
Some years ago I remember reading that Russian Dickensophiles prided themselves on being able to construct maps of London from the novels. A splendid map could be made by using this Index, but it is disheartening these days to see the abbreviation '(dem.)' after so many entries for streets and buildings. Perhaps we ought to be thankful that the Monument (so near to Mrs Todgers's boarding-house) and Hampton Court (not too far from the Meagleses) are still standing.

Nicolas Bentley, the artist in black and white, spent many years on this project, accumulating 5,000 entries on cards, but he died in 1978 before they were edited. His two editors have produced a superb work which must be what Bentley envisaged, an index to Dickens's works, yes—but also to his age and the man himself: it includes formative influences, friends and colleagues, historical allusions (his present/our past), references to light verse, popular songs and the slang of the day—some of this last turns up in Damon Runyon, a long-lasting underworld code in English.

The indexing of the main entries cannot be faulted and applause must be given to the largest entries. 'London' runs to three columns of names, those of buildings, streets, churches, etc., and each of these has a main entry of its own. Biblical and Shakespearean quotations (two and three columns respectively) receive the same treatment, but the cross-referencing occasionally breaks down when, say, a quotation under the 'Shakespeare' entry is mentioned as appearing in two Dickensian works and yet under its own separate entry as a quotation only one of these works is cited. Of the 24 Shakespeare plays Dickens quotes from, Macbeth and Hamlet are the most quoted (45 and 43 references). The Arabian Nights has 56 references, the Book of Common Prayer 41, and Robinson Crusoe 24—and since Dickens uses all these quotations repeatedly, this Index reveals incidentally how these works are thoroughly woven into the fabric of his imagination.

The consistency of the editing is very good throughout, e.g., fictional families are recorded under the dominant member with lesser members mentioned inside the entry. It turns out, though, that a character must have a name to be included: thus, at Bob Sawyer's party, the gentleman whose shirt is embroidered with pink anchors is in because he is called Mr Gunter, but the prim man in the cloth boots is not, being nameless—some very painful decisions have obviously been taken.

Songs and poems often have two entries, one by the first word, often weak, e.g., 'Tis' and another under the first quotable noun of the title or refrain: this is admirable, to have a safety net for a slight thing that you cannot quite remember but which is a constant irritant until you can find it. But after coming across different origins for 'The woodpecker tapping' in the notes of various editions, I now require ocular proof that it was written by Tom Moore.

A further coverage is the indexing of the journalism: being more factual, these pieces throw up many concrete references and it is possible that these minor works provide more, but not duller, entries for the Index than do the novels. They also reveal yet more sides of this many-faceted man. If the Index is read straight through, a portrait emerges of an author walking, watching, eating, drinking, acting, lecturing—and once more walking and watching. And all this activity is being perpetually transmuted by his imagination into the great uneven novels: forty years of Victorian life are here—and so is his.

BARBARA BRITTON freelance indexer


After 20 years and nearly 6,000 papers it is time for the publication of an index to the Offshore Technology Conference papers. The paperback cumulative index is compiled by the Information Services Division of Tulsa, Oklahoma from which comes the similar Index to the Petroleum Abstracts. There is an alphabetic subject index using distinguishing types with primary and secondary descriptors, non-primary and additional descriptors—which have no cross-references. A paper's number is given by shortened year and number written in two equal blocks: '701.143'. I think 70.1143 would be more natural. There is a list of papers under Bibliographic Information and an unmerged author index.

To the librarian with a given title this volume should be a boon. To the conference attender with an idea of old Joe talking about a job he did 10 years ago, it should be a help. To the outsider or new operative information may not come easily. It takes a little time to find the way round a system with four descriptors and some main subjects with entries pages long. Choice of descriptors can be as much a matter of controversy as word-by-word or letter-by-letter sequences, but to search through seven columns of Production Platforms or two columns of North Sea for a vague memory is not quick. Then there is the noun/adjective problem. This index seems to be willing to accept 'industry use' rather than academic restriction and is the more practical for it.
Use of information services' technique is economically attractive to ad hoc groupings like the 13 learned societies who sponsor the Conference. Practitioners are willing to learn and use the indexers' conventions and patterns of thoughts. In turn, indexers who are consistent and fully understand the users' needs will find appreciation and an increased demand for properly indexed conference reports.


