Book reviews
edited by Philip Bradley


This long awaited volume completes the 4th edition of Walford. Volume 1, covering science and technology, was published in 1980 and volume 2, covering social and historical sciences, philosophy and religion, in 1982.

The items are listed according to the Universal Decimal Classification, the main listing being followed by an author-title index for volume 3 only and a cumulated subject index to all three volumes. Annotations are included for most items and there are frequent references to reviews. These are not always favourable; for example, Library Journal finds many of the definitions in Buchanan’s A glossary of indexing terms ‘awkwardly worded, some unclear, some evaluative’. It is also ‘not consistent with BS 3700:1976 (on preparation of indexes)’.

British Standard 5408 (Glossary of documentation terms) defines a reference book as ‘(a) a work designed primarily to facilitate the location of specific information within the range of its contents and (b) more loosely, any book in the stock of a reference library’. Walford and Taylor seem to have adopted (b) as their yardstick for inclusion, since many of the items listed do not come into category (a). For example, four of the nine items listed under ‘Indexing’ are designed for continuous reading rather than primarily to locate items of specific information, namely Collison’s Indexes and indexing, Hunnisett’s Indexing for editors, Knight’s Indexing, the art of and Borko and Bernier’s Indexing concepts and methods. The last mentioned (and not entirely satisfactory) book is described as ‘a standard manual.’ A notable omission from this section is Indexers on indexing.

This comment applies also to the ‘Librarianship’ section. Foskett’s Subject approach to information and Sayers’ Manual of classification are excellent books, but are they really reference books? Sayers’ Manual is also rather dated. Many other standard textbooks are omitted, as is the very useful Public libraries: legislation, administration & finance. The superseded ALA rules for filing catalog cards (1968) is listed, rather than its 1980 replacement, ALA filing rules.

I was very surprised to find Rowley’s Abstracting and indexing listed on page 137. No extracts from reviews are included, but reference to my own review in this journal or Hans Wellisch’s in International Classification would have been revealing!

As a further check on coverage I compared the titles listed in my article on reference books in the April 1987 issue of The Indexer (15 (3) Apr. 1987, 131-40) with Walford—a chastening experience because it drew attention to two errors in my article. Omissions from Walford include BS 5723:1979 (Guidelines for the establishment and development of monolingual thesauri), BS 6371:1983 (Recommendations for citation of unpublished documents), Names of persons: national usages for entries in catalogues, BBC Data’s thesaurus of terms, and most items published in 1984 or later. This suggests that it took at least two years for the publishers to produce this important book, which is unforgivable.

The printers and publishers have not been kind to the editors in other ways. In my copy, page 757 follows 736 and page 737 follows page 756, which makes using the author-title index very interesting. There are also a number of examples of faulty indentation of subheadings.

The indexes have been competently compiled but are not faultless. Some ‘see’ references should be double entries and there is some poor editing, e.g.:

- Disabled, Equipment for, 1/296
- Disabled: holiday catering, 1/480
- Disabled & handicapped, 2/287-8
- Disabled people: librarianship, 3/71
- outdoor pursuits, 3/510

South: United States: history, 2/694
(1.5 columns of other entries beginning ‘South’)

Southern United States: American English dictionaries, 3/249

In spite of its faults this is, of course, a major reference work which should be available in all libraries and known to all indexers.

K. G. B. BAKEWELL


One hundred and fifty structured articles on libraries within most countries form the core of this work. These are amplified by several historical studies, eight major surveys of specific categories of library (academic, public, etc.), thirty articles on the principles and practice of librarianship, nine surveys of educational activity, over thirty descriptions of international bodies, and over two hundred biographies of librarians. The stated aim is to provide a corpus for comparative studies.
Many of the signed contributions are excellent. The article on national libraries is a carefully prepared survey of the diversity to be found on a global basis. On the other hand there is an excessive bias towards American practice in the contributions on copyright, and on medical and legal librarianship. Hans Wellisch wrote an excellent account of classification systems: it is a pity that he was not invited to write the opening item on abstracting and indexing, which is poorly developed.

The article on Malaysian libraries forms a model of packing a large amount of information into a small space without reducing it to a mere list of facts and figures. On the other hand the articles on the United Kingdom and the USA are poor—in the case of the latter probably because the author failed to appreciate its global significance. One major fault of the item on British libraries is that legislation for Scottish libraries is ignored.

