The publisher's freelance directory, edited by Ray Hurst.

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-'Ulm, by Hans H. Wellisch. Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1986. 42 pp. 23 cm. ISBN 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.