The Hon. Roger North (1651–1734) was a prolific writer on a number of subjects, including history, law, estate management, science and music. In the last category are three theories of music which are described by the authors of the present book as 'pioneering because they present the first full equilibrium analyses of music cognition in the history of music theory', and therefore of 'considerable importance. The two treatises *Musical grammarian* 1728 and *Theory of sounds* 1728, with which this book is concerned, form the third and last of the theories.

The present book is divided into two parts. The first, by Mary Chan and Jamie Kassler, is a digest of the manuscripts of the c. 1726 and 1728 versions of *The musical grammarian* and fragments of it, and the c. 1726 and 1728 versions of *Theory of sounds*. A detailed physical description of the manuscript is provided for each; there is a description of the contents by section, in which North's variants and alterations are noted; and an editorial section which deals with the internal structure of the manuscript. Particularly useful to the researcher are an index of references in each manuscript to North's other writings (made the more valuable by the quotation of the relevant phrase or sentence), and an index of references to names and titles of works mentioned. There is also a section on the composition and dating of the manuscript.

The second, and larger, part is taken up by an extremely detailed 'combined analytical index', by Janet Hine, of the two versions of *Theory of sounds*. Entries within subject categories appear as quotations from North's text; for example, under the subject heading 'Light' we find the entry, 'being a corporeal touch upon visual organ, seems to be conveyed by the same medium as sound'. This use of quotation provides a useful means of easy location of specific text, and a precise guide to subject matter. The index is extensively cross-referenced, and although it is difficult to locate some of the references, given the comprehensive nature of the index, this is a relatively minor inconvenience.

The book is intended as a companion to the manuscripts, and to the forthcoming edition of *The musical grammarian* by the same authors. It is an invaluable ready-reference guide to the contents of North’s theory, and more particularly to the manuscripts which, being held in British libraries, may not be available for perusal by all researchers. It is unfortunate that the binding is not designed to withstand a greater degree of wear, but quality of the contents certainly compensates for this. As a musicologist I wish there were more books of this kind.

Jane Angus

geologist


The Hon. Roger North (1651–1734) was a prolific writer on a number of subjects, including history, law, estate management, science and music. In the last category are three theories of music which are described by the authors of the present book as 'pioneering because they present the first full equilibrium analyses of music cognition in the history of music theory', and therefore of 'considerable importance. The two treatises *Musical grammarian* 1728 and *Theory of sounds* 1728, with which this book is concerned, form the third and last of the theories.

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JANETT ANUGS

gologist


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JENNIFER PICKERING

Christ Church, Oxford


This first annual cumulation of ASSIA brings together the contents of the bi-monthly issues published during 1987. (A review of the first issue was published in *The Indexer* 15 (3) April 1987, 187). The annual volume provides in a single alphabetical subject sequence access to over 17,000 articles taken from over 500 English-language journals published worldwide. The abstracts are not numbered; thus an annual index which refers the reader to a reference number in individual parts published throughout the year is avoided. The author index refers either directly to the journal citation or to the first two terms of the subject heading so that the reader can find the full bibliographical entry along with the abstracts. Thus is fulfilled one of Ranganathan’s five laws of library science, ‘Save the time of the reader’. The layout of ASSIA is exemplary; navigating through the entries and cross-references is painless. There are also separate user guides and publicity brochures, freely available to subscribers and potential users of the service, which can also be used for library instruction purposes. There is a two-page introduction setting out clearly the scope and coverage of ASSIA and how to use it. The final pages of the volume list the journals indexed and abstracted.

TOM NORTON

Chief Librarian, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food


In spite of the large number of rules to which some alteration has been made, the 1988 revision of the 2nd edition of Anglo-American cataloguing rules remains essentially the code as presented in 1978 (reviewed in The Indexer 11 (4) Oct. 1979, 240–1). The important areas of difference are (1) those covering technical developments in the media of publication, (2) certain elaborations for specialist cataloguing, and (3) a few simplifications where the rules as they stood led to too much diversity in application.

The response to developing technology is most clearly shown in Chapter 9. Originally entitled 'Machine-readable data files', this chapter, under the new title 'Computer files', has been rewritten with greater precision and more examples. Thus 9.3, originally captioned Material (or type of publication) specific details area, but unused, has now become File characteristics area and subsumes information on the content of files, as data, programs, or multi-partite files, quite separately from the physical description at 9.5. In Chapter 7, videodiscs are described separately from other motion picture recordings, and the requirement of rule 23.4B to add to the name of a place (apart from that of a country, province, etc.), the name of a larger place is no longer optional but mandatory, and rule 23.4D2 now requires the name of the country and not of the county or region for places located in the British Isles. Chapter 12 on Serials has several clarifying additions, including a new rule—12.1B8—'If the title proper of a serial changes, make a new description', an instruction previously to be found only in Chapter 21, but the opportunity has not been taken to show how the heading for a serial should properly be formulated.

