


(All three publications are available from ASI Publications Sales Office, P.O. Box 386, Port Aransas, Texas 78373, USA.)

These three publications together show that the American Society is on the ball. In their convention in San Francisco all the old chestnuts for indexers were discussed—getting started, rates and charges, computer-assisted indexing, sources of work, relationships with publishers, and the future of indexing. The direct reporting makes lively reading and introduces the reader to personalities in the American Society. We all share the same problems: substitute dollars for pounds and change a few other words and you would think it was a report of a British seminar.

A. Cynthia Weber’s Guide would be a good example for the British Society to follow, because here within their standard format covers are a dozen pages for the newcomer to indexing. It has useful information on acquiring the techniques of indexing, how to find work, and a few wise words on freelance indexing rounded off with a three-page bibliography on indexing covering books, pamphlets and articles from periodicals, especially The Indexer. It does, however, need to be up-dated.

Lastly, the 53-page American Register of Indexers is an impressive publication which could not fail to make an impact. In typical American fashion it is used to advertise the American Society to the hilt and instruct the publisher on the desirability of signing an indexing agreement covering such matters as Assignment of rights, Author credit and editorial approval, Sub-contracting, Delivery of work, Relationship of parties, etc. Attached to this agreement is a formidable page analysing the business and indexing requirements of each piece of work commissioned. It could well be used by indexers to let publishers know they were keeping details of their commissions.

In the pages listing members there are advertisements, which no doubt keeps the cost down. It is possible to have a standard entry for an indexer with a display advertisement for the same indexer on the same page. The subject index is very similar to our own Indexers Available approach, though with a different choice of subject headings. There is a page for Language Specialties Indexing including Computer Programming Languages, Esperanto and Yiddish. An interesting feature is the final three pages devoted to the type of material indexed—Archival collections, Corporate materials, Government documents, Product catalogs and Textbooks, for example. The editors offer quite a few bites of the cherry to indexers whose names appear therein.


There are some enchanting and fascinating photographs in National Geographic, from the gorilla with her pet kitten to the underarms sniffers of the Smell Survey. Many of these are reproduced in this Index, which is intriguing to browse through, not least because it is somewhat of a challenge.

The sub-entries are in backward chronological order, an arbitrary mode of classification that seems to have little intrinsic merit. There has been virtually no attempt to arrange the sub-entries in any generic way, except occasionally and generally under such major entries as History and Maps. Long entries are very difficult to use. Arctic Regions, for instance, occupies three pages without specific sub-entries for animals, mineral resources or exploration; the user has to read the entire entry.

Many titles are entered without inversion, so there are numerous entries beginning on, from, our, most, to or with other minor words that cannot be defined as significant in any way and are certainly not the first words a user would choose to look up. In most cases these are
adequately entered elsewhere but there is a lack of consistency; the Lewis and Clark expedition, for instance, has six articles listed under Lewis while poor Clark has only one.

Excessive repetition of some entries has helped to create a huge index. It seems a pity that some of this space could not have been utilized to make more useful general entries and specific sub-entries, so the magazines would be more accessible to the index-user. Mount St Helens, for instance, is entered under ST HELENS, MOUNT (14 lines), MOUNT ST HELENS (10 lines) and VOLCANOES (14 lines). Cross-referencing from two of these would have released over twenty lines. The VOLCANOES entry is very difficult to scour for these specific references and requires the reading of every line of a three-page entry. The fact that 14 indexers, all credited, compiled the index may be responsible for these defects. More editorial work in this area would have been advantageous.

General overall categories are often good, with extensive cross-references under major headings such as INSECTS, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY; but there are omissions, like the 11 entries under SALMON with no inclusion under or cross-reference from FISH.

There are other features to admire about this volume. The codes for maps, books and television, indicated on every page, are useful. The layout is clear and legible, the extra details on history and scientific research are engaging, and every photographer and illustrator is separately entered, as well as every author.

**ANN HALL**
indexing tutor


This is a lovely book. It is not often that an indexer has the good fortune to review a work written out of such love and enthusiasm because of the originality of its index. In fact the book has two indexes, one of people, places and subjects and the other both an index and check-list of plants. This latter index of 17 pages contains seven columns, one devoted to the page reference number on which the plant is mentioned. The other six tell us whether the plant is evergreen or deciduous, its colour, flowering season, habit (clump-forming or surface ground covering), dimension in inches, and propagation method.