Some of the biographies are excellent, but one must query the decision to allocate a considerable proportion of the space to minor contributors to the profession. Many of the biographies are inflated with irrelevant material about non-library activities. Nobody would question the inclusion of a biography of Herbert Putnam, but it is absurd that this forms possibly the best account of the Library of Congress within the Encyclopedia.

The structure adopted leads to excessive duplication—sometimes even in consecutive contributions, as in the case of those on information science and its education where information is defined in both. Even more seriously, there are vast gaps in coverage. It fails to provide sufficiently detailed, coherent coverage on: the Library of Congress, libraries in Texas and New York, map libraries, music libraries, art libraries, information services to chemists, and on Jason Farradane or his activities. The illustrations are poorly reproduced and in most cases add little to the text.

The work is arranged alphabetically, has a structured contents list and an index where much effort is wasted in replicating the previous structures, whilst failing to draw out much material. For instance, Expert Systems are mentioned several times yet fail to be registered. Cross-references are made where it would be more helpful to provide duplicate entries. The physical arrangement of the index is untidy. The most disquieting feature is the lack of entries under ‘I’—there are no entries for Italy, Indexing, Information, or Incunabula. This is a devastating error, and the copy received failed to incorporate an errata slip.

Clearly, one is forced to question the overall strategy. It is absurd that a book which purports to be an encyclopaedia should grant a page of text to a former British county librarian whilst failing to provide adequate coverage of some of the world’s greatest libraries and information services. Surely New York Public Library (mentioned), Glasgow Public Libraries (mentioned only en passant), Chemical Abstracts, INSPEC, the Vatican Library and Library of Congress demand detailed consideration prior to the inclusion of biographies of librarians. It could also be questioned why Bermudan libraries, serving some 50,000 inhabitants, should be examined over two pages, whilst the Channel Islands are ignored. Only some libraries operate on a national basis: most are organized at a more parochial level of state or county.

KEVIN JONES


Librarians and bibliographers know Gessner as ‘the father of bibliography’. His Bibliotheca universalis (1545) lists, annotates and evaluates 12,000 works. A separate volume, the Pandectarum, is a classified arrangement of these books: a first attempt at the universal classification of all the arts and sciences. Indexers will note that the first part of the (1555) Bibliotheca contains two alphabetical lists of its 3,000 authors, and there is an index compiled not by the author but by one of his friends, Robert Constantin. Gessner’s other list-making activities include one of proper names in the mythology, geography and history of the Greeks and Romans—this Onomasticon was added to a 1544 revision of a Latin dictionary and subsequently much reprinted.

It is hoped to bring Gessner’s work ‘into the use it deserves’ by making it widely available in a fiche edition. Wellisch’s bio-bibliography includes references to the fiches but is more than an external finding aid. The biographical essay reveals a man who personified the Renaissance ideal of the humanist as a universal scholar and is an appreciation of the extent of Gessner’s influence.

The bibliographical section lists all published works by Gessner: first editions, later and posthumous publications, and modern reprints; also his contributions to other authors’ works (prefaces, introductions, comments, bibliographies and indexes); and his letters. The annotations often contain brief biographical information on Gessner’s associates. A useful section of ‘Works about Gessner’ is in two parts: his life and work; and comments on specific subjects treated by him. There are name, title and printer/publisher indexes. Facsimiles of original pages enliven the text. It is entirely appropriate that this comprehensive bibliography of the work of a Renaissance polymath be compiled by his modern counterpart, the indexer’s indexer.

MARGARET COOTER


String indexing consists of:

1. Producing a sequence (input string) of relevant terms
2. Submitting the input string to a computer program which selects from the original sequence as many of the terms as have been designated 'access terms' (entry words), and qualifies or expands them with other elements from the input string, in each case preserving the full context.

3. Displaying a series of index entries each of which gives a complete summary of the identified subject of the given item. String indexes range from the simple rotation of words in title citations to the high sophistication of PRECIS.

Craven's book is offered as a first general book on string indexing. His approach has been to look at general principles and features rather than to devote chapters to individual string indexing systems. Thus, while his Chapter 2 briefly identifies some of the better known systems, and examples from named systems are used throughout, the pattern of the book is theoretical. The author examines the basic processes of string index production: input of data; generation of index strings from input data according to syntactic rules; generation of other index elements, such as cross-references; sorting of index elements and display of the resulting index. He then offers criteria for the selection and evaluation of systems and for designing an original string indexing system should such a need arise.

