Newspaper indexing: an international overview

Nazir Ahmad

Comprehensiveness and consistency in newspaper indexing depend on the effectiveness of subject-analysis of the news items. What indexing skills are required in order to identify indexable concepts? This article describes practical aspects of conceptual analysis, crystallizes criteria and methods for the indexing of news stories, and elucidates reasons for providing multiple subject-entries for certain news items. It suggests rules for news analysis and speedy and accurate allocation of subject headings, and illustrates the technique of dealing with complex and diversified news headings reported at intervals. As the headlines do not always indicate the real subject of a news story, the identification of indexable concepts can become arduous and cumbersome. The article discusses the methods, skills and capability needed to tackle such problems.

News analysis and indexing is an intellectual exercise needing creativity, imagination, general knowledge of national and international affairs, interest and awareness of potential needs of researchers, and the capability to understand, comprehend, evaluate and formulate descriptors. The indexer must scan almost all news stories, analyse the contents and allocate appropriate descriptors to represent the concepts, with an unbiased approach to subject analysis and descriptor allocation to avoid over-indexing of irrelevant and marginal research-value news stories.

If using a news thesaurus or controlled vocabulary system, indexers should maintain consistency in the allocation of descriptors. If no such thesaurus is available, they should avoid indexing news items under broader descriptors. For efficiency, all headings should be the smallest possible units of reference.

Newspaper indexing practices, however, vary considerably. The San Francisco Chronicle Index uses for subjects both general and specific headings. The Canadian News Index, covering seven major newspapers, has a subject index with both general and specific headings; entries are made under the geographic names of provinces, cities and countries, corporate names of business, national organizations and government agencies.

Newspaper indexing entails reading the news skillfully and quickly while selecting indexable concepts. The indexers’ primary duty is to make the contents of news accessible by subject-approach indexing. They must bring together related news stories through the assignment of suitable descriptors, omitting superficially related items. Indexes are more compatible if compiled by one person, but because of the amount of work involved, often teams of indexers are deployed to cover a number of newspapers. Inconsistencies might be minimized if indexers experienced in conceptual analysis made consistent use of news thesauri. Where a team of indexers performs the task of subject allocation, often each is given a number of news stories related to their list of subjects. For instance, the New York Times index of 1958 had the following areas in the programme: academic freedom, area studies, atomic energy, culture, colleges, displaced persons, education, foundations, freedom, Great Britain, language, minorities, negroes, professions, religious education, research, scholarships, social sciences, vocational training. The three indexers of The Scotsman Index are assigned their different subject areas: politics, domestic and foreign; general domestic news; business and industrial news.

Strict news classification is impracticable—conceptual overlap is bound to arise, and limits on descriptors have to be imposed. Rothman believes a news item about a presidential press conference may have two dozen entries—forty would not be unusual. The Scotsman Index permits up to five subject headings for each news item. The Glasgow Herald indexing rules specify a maximum of three entries per item—a rule of thumb widely followed in indexing. Knee assigns as many headings as are needed but feels one or two are usually sufficient. The Guardian Index provides at least three access points.

The subject headings used for indexing The Guardian are taken from the New York Times Thesaurus. A piece on glass recycling appears under containers, glass and waste material with references from bottles and recycling. Toase claims that it is not a superior index; he found many items that had not been indexed, such as the assassination of the Swedish prime minister, a lead story on 1 March 1986.

The Canada News Index does not restrict the number of entries for each news item. A news article about the Montreal dock strike might appear under these nine headings:

CANADA: LABOUR
CANADA: SHIPPING
QUEBEC: LABOUR
The AIRS: Index to the Daily Gleaner of Jamaica is computer-produced and usually assigns no more than five subject headings, but occasionally as many as ten. The index to the Scottish Stirling Observer gives full coverage to local news items. Mary Lawson's marriage to James Smith, a writer from Dundee, is given these four index entries:

SMITH, James: Writer, Dundee
LAWSON, Mary, Stirling
SMITH, Mary (wife of James)
SMITH, Mrs James (nee Mary Lawson)
all followed by—
Marriage, at Dundee 1845 Thu 23/4; Ia.

The index to The Times newspaper was started by Samuel Palmer as a commercial proposition. He issued the first volume in 1868, covering the period October-December 1867. In 1891 he began retrospective indexing of back issues of the newspaper to 1785. He appears to have made one index entry per news item and cross-references are almost non-existent (see figure 1). Despite numerous drawbacks, Palmer's index was considered valuable and useful. Currently The Times Index is a most comprehensive research tool, giving name, place and multiple subject entries.

The difference between the New York Times Index (figure 2) and The Times Index is that if, for instance, a news item about a programme to replace and rebuild London Bridge were published, the NYTI would index it under BRIDGES with a subheading, THAMES RIVER CROSSING, whereas The Times Index would enter it under LONDON BRIDGE—REBUILDING PLANS.