In the introduction to this uniquely informative index, the compiler, who must be the author himself, says it would have been impossible to have given all the facts necessary to intending planters, so the index has been chosen as the vehicle to provide a list of those facts in easily assimilable form.

In order to compress a great deal of information into seven narrow columns, single letters have been given to a standard set of terms used i.e., d = deciduous, e = evergreen, w = winter flowering, c = cuttings and s = seeds. To add to the delights there are an enormous number of black-and-white photographs and many full colour plates of exquisite drawings from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the Royal Horticultural Society.

The author, in writing this first complete history and exposition of rock gardening, delves into geology, history and literature, so the book can be recommended to a far wider audience than devotees of this romantic form of gardening.

**ELIZABETH WALLIS**
Registrar, the Society of Indexers


It is a sign of a nation’s maturity that a book such as this, criticizing authority, is allowed to be published. At the same time it is important that such books are published because they tend to make authority think before it acts. To most of us censorship means a ban, usually by an official body, on the publication of information by the broadcasting media, the press and books. The definition in *Index on Censorship* is wider, including assaults, arrests, deportations and exile of individuals whose actions or words have caused displeasure. It even includes actions by individuals or organizations against their opponents, such as an attack on a left wing bookshop in London.

*Index on Censorship* is a journal, currently published ten times per year, the product of Writers and Scholars International Ltd., whose aim is to support free expression. The journal contains long articles and short notes. In the *Index* the arrangement is by country, and within each country the long articles are arranged chronologically, and in a separate section the notes are entered by person, subject or title (of books, etc.). Britain is allocated ten pages, the sixth longest section of the 191 countries covered: it seems surprising that this is more than Iran and Iraq together. The articles entered by date conveniently bring together information published on the same subject about the same time. However, it is difficult to use when searching for a particular item, especially when the section runs to several pages. Incidentally, this is one of the very few books in which the word ‘Index’ appears twice in the title.

In such a book one is bound to disagree with some entries or the lack of them. At the time of the Paedophile Information Exchange scandal a book called *Jennie lives with Eric and Martin* was published. An appeal to school libraries, presumably made by an official body, to remove it was made, and this appeal is classed as censorship. However, the banning of some of Enid Blyton’s books for being too ‘middle-class’ is not mentioned in the *Index* (unless referred to in the unhelpful entry ‘Book banned 75/1’). Nor is the banning in 1987 of...
BOOK REVIEWS

Dictionaries


Collins' Authors and printers' dictionary appeared in 11 editions, from 1905 to 1973, as the authoritative style guide most commonly cited and recommended for professionals. In 1981 it was succeeded by The Oxford dictionary for writers and editors, revised, but still presenting Oxford University Press's house style for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, abbreviations, foreign words and phrases, and proof-correcting, in a handy format—18 × 9.5 × 1.5 cm.—easy to keep ready to hand on the desk or smallest shelf, with hard cover of dignified, serious aspect. It appeared authoritative indeed, and its valuable information was easily accessible. Now—O tempora, O mores!—it has gone pop, like the old, 275-gm, hardback ODWE. I deplore its replacement by the jazzy, 400-gm paperback, whose each page appears the same writ larger, but no longer has the aura of a volume you can trust.

Hazel Bell
Formerly Dundee College of Technology


For better or worse the various fields of biology possess their own extensive and somewhat esoteric vocabulary to which new terms are continually being added as advances are made. In this comprehensive
revision of Henderson’s dictionary over 18,000 headwords are clearly defined in a readable format. Many existing definitions have been updated and/or expanded to provide more information and explanation and to take account of advances made in the intervening decade since publication of the ninth edition. Many terms have multiple meanings; these are separated by semicolons. In some such cases abbreviations are included to indicate the field in which a specific meaning is applied. The more common abbreviations and acronyms with which the biological sciences are replete, aids undoubtedly being the front of each letter section in alphabetical order.