Craven's own research has led to the creation of Nephis (Nested Phrase Indexing System). He demonstrates his use of this system in the production of the five-year cumulative indexes to The Canadian Journal of Information Science. He adds a brief manual for the composition of Nephis input strings.

The bibliography is extensive. Although Cutter (1904) is quoted on citation order and Kaiser (1911) on the production of multiple, overlapping entries, the development of the theory has had to wait upon the development during the last two decades of automatic processing.

MARY PIGGOTT


This is the 6th edition of a work which first appeared in 1938 as a relatively slim volume of 176 pages. It has now grown to well over 800 pages. Substantial changes have been made since the 5th edition (reviewed in The Indexer 14 (1) Apr. 1984, 67). Over 400 terms have been removed or revised and 600 new entries added. The Glossary covers a wide spectrum of terms reflecting the continuous developments and the range of professions, trades and crafts in the fields of librarianship, information science, authorship, archive work, publishing, the printing industry, the book trade, binding and conservation. A major advantage of the Glossary is that the historical and the contemporary coexist in a single volume, giving physical as well as intellectual coherence and continuity to both the older but still relevant terms, and the latest.

The book continues to achieve a good balance between concise definitions and informative summaries. The entry for 'Coffee Table Book' ("a sumptuously produced illustrated book, intended to be browsed through at leisure rather than purposefully read") is a good example of the former while the entry for 'Data Protection (UK)' is a particularly good example of the latter. The Glossary is strongly recommended.

TOM NORTON


Large dictionaries usually contain illustrative citations, but how does the lexicographer choose these citations? He can, of course, choose only from what he has read. Other things being equal, he will tend to use citations he agrees with. 'Frailty thy name is woman' is unlikely to be used in an anti-sexist dictionary.

In Johnson's Dictionary and the language of learning DeMaria looks at the citations in Johnson's Dictionary to establish which authors he most often quotes and to what end. He concludes that relatively few writers are quoted frequently; that each citation is meant to be morally useful; and that anyone reading them all would end up with an almost complete Johnsonian world-view. DeMaria does this by selecting various topics (education, for instance) and bringing together citations in the Dictionary which have relevance to those topics. He used a computer to assist him in his work, and I doubt if his degree of thoroughness could have been achieved without it. We are certainly given a very detailed picture of Johnson's outlook. Or, at least, we almost are. The problem is that in the process of compiling his Dictionary Johnson himself becomes a sort of computer, carrying out his huge program through thousands of stages without flaw. The real man somehow gets lost. There is virtually no glimpse of the lazy individual who missed deadlines, had fits of temper and depression and was sometimes highly inconsistent. Otherwise, the book has much in it for the student.

It concludes with three indexes. The first is a useful list of words featured in the dictionary citations. The second is a list of authors cited which suffers from strings of references without subheadings. The third is the general index which is fussy—very thorough but including passing references and not always accurate. All in all, this is a worthy book but really not one to embark on lightly.

MIKE EDWARDS

Furnished with a copy of the *Penguin book of Canadian verse* (itself much to be recommended, and one of the fifty-one collections covered by this union index), I set out to play the happy game of index-testing. The *Index to Canadian poetry in English*, following the format of Granger’s standard *Index to poetry*, consists of three indexes: titles and first lines with some extra bibliographical detail; authors; subjects. The introductory note describes the arrangement as ‘alphabetic, so that “Mac” files in alphabetical order before “Me”’. It does not tell us that ‘alphabetic’ here means word by word; nor that ‘Saint Pinchas’ will be found some pages earlier than ‘St Catherine Street East’; nor that titles and first lines beginning with non-words (dashes, ellipses, ampersands) are filed, as are entries beginning with numerals, only before the main alphabetical sequence. From this I deduce that only librarians are meant to use the book—a form of censorship which I find unattractive.

I started with a random choice of poem from my anthology—‘The prize cat’ by E.J. Pratt—and traced its title, first line and author easily through the *Index*. It was present in the subject index under ‘Cats’, and the ‘Animals’ entry had a cross-reference to ‘Cats’. So far, fine. My second exploration was more troublesome. I chose the first entry in the *Index* with a location in my anthology: ‘... Person, or a Hymn on and to the Holy Ghost. <> Margaret Avison. <> LWL, PBCV’. (LWL is the code for *Lords of winter and of love*, PBCV denotes the Penguin anthology referred to above.) Avison duly appears in the author index, and ‘... Person, etc.’ takes its due place (first) among the fifty-four titles attributed to her. (No entry in either list under ‘P’ for ‘Person’; who except a librarian would dream of looking before ‘A’ for such a title?) I found the poem in my anthology, but never found an entry in the subject index.