Many minor changes have been made to the text (for example, 'size' has become 'dimensions') and some of the rules have been renumbered, either for the purpose of rearrangement, as in the chapter on Music, or in order to give a heading or a separate directive its own number, or, alternatively, to group together directives seen no longer as separate rules but as part of a single rule. Finding one's way in the book is easier now that chapter headings have replaced as running heads the phrases that happened to be the first and last captions on the page.

The index has been compiled by K. G. B. Bakewell on the same pattern as in the previous issue. It almost seems impertinent to say that it competently incorporates all the added material and changed rule numbers. It is a measure of the stability of the text of AACR2 that few of the examples in Eric Hunter's programmed guide have needed to be changed. The 3rd edition of his useful students' handbook includes worked examples for computer files and for cartographic materials reflecting the changed rules.

MARY PIGGOTT
formerly of School of Library, Archive, and Information Studies, University College London

Thesaurus of information technology terms, compiled by Silvina Peniston. London and Los Angeles, CA: Taylor Graham, 1988. 410 pp. 30 cm. isbn 0–947568–36–0 (pbk): £50.00 ($90.00).

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) provide a baffling new vocabulary to many and our faithful dictionaries usually fail the currency test for ICT terms. 'Demons' and 'servants' are but two examples of familiar words acquiring further meanings, and 'super smart cards' conjures up a myriad of possibilities. For such a fast-growing field an updatable thesaurus is an invaluable reference resource. Most indexers will find browsing through the terms instructive, and many will be fascinated by the world of ICTs.

Relationships in thesauri are akin to cross-references in indexes, and even for those with no interest in ICTs per se the mechanical construction of this thesaurus should prove useful. Thanks to the use of new technology an online version of the thesaurus is available also, and this can provide further detail such as a purely alphabetical list—such a list would have enhanced the printed version, but space and price considerations obviously prevailed. The full systematic display is supplemented by two pages on fringe areas, and an alphabetic single level systematic display then follows. The introduction is both concise and comprehensive. Although the stated aim is to cover information technology, I feel the compiler would have been justified in claiming to cover ICTs as a whole. Silvina Peniston's command of her subject is impressive. Her thesaurus fills a gap in an area lacking major reference tools and will be much used both for collection management and as an essential reference for indexing in the ICT field.

MOYRA FORREST
Edinburgh University


Thesauri in developing subjects can date quickly and
lose their value as current information tools. Psychology, with its diverse and constantly extending vocabulary is such a subject, but it is well served by this thesaurus, revised five times since 1974. The new edition has added 250 postable (preferred) and 100 non-postable (non-preferred) terms, making a total of 6,674 terms, as well as incorporating new and rewritten scope notes.

The main part, the Relationship Section, is an alphabetical list in word-by-word order, the postable terms printed bold, the non-postable in light type. For each postable term is given the year in which it was added, the number of postings (times it has been used in indexing records for the APA's PsycINFO database) up to June 1987 (PN), its subject code (SC), any non-postable terms for which it is used (UF), and other terms with which it has connections (hierarchical—broader (B), narrower (N)—or other (related (R)). Scope notes (SN) are frequently given, explaining term meanings and giving instructions for use.

Brain Damage67
PN 2409 SC 06780
SN Brain injury resulting from accident, surgery, or disease. Used primarily for human populations.
UF Brain Injuries
B Brain Disorders67
Central Nervous System Disorders33
Nervous System Disorders67
N Brain Concussion73
R Brain Damaged73
Epilepsy67
Head Injuries73
Mental Retardation67
Neuropsychological Assessment62

Each non-postable term has a cross-reference to the relevant postable term.