Some users may think insufficient use is made of see also references to related terms. Also, no recourse is made within definitions to the systematic highlighting of words which are themselves headwords. On the other hand, the dictionary is comprehensive enough to enable the user to assume that any obscure biological term used within a definition is itself defined elsewhere.

The body of the dictionary is preceded by a useful list of physical units and conversion formulae. Appendices include lists of structural formulae of common compounds of biochemical significance; e.g., vitamins, amino acids and carbohydrates, and also a simplified but comprehensive classification of the various biological kingdoms.

In addition to its value as a reference work for students and practising biologists, this book merits consultation by indexers of biological and general science writing.

J. Stewart Buchanan
aquaculturist

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Computers and information technology


Broad in scope and authoritative in fact, this work is easy to read and an excellent source of information. It successfully achieves its aim of offering a broad introduction to online searching for teachers, students, practitioners in the library and information fields, and also the ‘growing numbers of end-users who wish to explore the possibilities which online searching affords them’. Greatest emphasis is given to the searching of well-established external systems such as BRS, Dialog, ESA-IRS, ORBIT, etc., but there are also chapters on videotext, teletext, databases on CD-ROM, and online public access catalogues.

The authors assume that the reader has no existing knowledge of online searching, and there are chapters covering the history and development of the online industry, database structures, basic searching and retrieval facilities. These basics are never treated ponderously, and even those familiar with online search-

ing will find them informative. Where topics are treated in depth, illustrative examples are given and the merits of alternative approaches are discussed.

In other areas, the text is more a review of the literature, and there are adequate references to other books. However, unlike many literature reviews, the references emanate from and support the text rather than the text being used simply to link together a string of references. There is an appendix of five case studies, mainly descriptive and giving little background information on how decisions were taken. The index is surprisingly brief, with only 198 entries. The main topics and systems are included but there could have been references to specific systems; for example, there are no entries for LEXIS, hardware, Knowledge Index, BRS/After Dark, and Wilsonline; all of which are described in the text. Such omissions detract from the work’s value for reference.

Alan Seal
Victoria and Albert Museum


It is sometimes difficult to discern whether titles containing the word ‘and’ or an ampersand deal with two distinct subjects or assess two topics on a joint basis. In this case, although the topics are related, they tend to be handled separately.

The first part of the book is essentially an assessment of 13 software packages for interfacing online systems. The products reviewed are quite varied and include a spreadsheet link for accessing Dow Jones information and a system for performing citation searches. A few of the reviews seem to be excessively detailed: one contains the dreary printouts from three typical searches and even includes the computer-repeated response PROCESSING to indicate that the power is still on in Palo Alto or wherever whilst the electronic cogs creak and groan. Some of the packages may not be suitable for use outside North America, but modified versions of some may exist, and the comments are frequently valid for evaluating this type of software in general.

The second part is on natural language interfaces, which unlike the mainly menu-driven systems available off the shelf are still at the experimental stage and limited to small-domain databases. Although the topic may appear limited, it is excellently covered in a simple manner: the reader is informed of the major developments without being exposed to every single nut and bolt. There are adequate references.

The book also includes a directory of software, a glossary and a 715-entry bibliography. This last is biased towards the information science scene as is demonstrated by the present reviewer being represented by three entries on expert systems (he wishes he were as expert as this
might suggest) whereas the luminary Tom Addis has but a single entry. There is a very extensive index.

Kevin Jones
Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association


The 12 papers published here were first given at a Fulbright Colloquium at the University of Southampton, 16 to 29 September 1986. One strength of the book is the range of expertise of the contributors—academics, the Head of the Communications Methods Research Department of the AT&T (Bell) Laboratories in New Jersey, the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, and a retired Major-General. The most notable omission is a librarian, which is unfortunate since librarians—with their automated circulation-control systems and the possible uses to which they might be put—should have strong views on the social implications of IT.

The contribution likely to be of most interest to indexers is that on information retrieval by Eugene Garfield, Robert Kimberley and David A. Pendlebury of the Institute for Scientific Information, well-known as publishers of citation indexes—the only type of index that Garfield appears to recognise!