I wish that the editors had provided a more user-friendly index and that the publishers had done their part by marking the divisions between the book’s three sections. Some inexpensive reference books do this quite well by the use of colour, black-edged interleaving or type-variation; it seems hard that the key to seven thousand poems, excerpts and translations should be so reluctant to court easy consultation.

**Dictionary of translated names and titles/Adrian Room**


This dictionary provides translations of titles, place names, historical events, names of persons and corporate bodies in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian. Main entries are in English, with cross-indexes for each of the other languages. The alphabetical arrangement is letter-by-letter (although items 3891 and 3892, United Nations Children’s Fund and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, have slipped out of their rightful places).

It must have been difficult to decide what to leave out; the selection of films and plays shows an Anglo-Ameri
can bias, but mainstream European art, literature and music are well represented. Among the items included are:

- Andromeda
- The Bayeux Tapestry
- The Cabinet of Dr Caligari
- Genghis Khan
- The Ice Age
- Kind Hearts and Coronets
- Man Friday
- The Napoleonic Wars
- Ode on a Grecian Urn

The choice of translation has not always been easy, as there may be several alternatives in current use. The compiler has selected the one which, as far as he can establish, is most widely accepted, and has left certain names in their original language where these are universally known. In such cases, one possible English rendering has been provided.

Although translation of titles is to a large degree subjective, there are a few entries which one may query:

- 1441 ‘Gold of the Rhine’ is more frequently called ‘Rhinegold’ (i.e. just the spelling is Anglicized).
- 3341 ‘The Second World War’ is not translated literally as such in the USSR: the Soviets refer instead to ‘The Great Patriotic War’.

This book should be useful for librarians, indexers, translators and language teachers and students. Its layout is clear and it is easy to use. I hope there will be further editions.

**Helga J. Perry**


*Names and nicknames of places and things* is a somewhat curious compilation which doesn’t seem to know exactly what it is for. The idea of a reference work listing the nicknames of various geographical features is obviously a good one, but mixed in with the nicknames are all sorts of other data which seem to have little relevance. To take a page at random (p. 117), we have entries for Grosvenor Square, Ground-hog State, Groves of Academe, Grub Street, Guernica, Guiana and Guinea. Of these, only the entries for Ground-hog State and Grub Street seem pertinent. The entry for Grosvenor Square is especially curious: it includes the information that ‘the Connaught and Claridge’s hotels [are] two of the best (and most expensive) in London’.

Editorial confusion apart, this is a prime example of a book that is useful—and I should stress that it is useful,
come across (also, obviously, it is currently the most up-
colour', and is certainly one of the better gazetteers I've
deciding what should be excluded from them. Still,
great pity, however, that a little more care didn't go into
shelves; both are, as far as I can establish, accurate. It is a
constant irritation is that, because the alphabetization
has been disrupted, it is often hard to find the small
entries for cities, rivers, or whatever.

As with the Urdang book, this one includes a lot of a
extraneous material. There are special panels, included in
their alphabetical position, about natural features such
as volcanoes and 'Formation of the earth' (a curious
thing to describe as a 'natural feature', but that's the
Reader's Digest for you). Also, there are small entries
scattered throughout the text covering general geo-
graphic terms (e.g., 'meteorite'); these are simply a waste
because either they shouldn't be there at all, or there
should be enough of them to let the book have a
secondary function as a dictionary of geographic terms.

Both of these books are well worth having on your
shelves; both are, as far as I can establish, accurate. It is a
great pity, however, that a little more care didn't go into
deciding what should be excluded from them. Still,
people are constantly saying about my own books that
they find the irrelevances the best bits, so perhaps I
shouldn't throw stones.

PAUL BARNETT

Cumulated fiction index 1980–1984, compiled by Marilyn
(Distributed by Remploy Ltd., London Road, New-
castle, Staffs ST5 1RX.)

