Indexing and abstracting: a current-awareness bibliography

Part 4

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GENERALITIES


A comparison of indexing systems for information retrieval systems with the indexing system of the human mind. Based on hypotheses of cognitive science, suggestions are made for improvement in the design of information retrieval systems.


Details of nearly 200 reference books of use to indexers.


Discusses the linguistic and cognitive processes underlying the translation of the topic(s) of a document into the indexing language used, based on the work of T.A. van Dijk on the theory of aboutness.


The role of the index in information systems design; in terms of user comfort; in the history, psychology and development of literacy; and in the marketing of new technology.

INDEXING LANGUAGES


Excerpts from item 220, including basic principles of indexing.

297 WALLIS, E. The thundering index. The Author (1986): The Registrar of the Society of Indexers explains the features of an efficient index and suggests that authors consult the Society when in need of an indexer.

INDEXING SYSTEMS


Term discrimination value (TDV) is a criterion used for index term selection. The new concept of 'cover coefficient' is used to compute TDVs.


Guidelines for the treatment of compound terms in subject indexing. The proposed rules and procedures are shown in a flowchart and in numerous examples.


Published as a supplement to The Indexer

The Indexer Vol. 15 No. 4 October 1987 219
The first comprehensive textbook on indexes in which each indexed item normally has a number of index entries containing at least some of the same terms; and for which computer software generates the access point of each entry according to syntactical rules. Contains a manual of the author’s NEPHIS system.

A bibliography covering 18 different systems, their descriptions and applications as presented in articles, reports and books.

INDEXING TECHNIQUES


Sharp criticism of a particularly bad index to a scholarly book, and a plea for holding publishers more responsible for such inadequate indexes.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED INDEXING


The Indexing Aid Project is a knowledge-based system for computer-assisted indexing of articles in the MEDLINE database. Trained MEDLINE indexers are prompted to enter index terms as slot values in filling in frame data structures derived from knowledge-base frames.


Discusses the use of a British microcomputer for indexing.


Details of a British IBM PC clone and its accessories which are suitable for indexing and are offered at a low price.

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FILING


Filing practices of 41 commercial companies and an analysis of the standard or home-made rules they follow.


AUTOMATIC INDEXING


Describes probabilistic indexing strategies based on terms of reference, and discusses the relationships between different probabilistic models of indexing and retrieval.


A theoretical analysis of Salton’s automatic indexing method, with a classification of other automatic indexing systems, and a discussion of the application of clustering in indexing and searching.

SUBJECT INDEXING


At the Australian Defence Force Academy Library, 225 items were indexed by the system developed by Atherton and Settel for the Subject Access Project at Syracuse University. The experiment corroborated the findings of the original experiment, for a description of which see Indexer 11 (1978): 14–23.


Brief abstracts of 155 books, articles, theses, reports, etc., 21 of which deal with indexing, 53 with subject headings, and 26 with thesauri.


Terms taken from tables of contents and indexes in a sample of 125 books borrowed by patrons of an academic library matched 73% of assigned LC subject headings, 81% of table of contents terms or index terms; if the latter had been added to LC terms, the matching rate would have been 97%, but many books lack indexes.


Describes the principal classification systems used in Danish libraries, and the indexing techniques providing access to the classified display in various types of catalogs.

Discusses the process of subject analysis and the application of the Library of Congress subject headings, the number of headings to be assigned and their structure. Speculates on the future of LCSH.


The development of the subject indexes to books in the BM (now BL) acquired since 1890, initiated by G.K. Fortescue and now compiled by a small team of indexers.


A weak inverse relationship exists between the specificity of LC subject headings and the number of subject headings assigned to a document. The number of headings assigned seems to be more the result of management policy than availability of specific headings.


On the changes in Library of Congress subject headings made by the National Library of Australia for the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN).


A survey of classification schemes and subject heading lists developed for the topic of the Holocaust.


Although subject files in offices tend to be rather small, subject indexing and cross-referencing can make them more easily accessible. Subject headings and classified arrangements are explained to office managers.

334 SAPP, G. The levels of access: subject approaches to fiction. *RQ* 25 (Summer 1986): 488–497.

Discusses classification schemes for fiction in terms of their utility for subject headings in catalogs and for printed indexes, as well as provision of multi-faceted subject access in online catalogs.


A review of material published between 1982 and 1985 on thesauri, universal and switching languages, classification, string indexing, subject access in online catalogs, subject analysis and online searching, and statistical methods of automatic indexing.


Proposes a comprehensive code for the formulation of subject headings as a counterpart to the codes for descriptive cataloging developed during the past 20 years. Discusses the relationship between such a code and the Library of Congress’ Subject cataloging manual of 1984.

### THESAURUS


The 2nd ed. of Bliss’ Bibliographic Classification is a rich source of structure and terminology for thesauri. The faceted structure of the BC is particularly suitable for the construction of thesauri, and two such thesauri have been constructed, one for the field of health and social security, the other for education. Problems, benefits, and future prospects of Bliss-based thesauri are discussed.


Describes the characteristics of thesauri and how they can be used by indexers for back-of-the-book and periodical indexes.


An extensive revision of the COSATI Subject Category List (AD 62 4000). It provides a basis for the indexing of scientific and technical reports used by the Defense Technical Information Center.