Most of the papers show evidence of thorough research and conclude with extensive bibliographies. These are not always recent, and it is salutary to be reminded by J. H. Smith that, in the UK, the study of technological change from a sociological viewpoint began in the 1940s and pioneer studies like Burns and Stalker's Management of innovation (Tavistock, 1961) are still worthy of mention.

I would like to have seen some acknowledgment in David Lyon’s contribution on the role of the information society conception in IT policy of the fact that the 'information society' is a phenomenon of the developed world with, perhaps, some reference to The myth of the information revolution edited by M. Traber (Sage Publications, 1986).

Most of the papers are very readable, but I was rather put off Howard Williams’s contribution on reading 'The methodological foundations of this chapter are essentially Schumpeterian'. There are occasional signs of careless proofreading. On page 3, for example, OECD is referred to as OCED and on page 67 ISDN becomes ISND. There are so many initials and acronyms that it would be useful to have a list of them with their full form. Finally, it is good to see an index—something which is not always provided with symposia.

K. G. B. Bakewell
School of Information Science and Technology, Liverpool Polytechnic


Those who handle machine-readable text rapidly learn to depend upon two features: the ease with which items within it can be found, and the ease with which it can be manipulated. On the other hand, unless it is printed out it is difficult to see much of it at a glance, and text on VDU screens tends to be difficult to read. Nevertheless, there is an increasing amount of documentation where the normal format is screen-based and the printed version is essentially subsidiary: the many online systems exemplify this type of document. Until recently, writing for screen-based texts has tended to be regarded as a by-product of some printed form, and little thought has been given to the special requirements of screen display.

It may appear perverse to examine the physical presentation of the 20 contributions to this book before considering their content, especially as the documentation ultimately being considered is intended for another medium; but physical appearance and readability is what the book is intended to be about. Many texts are impeccable products of desk-top publishing, but a significant number typify just how poor some computer printing facilities can be. Hypermedia receives considerable attention, and in part it may be seen as a surrogate for indexing. Although both Ezra Pound’s and Marianne Moore’s poetry were written before the advent of hypertext, Slatin considers it to be a singularly appropriate medium for these complex texts. The late Margaret Masterman,1 of the Cambridge Language Research Unit, would have appreciated both this and, more especially, his reference to rhetoric.

John Kirkman’s contribution on the desirability of literary styles appropriate for global environments is highly enjoyable as he zaps the unthinking application of American English and the comparable British English terms, such as TO HOOVER. To be widely acceptable, terminology needs to be chosen with great care.

The Editor’s introduction stresses the importance of Boris Katz’s contribution on the START (SynTactic Analysis using Reversible Transformations) system, which is a natural-language understanding and question-answering system. Certainly, it emanates from an impeccable pedigree—Patrick Winston’s Department at MIT; but unfortunately the examples incorporated in the chapter serve to emphasize the mechanistic nature of conversing with a machine. Nonetheless, it does have a practicality which some of the contributions lack.

The book has an index, but a poorly constructed one: indexing is mentioned somewhere in the text, but not listed in the index! The main readership for this book is probably technical writers within the computer industry, but Kirkman’s strictures deserve a wider platform.

Kevin Jones
Malaysian Rubber Producers’ Research Association

1. Masterman, M. Chasing the enthymeme. Part III. The basic reiterative semantic patterns of language. In Informatics 3:
Publishing


Hollis Press and Public Relations Annual is celebrating its 21st edition. Ever up-to-date with its information, it must nevertheless have surprised many with its forward-looking introduction of the new London telephone codes months before they came into existence. As usual, the 1200-plus pages are divided into seven coloured sections covering News contracts: commercial, industrial, consumer (white); Official and public information services (pink); Public relations consultancies (grey); Reference and research addresses for communicators (green); Services for the communications industry and the media (yellow); Sponsorship—events register (orange); and, last but no means least, the computerized Master index (blue).

The Society of Indexers appears under ‘S’ in the index and in section four (green) of the annual. In the ‘I’s there is also a heading simply ‘indexer’. Looking up this, it turns out to be The Indexer with the address of the editor.

