
The Act is tortuous and obscure. The Registrar has endeavoured to clarify it and is to be congratulated on most of his exposition. Where he is obscure, it is the fault of the parliamentary draftsmen who left him with an impossible task until important points have been settled by the courts. He may not have got it right, but his booklets tell you how you can meet his requirements. The Library Association leaflet offers practical help in filling up the 12 pages of application forms. Useful though it is, its list of applications seems singularly unrelated to library activities. Loan records appear only in a note: catalogues and readers’ ticket records are not mentioned as such—the headings provided offer little more guidance than the Registrar’s own.

To discover how far you personally need to do anything about the Act, start with the articles which appeared in The Indexer for October 1985 and April 1986. Unless you are clearly outside the Act, then Guideline No 1, updated by the Questions and Answers, will settle many of the details. If you need to register, the notes are provided with the registration forms at any crown post office. You should have sent them off before 11 May 1986 or before you start holding personal data.

A. SANDISON

Education and training in indexing and abstracting: a directory of courses and workshops offered in the United States and Canada, with a bibliography of text-books used in indexing and abstracting courses. 3rd edn., compiled by Bella Hass Weinberg with the assistance of Lynn Dombek. New York: American Society of Indexers, 1985. 144 pp. 29 cm. Bibliog, indexes. Pbk: $15.00 ($7.50 to ASI members incl. p. & p.). (Available from ASI Publications Sales Office, 1700 18th St NW, Washington DC 20009.)

This directory gives details of 44 courses in the United States, six in Canada and, in spite of its title, one (the Rapid Results College correspondence course) in England and one in Puerto Rico. It is arranged alphabetically by institution with indexes of instructors, correspondence courses, seminars and foreign-language courses, and a geographical index. A subject index would have been useful, allowing the user to see at a glance which institutions teach chain indexing, PRECIS, book indexing, thesaurus construction, etc. Indeed, one may express surprise that our sister society should fail to appreciate the need for such an index.

The definitions of ‘indexing’ in the various institutions differ considerably—often it seems to be regarded as synonymous with cataloguing and classification.

The entries were compiled from questionnaires, but the response from the Rapid Results College is incomplete with no detailed information about course content and no textbooks listed. It would have been helpful if RRC’s response had been checked by the writer of the course or some other official of the Society. It is also misleading to suggest that the Society of Indexers’ address is the same as that of the Rapid Results College!

The bibliography suggests that some institutions are using superseded material—for example, the second edition of ALA rules for filing catalog cards and the first edition of Collison’s Indexes and indexing. Nor is it always accurate—the US Department of Agriculture’s Graduate School Correspondence Study Program appears to be using The art of indexing by Gilford Norman Knight rather than Indexing, the art of by Gilfred Norman Knight. No other institution claims to be using this outstanding work.

In spite of its shortcomings, this is a useful guide for American audiences. Perhaps the Society of Indexers could consider producing a British equivalent, especially now that the Training and Accreditation Board has completed its study of indexing courses in schools of librarianship and information studies [see pp. 89–90 of this journal], or alternatively combining with our American friends (and perhaps Australia and Canada too) in the compilation of an international directory.

K. G. B. BAKEWELL

The Indexer Vol. 15 No. 2 October 1986

The first edition of ROOT thesaurus, prepared in the British Standards Institution, appeared in English and French in 1981, and was subsequently approved for use within ISONET (an international network, formed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), linking international agencies). It was reviewed in The Indexer (12 (4) Oct. 1981, 223-4).

Since then a number of standards bodies have been using ROOT to prepare and maintain databases of their collections of standards and regulations. Some, such as DIN in Germany and JSA in Japan, have translated ROOT into their own languages. The feedback from this translation effort and the experience of other users have required the addition of many new descriptors and other improvements and so the time seemed ripe to issue a second edition, which duly appeared in October 1985. It is available in paperback only, which has allowed the producers to cut the costs of production and offer it for sale at the greatly reduced price of £50.

This work is in two volumes as before, incorporating all the updating issued so far, and contains over 1,200 pages including a good explanation of how to use it. Part 1 is a subject display, in which three sizes of bold type indicate the first three levels of division in each hierarchy. Lower divisions are shown by successive indentation in lighter type. At the top of every page successive headings are reproduced from the class name down to the descriptor with which the new page continues the division. Part 2 is an alphabetical list with bold type distinguishing descriptors from non-preferred terms.