This index continues the work of the previous volumes
which spanned the years 1945–60, 1960–69, 1970–74 and
1975–79 (work described in articles by two of the com-
of scope notes explain the use of the index and the
headings and forms of entry. The headings may be
categorized as: Concrete and factual (e.g. places, per-
sons, occupations, named periods of history); Abstract
(e.g. fear, hatred); Genre (e.g. detective stories, science
fiction); Form or technique (e.g. anthologies, experimen-
tal novels); Supplementary (e.g. fictional detectives,
names of ships). An attempt has been made to dis-
tinguish between the categories of crime fiction which
make up the majority of the entries.

The arrangement is alphabetical and the casual brow-
ser is treated to such bizarre progressions as 'nuclear
weapons', 'nudist camps' and 'nuns'. Perhaps this will
inspire someone to combine the subjects in a novel and
thus merit an entry under the three categories in a future
edition of the index. There are no entries for 'indexers' or
'information scientists' but there are seven for 'librarians', including Unsuitable attachment by Barbara
Pym whose bibliothecal allusions have featured so often
in the pages of The Indexer.

It is interesting to note that there are six entries for the
novels of Jane Austen under 'pastiches and parodies'. I
was surprised to find only one entry under 'cowboys' as
the western genre seems, to my casual observation, to
continue to be popular. There are, however, several
entries under 'ranch life' and a cross-reference is surely
called for. 'Drug addicts' and 'drug traffic' merit a
considerable number of entries but only one entry each
to such other forms of contemporary addiction as 'darts',
discotheques' and 'snooker'. This latest volume of the
Index continues in the tradition of being an indispensable
reference aid for tracing categories of fiction.

TOM NORTON

Longman Guardian new words, edited by Simon Mort.
0-582-89327-5 (pbk): £4.95.

The inelegant and inadequate title of this dictionary—
of about 1,000 new words culled from newspapers and
magazines between autumn 1985 and early December
1986—reflects the contents: flashy codes for fast-livers.
Writers aiming at good prose need not consult it. Entries
include a definition, one or more examples of usage and,
where necessary, a clarifying commentary by the editor.

For example, the 'Stendhal syndrome' is a 'condition
of stress and disorientation affecting tourists who are
over-stimulated by visiting art galleries and other
depositories of culture'; the recorded usage appears in
the Daily Telegraph, 5 June 1986, and the editor's
commentary gives Stendhal's account of his sufferings in
Florence in 1817.

Drug addiction, shady business dealings, computers,
and their language-by-association, take up a lot of space,
but there is a sprinkling of authentic scientific terms like
'cavitand' and 'lithotripter' (different from 'lithotriptor').
My own gristy favourite is 'jarring', 'exercising the
upper body, especially the arms', on the analogy of
jogging.

If you are a 'mamba', a Middle-Aged, Middle-Brow
Accomplisher, 'unflamboyant, conformist', you may feel
a nervous wreck after reading a newspaper; recently The
Times said of a recording group: 'they have achieved an
altogether more successful pollination of reggae with the
contemporary Hip Hop styles of funk and rap'. Words like'reggae' and 'funk' are too old for this dictionary but
The Indexer Vol. 15 No. 4 October 1987

253

'Hip Hop' has an entry in which a relevant quotation from The Guardian also explains 'rap'. You may not be much wiser unless you go to discos and how can mambas do that? If, when indexing these coinages, you blink and say 'oh, no!', this handy paperback is obviously for you, oh, yes!

BARBARA BRITTON


This work was last revised in 1943: 28 reprints since then obviously connote a continuing demand and this edition is again revised. It is a useful tool for those concerned with shades of meaning (indexers struggling with terms for subject entries?) and much simpler to use than Roget's Thesaurus which, of course, it is not intended to replace. Each entry ends with a key antonym—a very nice thought-trigger.

The chief aim is 'to cover the more interesting semantic areas of abstract nouns and adjectives, especially those with metaphorical senses', but there are many concrete nouns such as 'café' (seven synonyms) and 'costume' (eleven synonyms). The different connotations of a word are clearly distinguished: the adjective 'tender' is treated under four separate meanings of 'fragile', 'compassionate', 'immature', and 'sore'. The binding unfortunately split at the inner spine very quickly: caveat emptor.

BARBARA BRITTON


That this book has run into a second edition must say something for the usefulness of its detailed information on international organizations. To anyone not versed in these matters, the complexity and range of international co-operation must come as a bewildering surprise.