The software that produced all this information is indeed quite remarkable, but I still cannot get used to looking up certain firms and not finding them where I expected. Although the method of alphabetization used here is a recognized way of compiling business indexes it can be extraordinarily off-putting to be looking through, say, the ‘E’s and come across Edwards Catering . . . Guy Edwards Racing, Edwards Harvey Association, Edwards High Vacuum International, Linda Edwards Public Relations, Norman Edwards Association, Stella Edwards, R. D. Edwards, in that order. However, apart from the last two, all appeared to be well.

I was also a little unsure as to why everything was indexed. (Easy enough, I know, with a computer!) For instance: JIF, JIF LEMON, JIF LEMON FRESH, JIF SPRAY N’ FOAM, one after the other. Had a human prepared the index, surely one heading would have sufficed; say, JIF PRODUCTS? (See also DOMESTOS and LUX). And there are two headings for Lever Brothers Ltd., because the computer was incapable of realizing that Lever Brothers and Lever Brothers Ltd. were the same firm. Indeed they might have been different—but one only has to check the references to find that they are not.

I have no quarrel with the layout and information contained in the book which, as always, is clear—though why do some pages have (CONT) twice at the bottom, some once, and some not at all? But the bon mots are there—not so invigorating as the last Hollis I reviewed, but serviceable—PR data at the touch of a button; keep ahead with Hollis; Hollis helps journalists . . . to check their facts—and so on. It is the index, as always, that cannot compete with a human production, no matter how good, because the computer cannot think, cannot see, and above all, cannot reason.


When buying a reference book it is wise to get one, if possible, which is both informative and instructive. The editor of this book is clearly interested in a wide spectrum of the media—poetry, radio, television, films and video, theatre, magazines and newspapers. Each section has an introductory essay surveying the scene and highlighting the events of the previous 12 months and dispensing wise advice to aspiring writers. Eighty-two pages are given to listing British publishers and ten to American. I was disappointed to see nothing about European publishers, but the book was prepared too early to record the birth of the Federation of European Publishers.

Thus, four-fifths of the book is devoted to comprehensive coverage of the wonderful array of opportunities available to the serious and not-so-serious writer. You can explore the fascinating world of poetry publishing, which includes small presses, little magazines and organizations of interest to poets; the agent—friend or foe? Copyright and moral rights and the economics of freelancing. Writing for sound and screen is a smaller section, but there the opportunities are perhaps not so great. The Society of Indexers is well tucked into the section on Associations, but the Society of Freelance Editors and Proofreaders is not there yet. There are also short sections on prizes and grants for the writer, proofreading marks and tax and the writer. The index to companies is 23 pages long and that to subjects, 54 pages: a very generous ratio of index to text.

This Writer’s handbook may be a young upstart, merely three years old, but it is a very serious challenger to the octogenarian Writers’ and artists’ yearbook which is 83 years old this year.


The title of this report suggests that information services have special needs for desktop publishing (DTP)
software and that a report specifically for them is needed. It also implies that the authors will look at specific types of documents such as notices, forms, guides, statistics, etc. that would be better produced using DTP software and discuss its advantages and potential. Regrettably, the report achieves neither of these aims. There is little to convince me to use this report rather than one on DTP more generally. The management summary is typical of the whole report in being bland, descriptive rather than informative, and indecisive. There is no obvious plan of action that a decision-maker could implement as a result of reading this document.

The report is in two parts; the first gives the result of a survey of existing users of DTP packages; the second describes six case studies in different types of information service. The user-survey is based on only 20 users, reaches no real conclusions, and has very little data on comparative costs. The chapter discussing the results repeats much data from that giving the results; this is typical of the whole report. The information does not justify 133 pages. The case studies deal with organizations which do not use DTP and in only two of these was DTP recommended, which rather limits the authors' scope to describe the potential advantages of DTP. It is not clear whether the authors themselves are making the assessments or are simply reporting the views of the institution; for example, on page 68 they write 'although it was acknowledged that... bibliographies could be improved in terms of presentation, there would appear to be no real need for the extra investment in DTP at the moment'.

Many other guides to the capabilities of DTP software are more informative on a practical level, and this report does not convince me that the requirements of information services are different from those of other institutions.