The work covers a wide range of subjects, though the greatest coverage is naturally in the fields of engineering and technology, with just 11 pages on the humanities and social sciences.

ROOT is designed to help users to get the best out of computerized information systems. Thus it may be appropriate to mention here that BSI has recently launched STANDARDLINE, a bibliographic database available online through a host computer, containing accurate up-to-date information on British standards. This can be searched using free-language words, but searching will be made easier and more successful by using ROOT.

ROOT's unique computer-aided generation system simplifies updating and extension, allows the production of foreign-language or multilingual versions, and facilitates the production of specialized thesauri, enabling users to adapt it to their specific requirements.

The maintenance of the basic thesaurus will continue, and the ROOT updating service from BSTs Information Department will continue to issue amendments and/or new editions as necessary.

JOYCE LINE


(The Primary Communications Research Centre is due to close on 30 Sept. 1986. Correspondence and orders for PCRC publications, other than those published by Elsevier, should thereafter be sent to: Taylor Graham, 500 Chesham House, 150 Regent Street, London W1R 5FA.)

This book aims to help the reader to keep abreast of current and future developments in scholarly publishing and electronic communications generally. It is devised by the Primary Communications Research Centre of Leicester University supported by a grant from the British Library. From it, indexers might gain a much broader view of where they can fit in as electronic trends in publishing progress.

The book is in A4 format, word-processed text, well designed as each article is presented with flagged headings. I found the summary and conclusion paragraphs very useful as reference tools. There are seven broad sections and more than seventy-five topics covering origination of manuscripts through editing procedures, print production, on-demand and short-run publishing, online electronic publishing, storage and handling of computerized information, distribution and communication conferencing.

The layout of each article with flagged parts keeps the reader in control, although I find the use of justified typescript copy irritating as the word spaces vary enormously and contribute to jerky reading with consequent loss of concentration. While all other efforts have been made to design an easy reference system the text might have been lightened by some small graphic fun cartoons or pictures.

The coverage of the first two sections, on origination, editing and print production, is general and informative and very useful as an overview. On that basis, all the other sections were 'user friendly' to me, and I was struck particularly by how demarcation in jobs will have to disappear in order to get the best from the application of technology. Indexers may find more authors marking keywords on their word-processed discs for use with computer indexing programs. This may mean loss of smaller book indexes but a need for larger groupings of abstracts and indexes or complete texts which will need careful organization into clear, easy-to-use structures—otherwise all this electronic wizardry will be too difficult to access for ordinary users.

All concerned to know more about the electronic applications in the field of scholarly publishing will gain from reading this book. One section, dealing specifically with future production of scholarly journals with a limited readership, could be pertinent to our own Indexer journal. At a cost of £20.00 I hope that copies will be available through most large libraries.

NAN RIDEHALGH

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The increased availability and use of online databases as a normal part of library services (and more recently direct public use from the home) should result in a wider audience for the papers included in these proceedings. The 28 papers cover a wide range but are not arranged in any thematic way. The brief preface does not attempt to synthesize the findings or to indicate the target audience for the publication. The editor states that in selecting papers for this conference an attempt was made to represent the many and varied aspects of IR. This results in a diffuse collection with generally very short contributions. The main ideas that surface relate to the presentation of new ideas (and preliminary research results) within office systems; integrated IR and database management systems; the user interface to IR; systems architecture; mathematical models; logical and physical clustering; the use of artificial intelligence techniques in IR; and automatic indexing. The papers are reproduced from the authors’ original texts and the typographical quality is acceptable, although variable.

This is a book by researchers for researchers. Regular readers of the Journal of Documentation will find it very familiar in style, tone and content. For those with a general interest, there are the papers by Kwok on the inclusion of cited titles in bibliographic records, by Tolle on the automatic monitoring of systems, by Niedermair, Thurmail and Buttel on the use of morphologically related terms as a means of improving searching, by Fuhr and Knorz on automatic assignment of descriptor terms, and by Jones and Bell on automatic indexing methods.