Brain Injuries
Use Brain Damage

Spelling and terminology follow US practice. Users more familiar with British forms should remember significant differences such as Estrogens (not Oestrogens) and Hemophilia (not Haemophilia). They should also notice differences in meaning, e.g.:

Public School Education
SN Education in free tax-supported schools controlled by a local governmental authority (i.e., almost the opposite of what is meant by the term in the UK)

The direct form of entry is usually used for multi-word terms, with a cross-reference from the indirect form when thought useful:

Psychiatric Hospital Readmission
UF Readmission (Psychiatric Hospital)
Readmission (Psychiatric Hospital)
Use Psychiatric Hospital Readmission

Some terms include qualifiers in parentheses, to aid comprehension and definition:

Sensitivity (Personality)

Because of a limitation of term length to 36 characters (presumably imposed by computerized compilation), some terms have been shortened:

High Sch Personality Questionnaire

The layout is very clear, with the terms (in three columns to a page) standing out well.

In the Rotated Alphabetical Terms Section, all the terms are listed in alphabetical order by each word which features in them. Non-postable terms are italicized and marked with a star. This KWIC (Key Word in Context) approach enables the user to find the appropriate postable term by looking up whatever word comes to mind when searching, e.g., Obsessive Compulsive Neurosis appears under each of its three component words.

New postable terms, new non-postable terms, and the content classification categories and codes used in the PsycINFO database, are listed in Appendices.

This is a well presented list, with term hierarchies developed from the literature and thus providing not only an indexing and retrieval tool, but also a useful indicator of the structure of the subject field and its current concerns. The book has spiral binding and hard covers and so opens flat, making it easy to consult and to annotate (as is necessary with a working tool of this kind).

Pat Booth
information consultant and indexer

Thesauri used in online databases: an analytical guide/

The stated purpose of this guide is to provide assistance in the identification of indexing vocabularies used by large and/or widely used online databases. The majority selected for inclusion carry imprints of 1980 onwards. Almost all are in English since these are thesauri used in online databases available in the United States. However, a number of multi-lingual thesauri are included and identified as such. Most fall in the areas of social sciences, life sciences, and physical sciences and engineering. Among the individual fields of study, business and medicine are represented by the largest number, and those devoted to humanities and the arts are few and far between. There are also a small number that cover all fields of study.

The main section of the guide consists of thesaurus descriptions arranged alphabetically by title. There is a total of 122 entries. The description of each thesaurus is divided into the following groups of elements: bibliographic information; scope and usage; characteristics of descriptors; cross-references; arrangement; example descriptors; notes. Following the main section are five indexes: Title Index, Personal Name Index, Organization Index, Subject Index, and Database Index. The Subject Index categorizes thesauri by their major and minor focuses, and the 168 headings that appear are a mixture of keywords extracted from thesaurus titles and broad discipline-oriented terms. The purpose of this index is to provide a consistent categorization of thesauri by broad subject area; it does not attempt to provide an inventory of topics covered by the terms included in the thesauri. The Database Index lists the names of databases that use the thesauri for indexing. Listed under each index entry are the titles of thesauri which are used by the database in question.
The guide could prove helpful for a number of different groups of users: e.g., for online searchers as a guide to the indexing languages used by particular databases; for indexers as a reference tool for identifying various indexing vocabularies; for students and teachers of information storage and retrieval as an instructional tool for studying indexing and controlled vocabularies; for researchers as a tool for studying the nature and characteristics of indexing languages; and for online database designers and creators as a means of identifying available indexing languages in particular fields of study and for determining the compatibility between indexing languages.

Joyce Line
freelance indexer

Chambers English dictionary, editors Catherine Schwarz and others. Chambers and Cambridge University Press, 1988. xvi, 1792 pp. 25 cm. isbn 1-85296-000-0 (cased): £15.95; isbn 1-85296-001-9 (thumb indexed): £17.95. (There are also available presentation, leather and half leather editions.)

'Now, looking ahead to a new century, the 20th century dictionary has been retitled Chambers English dictionary,' says the Foreword to the latest (1988) edition. The publisher's grounds for dropping '20th century' may prove unduly optimistic. Vocabulary, like everything else, grows and changes so rapidly these days that no verbal reference book stands much chance of remaining up to date for twelve years. The 1987 revision of Roget's thesaurus became essential, with 11,000 new entries, only five years after its previous edition. Half a decade may now be regarded as the useful shelf-life of any dictionary in book form.

Gone too from the title is the correctitude of 'Chambers's', always a happy reminder of the Jones family (Jones's, Joneses, Joneses's). The dismissal after more than a hundred years' service of that essential apostrophe leaves us with the rarely used term, 'Chambers English', which must presumably be defined as the means of verbal communication used in a judge's room during the hearing of cases settled out of court.

