Indexing and abstracting: a current-awareness bibliography

Part 3

Hans H. Wellisch

GENERALITIES

211 DAHLBERG, I. The International classification and indexing bibliography (ICIB) and its classification systems. *International Classification* 12 (1985): 143-152.


Pictures a 16-foot high giraffe contemplating the stack of 75 volumes of the *Chemical Abstracts 10th collective index (1977-1981)* which is even higher, weighs 380 lbs, and has almost 24 million entries.


The structures and techniques that have been developed in documentation, artificial intelligence, psychology and linguistics.

INDEXING LANGUAGES


A completely revised and updated edition of a classic.


Ch. 4. Index language functions and structure, p. 213-323.


The Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) program is developing an indexing language for the visual arts; describes specific problems of classification and terminology for African art.


INDEXING SYSTEMS


228 SCHNELLING, H.M. Pattern indexing: towards universal structures and transparency of indexing: literary scholarship as a case in point. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 7 (1) (Fall 1986): 35-44.

An attempt to combine traditional and free text indexing.

PRE CIS


Published as a supplement to *The Indexer*
xiv

Comparis the effetsivness of RSWK (the new German subject heading list) and PRECIS. PRECIS is superior to RSWK in content representation and search results, but German librarians are reluctant to adopt a new system.


231 CAIN, J. PRECIS at UTLAS.—CHOR, L. PRECIS: report on Chinese entries.—DYKSTRA, M. FORMAT: connecting Canada’s audiovisual information.—SMITH, F. An in-house PRECIS system for support in instruction.—CHIPMAN, A. Access to picture collections using PRECIS.

INDEXING TECHNIQUES


AUTOMATIC INDEXING


Description of an experimental indexing program used at the University of Brasilia.


A critical evaluation of Kwok’s proposal to use title words of bibliographically related documents for automatic indexing (see 037).


A sequel to no. 148.

NAME INDEXES


SUBJECT INDEXING

241 BATES, M.J. Subject access in online catalogs: a design model. JASIS 37 (1986): 357-376.

A model based on a novel approach to subject indexing but adaptable to Library of Congress subject headings.


The possibilities of the Dewey Decimal Classification as an additional search tool for subjects in an online catalog.


Warning: this is just a reprint of articles culled from various encyclopedias and textbooks published by the same firm. Caveat emptor!


INDEXING SPECIFIC FORMATS


SERIALS & NEWSPAPER INDEXING


256 HALLMAN, C.N. Local periodical indexes provide access to regional publications. Reference Services Review 13 (2) (Summer 1985): 35-40.
INDEX PRODUCTION


Describes the MICROPSI PACKAGE which produces NEPHIS and KWAC indexes.


The computerized production of an index to the Japanese Medium Edition of the Universal Decimal Classification.

USE OF INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS


Among the factors affecting the weeding is the coverage by A&I services: journals regularly abstracted should be retained.


On the current-awareness function of A&I services and directories.


LEGAL ASPECTS OF A&I


The implications of the British Data Protection Act for computer-aided indexing.

INDEXERS


Three case studies of candidates for the Society of Indexers' registration.

HISTORY OF A&I


Indexes to a treatise by St. Augustine, printed by Fust & Schoeffer and by their competitor Johann Mentelin in the 1460s.

ABSTRACTS and ABSTRACTING


A&I SERVICES and DATABASES


Includes a comparison of Index Medicus and MEDLINE and a discussion of MeSH terms.


See also no. 200.


The database INALF contains more than 1800 French literary texts from the 17th to the 20th century, and provides linguistic information on the development of French.

Support from the past

In 1878 the Index Society founded in London gave indexers a professional status. *What is an index?* (1878), by Henry Wheatley, the society's first honorary secretary, reminded readers of the power of the indexer. ‘Indexes need not necessarily be dry, and in some cases they form the most interesting portion of a book. The Index to Prynne's *Histrio-mastix* (1633), unlike the text, is very readable ...’* And Macaulay, who ‘knew an author's own words might be turned against himself ... wrote to his publishers, “Let no d----- Tory make the Index to my History”.

The dyspeptic Thomas Carlyle consigned the publishers of any indexless book ‘to be damned ten miles beyond Hell, where the Devil could not get for stinging nettles’. The cause of indexing enlisted the enthusiasm of the great law reformer Lord Campbell (1779–1861), who half seriously proposed that any author who published a book without an index should pay a fine and be deprived of the benefits of the Copyright Act. Speaking for all readers in the early nineteenth century, Isaac Disraeli, Benjamin's father, could 'venerate the inventor of Indexes ... I know not to whom to yield the preference, either to Hippocrates, who was the first great anatomiser of the human body, or to that unknown labourer in literature who first laid open the nerves and arteries of a book'.

—from *The discoverers* by Daniel J. Boorstin (Random House, 1983; ©), reprinted by permission.

*See *The Indexer* 6 (1) Spring 1968, 15.

Matthew Arnold clearly knew the value of a good index. In his essay 'Shelley', published in *The Nineteenth Century*, 1888, he has something to say about Edward Dowden's *Life of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (2 vols, 1886). 'I have read those volumes with the deepest interest', he writes, and in general he considers the work to be well done. All documents are fairly and fully cited and 'Last but not least of Professor Dowden's merits, he has provided his book with an excellent index'. (From *Essays in criticism*, second series.)

Caveat emptor?

Perhaps the least confidence-inspiring index reference we have come across is the following, from *The making of books* by Seán Jennett (3rd edition, Faber, 1964):

indexes, 323 seq.

**Offer, not to be refused**

With a new book I usually turn first to the index (if it has one) to get the flavour. The flavour of Kitty Kelley’s much-hyped His Way, an ‘unofficial’ life of Sinatra, is easy to taste if your eye should fall on the index entry, ‘Mafia,’ which has 94 page references. ending, ‘See also Cosa Nostra’ ...