the timely rescue (by electronic magic) of an encyclopaedic index from the twin demons of excess length and an imminent deadline. Inform yourself (this is important) about SGML. And relax: thank goodness, there are still pleasurable byways to be enjoyed.

A word for the worried. The takeover of electronic technology isn't inevitable, or predictable, and it certainly isn't coming in one fell swoop. Perhaps it is indexers with shoeboxes who have the really superior information systems. Their brains have accumulated more information than they are aware of—and such wisdom doesn't come with speed.

MARGARET COOTE

Coming events

6–8 December 1988
12th International Online Meeting, Olympia 2, London.
Details from Learned Information Ltd, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5AU; tel. (0865) 730275.

A British-Yugoslav Conference of Indexers will be held in Hvar, Yugoslavia, 30 April–3 May 1989. Hvar is a beautiful little town on an island of the same name off the Dalmatian coast, with all the facilities for a small conference. The reception and meetings will be held in the Loggia, a beautiful hall that was once part of the Venetian governor's house. There will be a reception and dinner the first evening, lectures and discussions in the morning and evening of the next two days, lectures and discussions on the final morning, and an excursion in the afternoon to see other parts of the island. A varied series of lectures has been arranged to suit all tastes.

The Yugoslav organizer is Olivera Potparic, a member of the Society of Indexers. She and Sanja Garić, our other Yugoslav member, are looking forward to our support in their endeavours to improve indexing in their country. British participants are advised to combine the conference with a holiday in Hvar by booking a holiday with Yugotours, who are making special arrangements for us. Further details from the British organizer: John Gibson, Landors, Venn Lane, Wichenford, Worcester WR6 6XY.

‘Information technology and the research process’ is the title of a conference to be held at Cranfield, Bedfordshire, 18–21 July 1989, jointly sponsored by the British Library Research and Development Department and the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science. It will concentrate on fundamental problems of information flow in the research process. Further information from Laurence Howells, British Library Research and Development Department, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH.


Practically perfect*

SI's conference held in Cheltenham in July 1988, with the title ‘Indexing, The Practice of’, successfully focused on exactly that, with workshops, brains trusts, and much lively discussion continued through meal breaks, as well as speakers. The revision of BS 3700, publishers' attitudes to indexes, the treatment of foreign names, subject specialisms and particular index forms, and accreditation and registration, all received attention. It was entirely convivial as well as soundly concerned with the subject in hand. A full report will appear in the SI Newsletter; two papers delivered at the conference will be reproduced in the next issue of this journal.

*like Poppins, Mary

At last!

The long-awaited revision of BS 3700 British Standard recommendations for preparing indexes to books, periodicals and other documents was published early in June this year. It supersedes the previous revision of 1976. The main features of the revision were noted by K. G. B. Bakewell in our last issue (16(1), 42–44). Copies of BS 3700 are available for £15.00 to members of the Society of Indexers from the Literature Manager, Mrs D. Frame, 26 Draycot Road, Wanstead, London E11 2NX. A full review will appear in our April 1989 issue.

Also recently published is the British Standard glossary of terms for micrographics, Part 5: quality of images, legibility, inspection. (BS 6054 Part 5: 1988 = ISO 6196/5: 1987. £12.75 to SI members, if obtained through the Literature Manager.)

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