The introductory notes devote a single page to 'American English' and likewise to 'Some other varieties of English', which compares only too modestly with the 8½ pages (very much more closely printed) on 'English as a world language' in the latest (1986) revision of The Collins English dictionary. (Note that this entire article deftly converts 'Collins' into an adjectival noun, thus solving the apostrophe problem.) David Crystal points out in his latest book (The English language, Penguin, 1988) that 'English is an official language, or has a special status, in over 60 of the world's territories'. Every one of them has its own variations of vocabulary, spelling, meaning, syntax, as well as local dialects within each country. Furthermore, English has superseded 18th century French (which itself superseded medieval and renaissance Latin) as the world's major international language. Thus, International English is inevitably developing a life of its own, growing and adapting to the needs of worldwide communication.

This means that the pressures, in both variety and intensity, upon lexicographers are accelerating at a far greater pace than Alvin Toffler singled out almost two decades ago in his Future shock (Bodley Head, 1970). Quite early in the 21st century it may no longer be economically viable or even practicable to publish in book form dictionaries which can retain their up-to-dateness between compilation and publication. Two years ago Longmans already stored over 27 million words in their computerized database, and looked forward to the day 'when every home has its computer terminal' providing access to the entire word-stock, continuously updated, of the English language in all its forms.

Meanwhile, we must manage as best we can with traditional dictionaries, supplemented by specialist subject dictionaries and other word-reference books. As a devotee of Chambers's for over sixty years, I am happy to find the new Chambers still challenging for the number one position amongst single-volume dictionaries. Coverage of British English is both up to date and comprehensive—after searching with the enthusiasm of a hyperactive sniffer dog, I can complain of but one significant omission: 'Listeria'/listeriosis' (missing also from my massive Compact OED); faithful too to its Scottish origins, it does full justice to Scots English. Word-meanings are defined with exceptional clarity.

The traditional appendices occupy the last sixty or so pages; some, such as the 'Correct ceremonious forms of address', have been replaced by mathematico-scientifico-practical information. The criteria for inclusion/exclusion remain as mysterious as they always were. Some entries are pretty useless to those who do not already know the answers ('j'y suis, j'y reste': said by Macmahon at the Malakoff); many would be more helpful if included in the main alphabetical sequence—some do indeed appear there also; some have no relevance in a purely verbal dictionary which shuns encyclopaedic entries. All in all, no longer my first choice as a desk-side companion, but the most admirable second-string when the new Collins does not completely satisfy some particular need.

J. A. Gordon
Vice-President, the Society of Indexers


The Australian concise Oxford dictionary sets out the language as a sibling to that spoken in the United Kingdom. It clearly shows Australian etymologies, words of aboriginal or slang origin and English words
that have altered their meaning by usage through the years. Words like shire not only have UK and Australian meanings but show different meanings between the states: Shire n. (UK) county; (Austral.) rural area in NSW, Vic., Qld. or WA with its own elected council = SA District, Tas. Municipality; . . . The book is strongly bound with a striking dust jacket, but the impression of the print on the reverse of the page intrudes on the readings of a definition. The introduction includes a useful paragraph on Australian pronunciation. It is a reference book that will not only be of great value to Australians for everyday use but also fill a gap in the shelves of all those dealing with Australian literature, magazines, newspapers and trade journals.

The Style Manual is beautifully set out (’beaut’ I can hear Australians saying), carefully taking all of its own rules into consideration before production. The sections on copy preparation are particularly well displayed and it is a delightful surprise to find colour pages inserted when colour illustrations have to be defined.

The object of the Manual is to provide rules, recommendations and information for authors, editors and printers, and therefore the addition, for the fourth edition, of chapters on copy editing and publishing enhances its role in the publishing world. The new chapter on non-sexist language would not have been considered when the book was first issued twenty-three years ago, but is essential today. It is presented in a carefully considered way and is ‘guided by discretion, tact and sensitivity’.

The book has a good index which refers to paragraph numbers (not pages) and is preceded by notes of clarification on style. The glossary is also clear and extremely useful. Honorifics, Paper Sizes, Standard Page Dimensions and Metric Conversion Tables are laid out as four Appendixes (sic) which word in the Australian concise Oxford dictionary is shown as Appendices.