These proceedings are valuable in illustrating the diversity and complexity of the issues raised across the whole spectrum of information retrieval. As with many conference proceedings there is no index. Any book at this price with any claim to be useful beyond those who attended the conference can have no excuse for not providing one.

ALAN SEAL.


This is the 20th volume of the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (ARIST) which describes and appraises activities and trends within the broad field of information science and technology. The titles of the individual chapters are:

Global threats to information;
Privacy protection;
Information delivery systems;
Database management systems;
Probability and fuzzy-set applications to information retrieval;
Principles and theories in information science;
Expert systems;
Networking and decentralization;
Online public access catalogs.

The format is the same as in previous years. Experts give their opinions on developments and activities within the various subject areas, backed up by extensive references to the literature. As to the contents of the chapters, there is something here for everyone. I found the chapters on database management systems, principles and theories in information science, and networking and decentralization of most interest.

There are two indexes. One is a comprehensive index to this volume and the other a most useful keyword and author index to chapter titles of all 20 ARIST volumes. This index contains all author names and content words; articles, conjunctions and other non-content words are excluded. Author entries are followed by the full chapter titles and the keyword entries by author and volume references. Reference back to the author entry for the full chapter title is necessary to check whether the item is relevant. ARIST is an essential reference tool for indexers, librarians and anyone else working in the information science and technology spectrum.

TOM NORTON


This book’s implied aim is to serve as a definitive guide to ways and means of unearthing any information that writers and journalists, working in both fiction and non-fiction, may find that they need. The author admits that this is impossible in practice (in fact, of course, it’s theoretically impossible too), but seems unaware that it’s impossible also because most practising writers and journalists have already worked out, willy-nilly, their own idiosyncratic ‘systems’ of research, onto which one cannot graft someone else’s system, however excellent that system may be.

But this is not to say that this book isn’t easily worth its purchase price for the useful material it contains. The organization is logical and clear (assisted by a four-page detailed contents list). After introductory chapters on methods and on basic sources of information, most of the others take as their theme why the writer wants to do the particular research; chapters therefore include, for example, 'Research for fiction writers and dramatists', 'Biography' and 'Family and local history'. Each gives details of useful libraries, museums and archives as well as extensive lists of reference books. Sadly, the index is rather inadequate to cope with this wealth of data (7
There are two major lacks. Firstly, the topic of word processors is barely touched upon—there is no recognition of quite how versatile even the cheaper of these machines can now be. Secondly, and probably more importantly, the book is ridiculously biased away from the sciences; for example, its 'Suggested basic reference library for the writer' contains neither a science dictionary nor a medical dictionary, an omission which is not rectified in its list of a further 18 'optional extras'. Indeed, the total science/technology/medicine coverage in the book comprises the addresses of 10 major libraries. However, assuming that the user is aware of the book's limitations and acts accordingly, this is a valuable addition to any writer's working library.

**Paul Barnett**


This booklet is the outcome of the deliberations of a Working Party on Text Processing and the Production of Scholarly Manuscripts in the Humanities which was set up by the British Academy in conjunction with the Office for Humanities Communication at the University of Leicester. The intention was to review the current status of electronic transfer of documents between the author and the publisher. Five main topics are covered: the pros and cons of different types of machine (i.e., mainframe, minicomputer or microcomputer); the degree to which the structure and layout of the text can be specified by the author; the methods by which the data can be physically transferred between the author and publisher; how far the author will (or should) become involved in design work, proof editing, etc.; and finally, the impact of electronic manuscripts on journal articles. Some valuable advice on microcomputers is also given.

The booklet is intended primarily for authors who have either been commissioned by a publisher or who intend to submit a document for which they do not yet have a publisher. The authors point out that the requirements of a word processor differ from those of a phototypesetter. Whereas there is a trend for the former to display the text exactly as it will be printed, including any special control codes, the latter requires as input only a stream of text without any formatting codes included. Furthermore, major incompatibilities exist between different machines, which can make the transfer of data from machine to machine very difficult, and sometimes practically impossible.

Given the objectives set for it, this booklet is a readable and commonsense introduction for all serious authors. The facts are presented clearly and concisely and important points are highlighted. There are useful lists of further reading and of addresses where more details or advice can be obtained.

