We print below the full index compiled by Jean Simpkins, Co-ordinator of Assessors of the Society of Indexers, as a demonstration for the Registration session at the SI 1987 conference of the faults that assessment of indexes may discover. The index is to a 50-page booklet written by Joan Sallis for the Advisory Centre for Education, *Questions governors ask* (1984; indexed originally, and competently, by Elizabeth Wallis). 14 specific faults are listed by Jean Simpkins as having been contrived in this ‘alternative index’ (which took her far longer to compile than a decent one would have done!). Readers are invited to spot the 14 types of deliberate mistake which are listed following the index.

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Summary of faults demonstrated in the alternative index:
1. No introductory note to explain abbreviations and
treatment of acronyms
2. Inconsistent spacing
3. Inconsistent use of capitals for main entries
4. Display of partisan approach; e.g., back to basics
lobby...
5. Insufficient detail in main entries; e.g., Books;
Curriculum; Immunity
6. Inconsistent use of both run-on and indented set-out
sub-headings
7. Unintelligent entry of words indicating lack of
understanding; e.g., Explosion which is used in the
text as a figurative expression
8. Spelling mistakes
9. Circular cross references; e.g., Finance–Funds
10. Multiple subheadings with unnecessary detail; e.g.,
Governors/functions
11. Strings of undifferentiated page references; e.g.,
LEA
12. Trivial matter included in index; e.g., Need for
patience
13. Important matters excluded or given insufficiently
detailed treatment
14. Verbose sub-headings which could be made more
concise; e.g., under Teachers

Fragmentation—subordination

The Director of Aslib writes, curiously, in his ‘Diary’
in Aslib Information of February 1988, sic:

Our fragmented profession
I appreciate that ours is not a single profession, in that
we do have in the library and information resources
community a few basics like:

Archivists
Librarians
Records managers
Information scientists

(!Indexers!)

with no explanation of those curious queries and paren-
theses accorded us. Stalwart SI member Caroline
Barlow, though, sent a letter for the May issue of that
publication, asserting:

I was interested to read your item concerning our
fragmented profession. I was particularly intrigued by
the hedging in of indexers by various punctuation
marks. Perhaps you are not quite sure of their role and
place in the library and information resources com-
community ...

However, with today’s reliance on many online
sources, the role of the indexer is paramount. Com-
puter retrieval of information relies heavily on the
quality and consistency of the indexing and classifica-
tion of the input. A reversal of the garbage in, garbage
out syndrome.