Arthur R. Chandler
genealogical consultant


Since receiving this volume a month ago, I have referred to it at least twelve times, and found the information required at least ten. For a first edition I am well satisfied. The compiler’s introduction provides disclaimers for major criticisms—lack of comprehensiveness, and uneven entries. The entries are based on replies to a questionnaire sent to individuals either ‘actively involved in the UK Information Sector for at least five years or currently running a library or information unit’. Unfortunately, the text of the questionnaire is not included. Replies obviously varied considerably, with some respondents giving full job details and even hobbies and interests, and others supplying the bare minimum. Regrettably, some chose not to be listed at all, and others were ‘missed’.

There is an alphabetical listing of individuals giving institutional address and telephone, telex and fax numbers; an Organization Index; and a Current Employers Specialization Index based on the Standard Industrial Classification.

Moyra Forrest
Edinburgh University

BOOK REVIEWS


Useful mainly as a basic reference for scientific editors, this booklet is nonetheless of some interest to indexers. Things change even in an area so fundamental as measurement, as new recommendations and regulations are made by national and international scientific and medical associations; the first edition appeared in 1971 and now there is a need for a fourth. New symbols, abbreviations, and conventions come into use with the advance of science, especially medical science, and indexers of these books will need to keep abreast of such nomenclature.

There are four sections. In Metrification and SI Units some units are defined in plain language and many in relation to other units, and still others by conversion factors from non-SI units. Current practice for Symbols and Nomenclature includes a listing of the terms most widely used in medicine and related biological sciences with abbreviations, recommended usages, and alternatives (and 23 useful references). The section on Layout of References would be of most use to scientific authors revising their reference lists to accord with the style of various target journals. The final section, Proof Correction Marks, is based on the 1976 British Standard (BS5261).

Margaret Cooter
British Medical Journal


The latest annual cumulation of Current research in library and information science contains details of 1,239 research projects from 45 countries. The main sequence (pp. 1-266) is a classified listing of research projects, giving titles of projects, research workers and abstracts. This is followed by a name index (pp. i-lxii) and an alphabetical subject index (pp. lxiii-cxlvi). The use of the Classification Research Group’s faceted classification of library and information science for the main sequence may be daunting to some, but the name and subject indexes refer to serial numbers, so it is not necessary to understand the rather complex notation of the classification scheme.

It is not easy to see why some entries for countries appear in the name index and others in the subject index.
For example:

**Austria 923, 1121 (name index)**

**Austria**

- Bibliographies of bibliographies: Special purpose bibliographies: Bibliography (Fringe subject) 1121
- Social sciences: Semi-published works (Grey literature): Library stock 129

There is, in fact, no mention of Austria in entry number 923.

There is a string of no fewer than 43 location references under Australia in the name index; but there are proper subdivisions in the subject index. The subject indexing is, indeed, very thorough, though one wonders about the value of entries under such words as *Development* and *Use*.

There are not all that many entries under *Indexes* and *Indexing*, and none at all under book indexing, user needs in indexes or user satisfaction from indexes, so there may be scope here for a research project.

As the Danish writers of the review of research in *Current research* (pp. a1–a5) state, the volume serves a number of purposes and is a major library and information science tool relevant to education, professional development and research and analysis in the library and information science fields. At this price, however, it may not be available in all libraries.

**K. G. B. Bakewell**

*School of Information Science and Technology,*

*Liverpool Polytechnic*

**Information broking: a new career in information work/**


Crawford defines an information broker as ‘someone providing information services for profit’. He expands this to include some aspects of the work of information management consultants—who do not provide information services, but design information operations such as classifications and databases. Thus Crawford includes research, abstracting, bibliographies, current awareness, directory compilation, publishing, translating, writing/editing, collection organization, records management, freelance librarianship, cataloguing, database design, document delivery, literature searching, public relations, seminars, conferences and training (but not indexing) as possible activities, and devotes a paragraph to each. He then discusses business aspects such as charges (from £5 per hour [?] to £1,000 a day), and how the broker fits into the pattern of public/private sector information provision.

Crawford has done a great deal over the years to raise the profile of information brokers, not least through his *Directory of information brokers and consultants*. The pamphlet reviewed here is an interesting work, but one has to say that anyone who needs it to tell them how to be an information broker had better stop now. The only way to be a respectable broker or consultant is, as Crawford says, to be an expert first and then think about setting up a business.

In short, *Information broking* is not a book for someone already in the business, and doesn’t contain enough hard information to help anyone get started. People who want advice about setting up should either obtain the free 11-page leaflet *Working for yourself in the library and information field* from The Library Association Manpower and Education Division, or spend £15 on the *Business of Indexing* (Unit 5 of the Society of Indexers’ open learning course).