The introduction to the book is a comprehensive account in small compass of the development of international activity in many fields, from trade and arms limitation to the problems of the economic and social development of Third World countries. The Membership Charts among the Tables seem most useful, but the Classified Index shows how difficult classification of international organizations can be. In the classification used, why should 'Agriculture and Forestry' come under Regional Organizations (Africa) whilst 'Fisheries' come under Sectional Organizations (Fisheries)? One would expect them to be dealt with in the same manner. Similarly, 'Danube Commission' appears under Sectional Organizations (Transport) whereas under Regional Organizations (Western Europe) (Transport) there is to be found 'Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine' but no 'Danube Commission'.

A clear distinction of the functions of an alphabetical list of a further 80 organizations would be helpful to the reader. For example, the index (no page references) contains entries for the 'Central American Bank for Economic Integration' and the 'Central Bank of West African States'—the former in the Dictionary; the latter in the Directory (under 'Banking, Industry and Trade'). Professor Schiavone's work is a veritable mine of information for those concerned with the intricacies of international organizations.

BRITTON GOUDIE


Most of the developed countries have their national encyclopaedias, some running to many volumes and covering topics internationally. The Canadian encyclopedia is not so ambitious as these. It lays no claim to world-wide coverage in its contents, indeed its claim is much briefer, 'the first comprehensive reference work of modern Canada and its people'. This is just what it is, a three-volume work restricting itself to Canadian matters with entries for many quite small towns as well as all men and women with any claim to importance and to general subjects which have a Canadian perspective. In conformity with its aim there is no entry for London or New York in either the main sequence or in the index. The only entries for China or the Chinese concern their immigration to Canada and their life there.

In layout the work consists of a large number of signed articles written by many contributors. These are fairly short, thus cutting out the need for a large index. The index in fact consists of 97 pages out of 2089, but the articles themselves contain many cross-references and the index simply gives alternative headings to those used in the text. Another feature of the work is the large number of maps and illustrations, about 80 per 100 pages.

This work brings together many strands of Canadian life and should prove very popular with ordinary people in Canada. It is easy reading and should help immigrants to understand Canadian culture. It is provided free to schools and libraries in Canada and to diplomatic posts abroad. Major support, financial and otherwise, was given by several prominent bodies including the government of Alberta to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the state's entry into the Confederation in 1905. If it proves a financial success the publishers hope to produce a new edition in 1988.

PHILIP BRADLEY

Although providing a most useful description of the range of scientific information, the Lamberts offer a rather inefficient approach to its retrieval. This is due partly to the physical organization of their text, which gives computer searching its own chapter, thus separating it from manual methods. Both text and index fail to link, e.g. Engineering Index with COMPENDEX. More seriously, no mention is made of BSI Standardindex in the section on standards, nor of the availability of online access to Dissertation Abstracts International in the treatment of theses. The high cost of online searching is stressed, but users of information should not be denied knowledge of its advantages.

The section 'Organising personal collections' recognizes a major problem encountered by many. While older generations may be interested in the optical coincidence cards described, computerate scientists of all ages will be disappointed to find less hard information on suitable software and hardware. Here, as throughout, I found the lack of a bibliography a severe drawback. The index's presence is welcome, but headings such as 'Hints on searching' are as superficial as is much of the text to which they refer.

By comparison, Turner offers a thorough, detailed, well-expressed treatment of that staple diet of library school students: cat. and class. (cataloguing and classification). He skillfully blends analysis of theoretical principles with their practical applications. Information is treated as a flexible commodity, and one which is inescapably linked with the society producing and using it. Interestingly, information deprivation is recognized. Ever mindful of the needs of the user, there is refreshing honesty in such statements as, 'It has taken time for librarians to recognize that authors' names are not always as valuable as titles or subjects for many users' (p. 28). Turner also differentiates between users and end-users; an important distinction sometimes overlooked by librarians.

Indexing is given detailed analysis, and indexers should find the chapters on 'Alphabetical subject approaches' and 'Computerized retrieval systems' of particular interest. Would we agree that 'Many book indexers feel that the process is an art rather than a technique, but it is the small size and the ease of scanning a printed book index which allows catchword indexing to flourish' (p. 133)? At this point it seems fair to observe that I found indexing served rather better by the text than its index. For example, this had no links from 'KWIC index' to 'Indexes and indexing'.

Although useful, the bibliography is selective and in places dated. However, a list of organizations is included and the text sensibly advises use of personal contacts and journal scanning to keep up to date.

Minor criticisms are that neither Dewey (20th edn.) (p. 70) nor the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) (p. 95) classification schemes have appeared although the text suggests that they should now be available. Dewey (19th edn.) is also rather more expensive than the £60 mentioned on p. 72 (£105 as of June 1987).


