Many of the assumptions about the types of information the index-user is likely to be seeking seem correct, but I find these assumptions reminiscent of Phyllis Richmond's article that appeared prior to the publication of AACR2, in which she made the point that cataloging codes are devised by a bunch of librarians who sit around a room and say, 'I think the user would look it up this way', rather than being based on user studies. The article provides a great deal of raw material for research on index-users.

'Indexing biographies' will be featured in the next edition of the syllabus for my indexing course at St John's University, and I shall discuss the many interesting points raised in the article with my students.

References

Bella Hass Weinberg
Division of Library and Information Science
St John's University Jamacia, New York

Indexers' rights

Dorothy Seddon, who complains of editorial interference in the publication of her index (The Indexer 16 (3) April 89, 206-7), asks, 'What safeguards are we going to have against interference of this kind?' She may well find the answer in the Moral Rights chapter of the new British Copyright Act 1988. Section 80 of the Act says that authors shall not have their work subject to 'derogatory treatment' which it defines as 'distortion or mutilation prejudicial to the honour of the author'.

I would have thought that indexers should have no difficulty in establishing themselves as authors of their indexes.

B. J. S. Williams
Director, Cimtech
Hatfield, Herts.

Mr Jack Black, Chairman of the British Literary and Artistic Copyright Association, spoke to a meeting of the Society of Indexers on 1 December 1988, on the subject of copyright law as it affects UK indexers. A report of his talk appears in the SI Newsletter No. 1, Winter 1989.—Ed.

D.I.Y. training

The point made by Neil Fisk (The Indexer 16 (3) April 89, 208) could be prepared by indexers experienced in different fields, as being recommended for use in the same way as he suggests for Indexing, the art of.

Even indexers who have taken the formal courses are on their own in attaining competence, so all further suggestions for D.I.Y. training would be useful.

J. R. Sampson
Stockport

Coming events

16 Nov. 1989: Society of Indexers' meeting. Three experienced indexers with widely different methods will describe recent work; one completely manual, one using computer, one space-age systems. 6-8 pm, The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount St, London WC1.
19 Nov. 1989: 'Information industry overview'. NFAIS. Columbus, Ohio. Info: NFAIS, 1429 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. PA 19102, USA.
6-8 April 1990: Society of Indexers' Conference, Pollock Halls of Residence, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Info: Kate Chapman, Moghbrea, St Ronan's Terrace, Inerleithen, Tweeddale, Scotland EH44 6RD.

'From Pepys via Jennifer to Adrian Mole, diarists have found ready and devoted readers. Diaries are for browsing in, skimming through; checking out in the index the compiler's likes and dislikes, friendships and enmities.'—from a review by Robin Denniston of Out of the wilderness: diaries 1963-67, by Tony Benn; in Church Times, 27 Nov 1987