**Janet Shuter**

information management consultant


Most books have misleading titles: in this case the book is a collection of readings prefaced by an excellent introduction by the compiler. Two of the readings are chapters from the several books written by Gerald Salton on statistically based, fully automated retrieval systems and the remaining fourteen readings lend direct support to this approach. An exception is Cleverdon’s contribution which takes a broader view and is particularly illuminating in its assessment of the information retrieval process. Peter Willett’s mature judgement may be gauged from his incorporation of the Cleverdon article as the first reading.

The modest success of the statistical approach to indexing and information retrieval (three of the readings describe working systems) may cause the human indexer to ponder; surely indexing cannot be reduced to mere computational procedures. But like the innumerate shepherds who can ‘count’ their flocks and know if one is missing, the human indexer is probably unaware of the extent to which her or his involvement is mechanistic. The human indexer is almost as likely to be as aware of the correct amount of repetition as the skilfully constructed computer program! This is not to argue that indexing is mere routine, but it obviously has a vital mechanistic element within it.

Unfortunately, Salton’s contributions remain fairly difficult to read, although this is not the fault of the textual structure—the chapters remain remarkably coherent even when taken from their original context. Does a precision of 0.6106 really have any meaning in an area of such great uncertainty? The mathematical approach appears to trap many participants into pontificating excessive and possibly misleading accuracy.

Within the limitations of the ‘readings’ approach Peter Willett has done a good job. Although the bulk of the work is closely related to the statistical approach as such, there are also contributions on word conflation (i.e., crude stemming algorithms) which are closely associated with this method, but which are also applicable within other approaches. The book lacks an index.

**Kevin Jones**

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The key message in this publication appears on page 101 where the author states that 'there is no such thing as the average DTP (desktop publishing) user'. This crucial fact emerges slowly through this rather broad overview, although a more direct statement at the start would have assisted the potential purchaser of DTP software. The book starts with an outline of what desktop publishing is; the advantages compared with the traditional publishing process; the different types of DTP software and their main features; and the process of publishing using DTP. A key distinction between DTP and word processing programs is the ability to include graphics. This is explained in more detail, including the use of drawing programs, scanners, OCR devices and printers. It is not until page 91 that the question 'do you need desktop publishing?' is tackled and the author then uses three hypothetical examples to highlight the considerations involved in making the decision, based on a checklist given on page 92. We are cautioned that for some purposes a good word processor would be the recommended solution.

Practical advice on using DTP systems is given, although this is mainly procedural rather than technical. This is not a book on textual/graphical design. In the concluding chapter on the future of DTP a non-controversial view is given, which again is a little generalized and covers a broad area. In all, the author takes an objective view of the value of DTP for potential users; perhaps too much emphasis is placed on how it compares with the traditional publishing process rather than on what new opportunities may become available. There is a brief glossary and a two-page index of minimal value, with very general headings such as 'graphics' (23 undifferentiated page references), 'prices' (17 references), 'publishing' (12), 'software' (30), 'typesetter' (16), and 'typesetting' (18). The publication itself is a good example of what can be achieved; the layout of the text is clear and well balanced and the information up to date.

ALAN SEAL
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The term English literature may refer, as in earlier days, to literature produced in England (or more properly Britain) or to literature written in English in any part of the world. The title of this book makes quite clear which is intended here. Thus in close proximity to each other come L. A. Murray (Australia), T. C. Murray (Ireland), John Murrell (Canada) and Meja Mwangi (Kenya).

As well as major writers the book deals with some less well known to ordinary readers. How many have heard of Thomas Hamilton (Scottish novelist, 1789–1842)? It shows that the editor tries to be, within practicable limits, as wide ranging as possible. Foreign writers, even those such as Tolstoi and Goethe who have been translated into English and had considerable influence on our literature, are excluded, although there are some references from foreign writers to articles in the Guide in which they appear (for instance, Lévi-Strauss to structuralism). The book includes entries for children's authors, and here, as elsewhere, criticism from external sources is mentioned without comment.

There are a large number of subject entries—for instance, poetical metre, with nearly three columns. How many of us can remember, our formal education finished, the meaning of iambic, trochee and all the others? They are given here. Other such entries are a brief history of the Bible in English and an account of the sentimental novel. There are also many black-and-white illustrations. Such is the range which this work covers, a veritable treasure trove of information.

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Publications received and publications noted


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