Use of the term 'value added' is relatively new. The concept behind it has always existed; namely the difference between the initial (buy-in) cost and the final (sell-on) price of any commodity. The author argues that the organizing power of the value-added approach is highly relevant to information services, and starts from the premises that an information message is given value only by the person who uses it and that we have been technology-driven for too long. This leads to the proposal for a 'user-driven model' for information services. Most of the work is devoted to describing at length the different types of information provision in public, academic and special libraries and also in abstracting and indexing services and information centres. Information processes in each of these are described using a list of values and value-adding processes proposed in Chapter 4. This list provides a useful checklist which a manager could use in practice.

The author states that he has attempted only to describe the information process, and this results in many rather obvious assertions and descriptions more appropriate to a student textbook. It is doubtful whether a library manager can obtain practicable ideas from this book. The text is a discursive treatment of a general concept rather than a set of specific recommendations or guidelines. The style and presentation tend to complicate ideas unnecessarily and there is little use of statistics to support opinions.

The essence of the book can be obtained from a reading of the 27-page summary in Chapter 10. There is an index of names and a separate subject index, which could have benefited from greater use of subheadings to break up long runs of undistinguished references.


All indexers should be devotees of Barbara Pym, for her witty, precise writing as well as for the place in fiction that she has accorded our kind ('Pym men usually do, in the end, get their meals cooked for them, their indexes done, their bibliographies checked, their socks and pullovers knitted'—from Penelope Lively's contribution); and all devotees of Pym should welcome this insightful, most enjoyable, appreciative compilation of essays by Philip Larkin, A. L. Rowe and 17 more. Muriel Schultz draws a detailed and fascinating comparison between the novelist's methods and records and those of the anthropologist; both involving research into people. Hazel Holt, who also writes of Pym as indexer in this issue (a twentieth essay!), gives the flavour of the whole with her splendid title, 'The novelist in the field'. Indexed, of course.

Whilst applauding the initiative which led to this new reference book for the publishing and related industries, I shudder at the paucity and arbitrariness of the entries in its editorial section. In his Foreword, the editor, Ray Hurst, says he would welcome suggestions for increasing the entries and expanding the categories. I hope so too, especially in the editorial section. The section devoted to illustration has 59 pages, whereas the editorial one has only 45. For the other two sections, design and production run to 27 pages, and marketing and sales to 19. The book carries a few advertisements and some attractive illustrations in both colour and black and white. Entries, which are of a generous length in this pleasantly designed book, give names and addresses, skills, qualifications, experience, and the names of clients, as well as credits for work accomplished.

There are 168 individual and agency entries in the editorial section; of the 33 which mention indexing, only three state membership of the Society of Indexers. Of the remaining 30, two are in fact members of the Society: what may we conclude about the claimed indexing skills of the remainder? Publishers, it seems, are very trusting, and willing to place work with freelances on somewhat dubious claims to competence.

ELIZABETH WALLIS


An uneasy meditation on the social, political, and philosophical implications of too large a reliance on computers, whose distinction between ideas and information, thinking and data processing, is interesting in the context of how far indexing can be made over to computer programs.

H.K.B.


The second edition of this standard guide to thesaurus construction includes chapters on the planning and design of thesauri; thesaurus construction and development standards; vocabulary control; specificity and compound terms; structure: basic relationships and classification; auxiliary retrieval devices; thesaurus display; special types of thesauri; construction techniques; thesaurus maintenance and updating; computer aids; and packages and bureau services. It is hoped that a full review will appear in the April 1988 issue.

K.G.B.B.

Publications received and publications noted

Booksellers Association directory of members 1986. London: Booksellers Association of Great Britain and Ireland, 1986. ix, 372 pp. 24 cm. Indexes. ISBN 0-907972-00-4, ISSN 0068-0249 (pbk): £12.50. Now computerized and more than three times the size of the 1985 issue. The major part is an alphabetical list of towns with booksellers and the facilities offered by each are described in detail.


The first Arab bibliography: Fihrist al-'Ulum, by Hans H. Wellisch. Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1986. 42 pp. 23 cm. ISSN 0276-1769 (pbk): $3.00 (+ 50c. p & p). (University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Occasional papers no. 175, Dec. 1986.) Written by a regular contributor to this journal. Completed about AD 988, the bibliography is the earliest surviving list of books in the Arabic language.