**Alan Seal**


The six volumes of the *Victoria County History of Sussex* were published at intervals from 1907 to 1953 and cover all the parishes of that county—their history, population, architecture, schools, sport, industry, agriculture and archaeology. There are maps, illustrations, and diagrams and the volumes add up to approximately 1,400 pages. Each volume was separately indexed, all the indexes then being collated and edited by two people. This final index is 140 pages in length, triple-column, word-by-word and set out with headings, subheadings and sub-subheadings. There is of necessity a great deal of cross-referencing, for names were subject to many changes over the years. Every variation appears to be indexed and people are particularly well treated, with variant spellings and dates given to distinguish between the same names in different generations. Curiously, no names of churches or religious houses are given, and churches, abbeys and priories do not appear as main headings. There is one for church houses with a see reference to, amongst other things, architecture, which I find a little odd. A brief introductory note refers to the page numbers in italics, but does not explain the use of bold type. These references are important, referring to main chapter sections. All in all, though, this is a beautifully presented index, easy to use, and will, I am sure, prove enormously useful.

**Geraldine Beare**


When the index volume of *The diary of Samuel Pepys* was published in 1983 it was universally acclaimed as a remarkable work (see for instance *The Indexer* 13 (4) Oct. 1983, 275). Among a number of articles about the work were some by Latham himself who described it in *The Indexer* (12 (1) April 1980, 34-35; and 14 (2) Oct. 1984, 88-90). For this index he was one of the joint recipients of the Wheatley Medal in 1984.

This new book is about one third the length of the original set but as representative of it as possible and the editorial commentary has also been reduced. An interesting feature is that the index is not the work of Latham but was compiled by another indexer, Dr C. S. Knighton, who had the task of keeping up Latham's high standard. It occupies about 46 pages out of a total of 1,096, or about 4.2%. It is set in small, close type in double columns and so contains a great deal of information. It is written in the same style as the larger work and is clearly intended to resemble it, but being compiled by a different indexer with his own ideas on how to do the work it has

Alice Liddell was the gifted and intelligent daughter of the then Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, the lexicographer Liddell of Liddell & Scott's Greek dictionaries. Lewis Carroll's two 'Alice' books were a by-product of the young don's innocent passion for the girl. Her mother wholly disapproved and Alice herself, dare one say, seems not much to have liked him. Nevertheless, the books became classics of children's literature and are nowadays the centre of a vast literary critical industry.

Mr Miller's book is not really part of that industry. Isn't that Lewis Carroll? is a small, selective index of quotations from the two 'Alice' books and also The hunting of the snark. Entries vary a good deal in length, from the brief and cryptic 'Dragon-fly L.III.c' to the very full—'Jabberwocky' for instance—is quoted in its entirety. The book is only 126 pages long and so by no means a concordance. My own dippings, however, suggest that it is more complete than one might suppose: none of the quotations I could think of proved not to be there (although some entries are unduly brief).

The compiler deals neatly with one problem that besets all indexers of novels: that is, how to indicate conveniently to a reader who may be using a different edition where to find a given item. What Mr Miller does is to divide each chapter of the 'Alice' books into five roughly equal sections which he labels a, b, c, d, e. Thus L.III.c means chapter 3 of Through the looking glass, between two and three-fifths of the way through the chapter. One needs only, therefore, to search a page or two to find it.

This is certainly the most thorough index to Carroll that I have come across and for that reason alone a useful thing to have. If there is anyone over the age of six who is unfamiliar with the works, it would give a good idea of the flavour of the writing. I found it most enjoyable to browse through.

PHILIP BRADLHY


Reviewing a selected volume of each of these publications is like considering specimens of a species. Their real usefulness in research is in their proper place in the sequence.

BRI, first published in 1965, indexed reviews from 140 periodicals. Now published six times a year with issues 2, 4 and 6 cumulating the previous issues and an annual cumulation appearing shortly after the end of each year, it cites 455 periodicals. Of these fewer than 10% are British, and there are some odd gaps: for instance, why New Statesman and not New Society; why Guardian Weekly and not Sunday Times; why Nature and not New Scientist? This must surely be considered choice.