ALAN SEAL
Victoria and Albert Museum

Other subjects


Scientific and technical librarians will welcome this new edition of volume 1 of Walford, now established, of course, as the standard British guide to reference materials. It is good to see four works by Society of Indexers' stalwart John L. Thornton still considered worthy of entry.

Everybody will have their own views on possible additions or exclusions. I was disappointed to find no place for Thesaurofacet, which I still consider the best thesaurus in spite of its date, and I was surprised to find no reference to CATNI (Catchword and trade name index), the very useful supplement to Current technology index.

As before, arrangement is by the Universal Decimal Classification with each entry numbered sequentially. There are 5,995 entries, but some are duplicated and the repeated entries do not always contain identical information. For example, entry 3,745 tells us that volume 1 of Dictionary of metallurgy and foundry technology was published in 1984 and volume 2 in 1987, but entry 5,411 gives the dates as 1985 and 1986.

Entry 4,371 tells us that E. A. R. Bush's Agriculture; a bibliographical guide was awarded the Library Association Besserman Medal for 1974, but there is no mention of the fact that Judith Butcher's Copy-editing (4,871) and Ken Boodson's Non-ferrous metals; a bibliographical guide (5,473) won the Wheatley Medal.

There are two indexes, one of authors and titles and one of subjects, that do not, in this reviewer's opinion, do justice to the work. Both are preceded by wordy and badly punctuated introductory notes, and the author/title index contains a number of peculiarities, such as the following strange sequence:

The A to Z of shopping by post
The A to Z of women's health
A-Z of clinical chemistry
An A-Z of gynaecology
An A-Z of offshore oil & gas

and the following entries sitting next to each other:

Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine

See

Great Britain. Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine

Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine

Professions Supplementary to Medicine Act, 1960, section 2 (d) 2698

O. S. Nock's Pocket encyclopaedia of British steam railways and locomotives is filed under 'O' (between 'Orwin' and 'Osborn'), but H. J. Conn's biological stains is filed under 'Conn' (though entered as 'H. J. Conn's...').

The subject index is much longer than need be because the indexer enters subjects under specific terms and as subheadings of broader terms. For example, Glass Industry is entered under GLASS INDUSTRY and as a subheading of CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, with all the subheadings of GLASS INDUSTRY repeated as sub-subheadings of CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. In some cases (e.g., PATENTS) a string of entry numbers is given and these numbers are then repeated as subheadings. There are also some strange headings like MARINE and DIE GESCHICHTE DER KARTOGRAPHIE.

I note that the indexer is not a member of the Society of Indexers. He does not seem to be aware of the revised British Standard on indexing, either.

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The Indexer Vol. 17 No. 2 October 1990
BOOK REVIEWS


One wonders whether new journals on librarianship and information science are really necessary, but this one should fill a gap. If the standard of this issue is to be maintained, a subscription will be well worthwhile. It contains eight articles of substance and five book reviews.

Carmel Maguire writes on obstacles to and opportunities for researching library and information science in Australia; Geoffery Ford reviews research into performance measurements; and F. C. A. Exon compares his experiences of in-house library research in Britain and Australia from such perspectives as cost, credibility, integration with decision-making and reporting results. Alan R. Thomas considers terminological problems in guidance, counselling and associated fields, with particular reference to Thesaurus of ERIC descriptors. Graham P. Cornish reports the results of a survey of the extent of involvement of national libraries in research into library and information science; questionnaires were sent to 125 national libraries in 1987 and only 48 replied (25 from developed countries and 23 from developing countries), which does not say a great deal for the professionalism of the other 77! John Barclay considers the place of research in the education of librarians and is not altogether happy with the priorities given to the subject. Li Weiming explores research needs in librarianship and information science in China, and finally there is a research note on bibliometrics and epidemiology by Judith Licea De Arenas and Blaise Cronin.

One small quibble: the authors of all the articles are working in either Britain or Australia. If the journal is to succeed in its stated objective of opening up international professional and scholarly communication, its coverage will have to be more truly international.

K. G. B. Bakewell
School of Information Science and Technology, Liverpool Polytechnic


These two volumes are part of the Newsplan project funded by the British Library (Humanities and Social Sciences) and by the relevant regional library system. Newsplan is a programme for the microfilming and preservation of UK local newspapers with the British Library, local libraries and other national libraries working in co-operation and seeking the co-operation of the newspaper industry.

