Hilaire Belloc’s biography of Marie Antoinette, published by Methuen in 1909, has an index notable for the length of some entries in relation to the amount of text referred to, while names are not expanded beyond the minimum used in the text; the highly judgmental quality of some headings; and the rather odd classifications of some topics, with dispersal of other entries between cross-references (consult ‘Madame . . . ’):

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Monstrous vocabulary
A great gurgling and belching arose from the center of the pond, and a large corduroy monster slowly lifted itself above the surface with a loud hiccup.

The company stood rooted to the ground in terror. The creature was about fifty feet tall, with wide lapels, long dangling participles, and a pronounced gazetteer.

'Aiyee!' shouted Legolam. 'A Thesaurus!'

'Maim!' roared the monster. 'Mutilate, mangle, crush. See harm.'

'Quick.' cried Goodgulf. 'Into the cavern,' and the company hurriedly slipped one by one through the narrow crack. Last of all came Spam, who tried to squeeze the protesting herbivore and threw him bodily into the beast's gaping mouth.

'Eatable,' said the giant creature between munches, 'edible, esculent, comestible. See food.'

'I hope ye choke on it,' said Spam bitterly, as a clear image of a winged loin of lamb fluttered across his mind.