CBRI, published annually since 1974, is a distillation of BRI and refers to 'almost a 100' periodicals. Here the proportion of British ones is 17%. Citing these figures is not meant to detract from the usefulness of these reference books to the interested specialist but to point out that they are marginally more helpful to American readers. The only comparable British publications list critical articles about, not reviews of, books.

Random browsing sparks off speculation about selection and about the non-Orwellian significance of 1984. Why eleven titles for Margaret Drabble, only The Great Gatsby for Scott Fitzgerald, and three, totally unrelated, titles for Kurt Vonnegut? Why such a wide coverage for Louisa May Alcott (five titles) and only The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe of all C. S. Lewis' Narnia titles? Other examples of imbalance (for instance ten or more titles from various authors unknown to me!) can be explained by remembering that new books, as opposed to new editions of older works, naturally get more review coverage. In both publications there are two sequences: authors and titles of books reviewed. There is no indication of the authors of the reviews. Entries are arranged in accordance with AACR2. Abbreviations used to identify periodicals are listed three times in each book. Entries are very simple and there is a logical use of heavy type.

CECILIA GORDON


According to the publisher's information BBB has established itself as the major annual bibliography of current research in the fields of historical bibliography and library history. This third volume contains 5,583
numbered entries representing books, articles and reviews in many European languages, including Dutch, English, German, Hungarian and Spanish. The main sources of information have been the Deutsche Bibliothek and its publications; also many German university reference libraries. A brief glance at the list of periodicals indexed reveals such titles as *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Deutsches Archiv fur Erforschung des Mittelalters, Fontes Artis Musicae, The Indexer, The Map Collector, Marx-Engels Jahrbuch, Revue de l'Art* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Subject coverage looks comprehensive enough. Entries are divided into the following sections, each subdivided where necessary: General—The author—Text presentation/editing—Book production—Genre and form—Publishing and bookselling—Libraries—The reader—Miscellanea—Reviews. Cataloguing, classification and indexing are included in the General section.

I found it much easier to look up individual topics in the contents list than to use the indexes in the back of the book. There are five indexes: author/editor/contributor, reviewer, name, geographical and subject. Unfortunately, to make the best use of them one needs to be skilled at playing post-coordinate bibliographic bingo à la old style Nursing Research Abstracts¹. In particular, I cannot come to terms with geographical indexes that merely generate a string of numbers after a place-name without further elucidation: Berlin, for example, figures in some 76 entries, though in what context is anyone's guess.

From the layout and print this book has obviously been produced with the aid of a computer or word processor. There are several good computer indexing systems in use nowadays: PRECIS has been used in German and might well be worth considering here. With better indexing the value of *BBB* as a reference work would be significantly enhanced: ideally I should prefer a total reformatting along the lines of RILM Abstracts or *Health Service Abstracts*, though there is probably not the demand to justify such a drastic change.

HELGA J. PERRY

Reference


The great innovation of this book is the cross-referencing of classical allusions in nearly a hundred English poets—Chaucer to Robert Graves—with their Greek and Latin sources from Homer to Tacitus. This marvellously fulfils a long-felt want for students and lovers of English poetry having a thin or non-existent knowledge of the ancient classics.

The first and bulkier part consists of paragraphs describing the entries, e.g. Elysium, Lucina, Pygmalion, as in other classical dictionaries, and covers ancient poetry, plays, history, geography, philosophy and science; but each entry is followed by a list of English poets using these references. The second part lists the English poets and their works in which the classical subjects occur. Exact line-references are given in both parts. Keats published *Endymion* in 1818 when a larger proportion of readers knew his subject than was the case in 1918 or today. The reader coming new to the poem now, with Eric Smith at his elbow, can quickly discover the legend, and also that Drayton wrote *Endymion and Phoebe* and that Henry Vaughan mentioned him in *Monsieur Gombauld*. Infinite riches in one entry.

Inevitably, Chaucer, Spenser and Shakespeare have the longest English entries, with Milton, Keats and Shelley not far behind: surprisingly, Louis MacNeice has a slightly longer entry than Sir Philip Sidney. The introduction mentions various in-depth ways of using the work as a scholarly tool: as such and as a field for browsing, it yields unexpected aperçu and sweet delights.