The Northern and East Midlands areas both acknowledge the importance of local newspapers and, in particular, the free papers which have recently proliferated. Free newspapers are not, however, a new phenomenon. The St Neot's Monthly Advertiser ran successfully as a free paper from September 1878 until June 1885 when it decided to charge a halfpenny an issue.

The books cover a mass of fascinating information concerning location of holdings, hard-copy and microfilm availability, and recommendations and guidelines on how to store and microfilm the hard copy. There is also help on how to train staff, fund Newsplan projects, and the problems encountered in amassing all the relevant information.

The Northern Region volume provides an index of newspaper titles by place of publication or principal distribution, but the East Midlands volume does not. However, the latter does mention the importance of indexing work on local newspapers and notes that all counties in the region were involved. They regretted that 'reporting on this aspect of local newspaper provision proved impossible within the time-scale of the Newsplan Survey' (in both cases one year). Tantalizingly, under the Cambridgeshire general entry, it is remarked: 'The strength of this local collection is based on an unusual degree on its newspapers and many inventive quick indexing methods...'

A problem common to both regions was—what constituted a newspaper? The East Midlands team came up with a workable definition: a serial publication printed fortnightly or more frequently, on sale or issued freely to the general public, containing news, comment and/or advertising, and not solely the organ of a particular body or society or interest group. On this basis, in-house publication and estate agents’ property papers were not generally included.

The layouts in both volumes are clear and easy to use. One can easily find titles, locations, years covered. state of preservation and, in the case of East Midlands, a time scale of priorities showing which collections need immediate attention and which could be left for some years.

I am not sure who these volumes are intended for. They are working guides for other libraries and a record for the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale, of course, but I hope they will also be available to those regularly using local newspapers as a rich source of research. They are invaluable and, despite the lack of time allowed to the regions for all their research, the end products are amazing in their coverage and clear explanations.

Geraldine Beare
Information Officer, the Society of Indexers


A columnist in The Scotsman wrote recently, 'What make compelling reading for most of us are the details of
other people's lives—but even more compelling is your own life... that's why *Who's Who* is so popular.' Could this be why there is a substantial increase in the number of entries in this 2nd edition of *Who's Who* in the UK information world? I believe not; the first edition has proved a most useful tool, and many fellow librarians speak highly of it.

Entries provide name and qualifications; current and two most recent positions; total number of years' experience; memberships, including Society of Indexers, and activities, both professional and personal.

There are three indexes. The Employing Organization Index will be expanded in future editions to include organizations whose personnel have chosen not to be included—this will enhance the section, and the publisher deserves congratulations for persistence. Would that those personnel involved would co-operate fully in future; this publication is obviously here to stay, and its comprehensiveness likely to increase with each edition. The Employing Organization Main Area of Activity Index is the weakest part. It would be a mammoth task to cross-reference, but highly desirable. The categories chosen are helpful only to a point, as many organizations do not wholly fit their categories. The publishers 'have left respondents choices where possible'. A new feature is the LIS Training Institution Attended Index. Prospective students of librarianship may find this useful in deciding upon a school to attend.

Criticisms? 'Macs' are still a problem for this user; surely the London telephone directory can teach us a lesson here. The editor is aware of the problem and sympathetic to it, but that wretched British Standard prevails! Plaudits? The table of new codes for London telephone numbers is the sort of finishing touch which spells professionalism: anticipating demand and meeting it accurately. Indeed, this whole directory does just that!

Moyra Forrest
Edinburgh University

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**Publications received and publications noted**


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**Verbatim**

*Verbatim* is still as full of fun as ever (see *The Indexer* 11(4) Oct. 1979, 243-4). A recent issue (16(2) Autumn 1989) has articles on the *New English Bible*, the Ineffable F-r-letter Word, and a two-page poem on the inconsistencies of English spelling and pronunciation. There are also many short items. *Verbatim: the Language Quarterly* costs $16.50 in US and Canada, £11.50 elsewhere. Available in UK from Mrs H. Hall, *Verbatim*, PO Box 199, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2HY.