department of the LA.


**Idioms and phrases index**, Laurence Urdang, editor in chief, Frank R. Abate, managing editor. Detroit,


INSPEC list of journals and other serial sources 1985. Hitchin, Herts: INSPEC, 1985. iv, 295 pp. 29 cm. ISBN 0264-7508 (pbk): £12.00. Details 3733 serial publications regularly scanned by INSPEC with full and abbreviated title, frequency of issue, publisher’s name and address, CODEN, ISSN, first (and last) issue covered by INSPEC. Where appropriate, the BLLD shelf number is given.


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The Indexer is published twice yearly, in April and October. Material for the April issue should reach the Editor before 6 January, and for the October issue, before 6 July; but contributions should be sent as early as possible. We welcome reports of research or personal experience in indexing, and comments on indexes. Notes for contributors, and rates for advertisers, available from the Editor. Copyright jointly held by the Society of Indexers and the individual authors. Papers are accepted subject to editorial amendment.