Describes a French thesaurus based on the one developed by the Canadian Université de Laval and used by the Bibliothèque National for the subject indexing of large union catalogs. It contains some 70,000 terms and is managed by the Cellule nationale de coordination de l’indexation matières.


Discusses the impact of recent advances in linguistics and artificial intelligence on the construction of thesauri.


A set of 84 ‘exhibits’ which may be converted into slides, and accompanying text explaining thesaurus construction in 14 ‘units’.


On the application of the principles of linguistics and translation to the translation of the SPINES thesaurus into Portuguese. Translation and linguistic principles were of little use because they apply to consecutive text, not terms without context.

344 RICHER, P. La création automatique d’un thesaurus de recherche. [Software for building a search-only thesaurus.] *Argus* [Canada] 15 (March 1986): 13–19. (FRE + ENG abstract)


Compares recall and precision devices used in 5 general sci-tech thesauri and one more specialized thesaurus.

Direct end-user data entry and retrieval is a major factor in achieving an economical information retrieval system. To be effective, such a system would have to provide a thesaurus structure which leads novice end-users to browse subject areas before retrieval and yet provides control and coverage of terms in a domain. A faceted hierarchical thesaurus organization has been designed to accomplish this goal.

Publication of this edition coincides with ERIC's 20th anniversary of its database. It contains 9,547 terms, 5,296 of which are descriptors while the rest are lead-in terms, an increase of 224 descriptors and 190 non-descriptors since 1984. Some former descriptors are now only lead-in terms, and several other modifications have been made. The typography has also been changed and is now more legible.

The Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB) thesaurus was adopted by the National Agricultural Library in the US for indexing of its database AGRICOLA. A mini-index to the thesaurus and a guide to indexing were prepared to facilitate the use of the CAB thesaurus. The bulkiness of the printed thesaurus created problems in its use by indexers. An online version is being prepared.

Discusses the origin, characteristics and structure of the Chinese Thesaurus and describes briefly other specialized Chinese thesauri, as well as three classification systems.

INDEXING SPECIFIC FORMATS
A review of the A&I operations of the American Petroleum Institute since 1954, and its co-operation with Derwent since 1972 in the field of patent abstracting. The machine-aided indexing procedures are described and future developments in automated indexing are explored.

The organization of data in a dBASE III single or multiple key file, and searching the indexed file.

When searching a small sample of patents, US and UK patent classifications performed better than keywords.

The indexing of a large videodisk project produced by the BBC, containing text, pictures, maps, numerical data, movies, and sound recordings, all of which give an encyclopedic survey of the UK in the 1980s.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s microform technology was used for commercial publication of music indexes, among them The National Tune Index, IJS Jazz Register and Indexes,
ECONOMICS OF A&I


A model that enumerates cost factors for comparing costs to support indexes and abstracts in paper, online, and on CD-ROM. The model is applied here to indexes and abstracts but could also apply to other information sources. To illustrate the model, costs are extrapolated based on anticipated usage in an academic library. The costs of providing space to store the information and to provide access to it are enumerated.

INDEXERS


Biographical sketch of a British librarian and indexer.


Includes list of all winners, 1962-1982.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING


ABSTRACTS AND ABSTRACTING


Outlines a method of producing differently slanted abstracts from a single intermediate abstract, and presents results obtained with software designed to implement the method on a microcomputer.

A&I SERVICES AND DATABASES


Describes the Sistema de Arquivamento e Busca de Referencias Bibliograficas (SABER) of the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica, which is available in printed form and online.


Examines the service's scope, inclusion criteria, indexing practices, currency, price, and cumulation policy. The quality of indexing is criticized.


A critical review of the scope, subject and source coverage, currency, indexing policy and searchability of a database on microcomputer technology and applications.


Until recently there was no A&I service in Arabic for Arabic periodicals. In 1981, such a service was started in Lebanon, Al-Fhirist (The Index). It covers 216 titles, mostly published in the Middle East, and uses about 2700 subject headings for more than 7400 articles covered in 1985.


Referativnyi Zhurnal and other A&I services provided by VINITI cover Japanese journals much better and in greater depth than any other A&I services. This is of great help in overcoming the formidable Japanese language barrier.


An overlap study of journals covered by Psychological Abstracts, Index Medicus, Hospital Literature Index, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, and International Nursing Index, with an appendix of 45 titles covered by all indexes.


Though standards exist regarding the form of an abstract of scientific-technical information, editors of A&I services must constantly be alert to the implementation of such standards in order to ensure the highest informative value of abstracts.


The online version of Magazine Index available from DIALOG retrospectively to 1976 contains 2,200,000 entries, searchable by subject or keywords in a title; Readers’ Guide is searchable on Wilsonline retrospectively to 1983 with 180,000 references.


For many years Chemical Abstracts has included in its coverage publications on chemical documentation or chemical information science. Although the bulk of those publications can be found in section 20 of Chemical Abstracts, many relevant articles were found scattered among 39 other sections of CA in 1984-1985. In addition to the scattering of references in CA, the comprehensiveness of Chemical Abstracts as a secondary source for chemical information science is called into question. Data are provided on the journals that contributed the most references on chemical information science and on the languages of publication of relevant articles.

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Corrections  
Items 171 and 208 were inadvertently also listed as 252 and 284 respectively. In the author index to Part 1, read: Griffiths, Alan 033; Rodriguez, Robert D. 012.