BARI BRITTON


In the introduction, the author describes his book as a dictionary of prose terminology and of the devices of everyday speech; the flap copy (a phrase new to me) informs us that he found the need for a dictionary like this to help him in his work as an editor. Not being an editor, alas, I must approach it with the eye of the simple reader and as such got a fair amount of entertainment from it.

I can now tell you that the arrangement is abecedarian but that there are also twenty 'special lists' of, for example, Newsroom Headline Jargon, Book Publishing Terms and (native hackles rise) Irish Bulls, inserted throughout. This arrangement is cumbersome, leading to an embarrassment of cross-references where direct entries would be preferable. The list of Authorial Adjectives runs from 'Addisonian' to 'Zolacsque' and includes 'Eliotic', a term which I have never before seen used. The section Book Publishing Terms omits 'blurb' and 'literal', although both of these are in the main list, and 'index', which is not. Indexers will surely find useful the special entry 'Readability' which illustrates how to measure it using the Fog Index . . .

The entries frequently include illustrative quotations (such as the entry for *Pun* "a worried Dutch conductor with the Concernedgebrow") which run to some length: the entry 'Reviewer's basic', which I read with special care, runs to three quarters of a page. All in all it is not the book to use as a quick reference tool when you are in a hurry, but to the browser it offers much.

OLIA JONES

I found no difficulty in accepting the publisher's blurb that this was a 'fascinating dictionary' of 'pluralities' of 'hundreds of . . . animals, persons and things'. One can in the book follow words and ideas one after another ad infinitum, and find continued interest in the varieties of use of the collective noun.

The reference after so many entries to a date (only) was tantalizing to me (e.g. fifteen—a rugby team, 1880; pride of lions, 1486), but I suppose the inclusion of the full source of each entry would have made the book inordinately long. There is an index of 'Sources' at the end. I was obliged to read them in their entirety. There were only 4 items that I would have included in the collection and that I wish I had written myself. These are: 'Beyond the appendix with gun and camera' by Paul Barnett which first appeared in The Indexer 13 (4) Oct. 1983, 232-5; 'Think globally . . . act locally: collection development and resource sharing' by David H. Stam, from Collection Building, 5 (Spring 1983), 18-21; 'Must we limit the catalog?' by Maurice J. Freedman, first published in Library Journal, 109, February 15, 1984, 322-4; 'The underside of computer literacy' by Douglas Noble, first published in Raritan, Spring 1984, 37-64.

I am sorry to say that I found the majority of items extremely boring and anything but jewels. Only duty obliged me to read them in their entirety. There were only 4 items that I would have included in the collection and that I wish I had written myself. These are: 'Beyond the appendix with gun and camera' by Paul Barnett which first appeared in The Indexer 13 (4) Oct. 1983, 232-5; 'Think globally . . . act locally: collection development and resource sharing' by David H. Stam, from Collection Building, 5 (Spring 1983), 18-21; 'Must we limit the catalog?' by Maurice J. Freedman, first published in Library Journal, 109, February 15, 1984, 322-4; 'The underside of computer literacy' by Douglas Noble, first published in Raritan, Spring 1984, 37-64.

Three of these are only a few pages long, with the author getting straight to his point and writing in an incisive and entertaining manner—virtues which are lacking in most of the other items in the book. Noble's article is a splendid 21-page jeremiad against the fashionable cult of computer literacy, with its false premise that high-tech jobs need high-tech skills and where, in a world in which appearances function as reality, Time Magazine's 'Man of the Year' for 1982 was a machine—the computer. An article to reread and reflect on. There is no index.

TOM NORTON

Publications received and publications noted


Bookman's price index: a guide to the values of rare and other out-of-print books. Vol. 31, edited by Daniel F. McGrath. Detroit, Mich: Gale Research, 1985. 1,013 pp. 29 cm. ISBN 0-8103-0636-0, ISSN 0068-0141 (cased): $165.00. This volume contains about 35,000 works from the catalogues of about 100 booksellers. Over 20 of these are in Britain.


Hoffman's index to poetry: European and Latin American poetry in anthologies/Herbert H.