An example from the annual volume of the Saudi Gazette Index shows the need for multiple entries. On 25 January 1987 an Eye Surgery Symposium was opened by Prince Saud Bin Abdul Mohsen in Jeddah. The heading of the report published the next day was 'Eye surgery symposium opens'. The standard descriptors from Saudi Gazette News Thesaurus are eye diseases, surgery, conferences & symposiums. The news is indexed as:

SAUDI ARABIA: EYE DISEASES
SAUDI ARABIA: SURGERY
SAUDI ARABIA: CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIUMS
SAUDI BIN ABDUL MOHSEN (PRINCE)
SAUDI ARABIA: OPHTHALMOLOGY see EYE DISEASES

Further entries may be made under the speakers, all distinguished ophthalmologists.
NEWSPAPER INDEXING

Friedman recommends three systems to govern the number of entries.11

1. Subject headings are used only when the proper name mentioned in the story is created, destroyed or radically altered. This would include theatres, hotels, public buildings, newspapers, railroads, public utilities, hospitals, specific industries.

2. Subject headings are made to correspond with every name heading taken from a story. This treatment will cause a great number of entries but each with a certain value. It means each time an arrest is made, there is a heading for the offence that caused it.

3. Subject headings are made only when the story or article deals with the subject itself.

Rules for news analysis

There are no set criteria by which each news item can be analysed in the same manner. Newspaper indexes do have inconsistencies.

Indexers must: understand the language and terminology of the newspaper; comprehend the overall message conveyed in the news story; scan the news headline as well as the first paragraph and pinpoint, such as by underlining, the significant words which represent the subject contents; browse through the whole news and identify indexable concepts; interpret the words and terms; analyse the words and concepts and translate them into the indexing language; match the concepts and words with the descriptors from a standard news thesaurus; devise new descriptors if not found in the news thesaurus; identify all the relevant personal names, corporate names, etc. They must also earlier have decided whether assigned indexing or derived indexing would best suit the newspaper in hand. Assigned indexing means that the indexer chooses descriptors to represent concepts, whereas derived indexing involves use of the actual words as descriptors, without modification. Concepts can be ideas, relationships between occurrences, or identifiable objects or subjects: for instance, the word FRAUD in indexing a bank embezzlement case, or CORRUPTION in a taxman’s bribery case.

NOTE

Beginning with the first issue of 1983, we have simplified the heading structure and indexing vocabulary in ways that we believe will make the Index easier to use.

We have also taken this opportunity to rewrite and update the “How To Use” page at the back of the Index. This would be a good time for all users, including experienced ones, to reread this brief general description of how the Index is constructed.

The major subject terms remain unaltered. The biggest change is the considerable reduction in subheadings and sub-subheadings. These subheads, both subjects and geographic names, are now simply being treated as independent terms in their normal alphabetic order. As part of this change, dated cross-references are being made from geographic headings for the first time.

One more thing. In the interests of consistency, the main news section is now being designated as Section I. In the past, main news section articles were given no section designation.

Figure 2. The New York Times Index, 1989.
The conceptual analysis of news items is unrelated to the indexing language since it requires an established news thesaurus of standard descriptors which form part of the indexing language. It is said, however, that using textual words as descriptors, rather than employing a predetermined thesaurus, gives newspaper indexing language a dynamic quality, allowing it to assimilate new terms as they appear in contemporary usage. A multiple approach might be practical. For example—the opening of the Saudi-Bahranian Causeway pointed to a new approach, although closely related to roads and highways or motorways. In this case word-derivative indexing, i.e. entry under causeway, would be most relevant for the users.

Omissions and pitfalls

Stafford recorded that an Australian Index to The New Morning Herald used a STRIKES AND DISPUTES descriptor in 1975 but did not list articles on the major power strikes in January of that year. Moreover, material listed under SPORT in the 1974 volume did not include an article on Australia winning a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games or any cross-reference to the COMMONWEALTH GAMES (figure 3). In an index published by The Argus (Australia), all the Christian religious denominations are entered under CHURCHES: ANGLICAN; CHURCHES: METHODIST, etc, but no reference is given to the proper title nor from the heading RELIGION. The Sydney Morning Herald and Sunday Herald Index, which ceased publication in 1961, used countries as a main subject heading and listed all the news titles under each country without giving any subject or descriptors which represent the news. Some entries are unnecessarily long and ambiguous, such as that starting spectacular setting under social news (figure 4).

Multiple subject entries

News headlines may tend to confuse the indexer, as in the Causeway story published under the title KING FAHAD CAUSEWAY. The same story appeared the next day under FAHAD CAUSEWAY, and the third time the headline read SAUDI-BAHRAIN CAUSEWAY OPENS. A standard descriptor, CAUSEWAY, would be ideal, provided sufficient cross-references are recorded in the index to cater for a wide variety of user approaches and to direct the researcher from an unused to the used heading. Thus:

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS see also CAUSEWAY
FAHAD CAUSEWAY see CAUSEWAY
KING FAHAD CAUSEWAY see CAUSEWAY
SAUDI-BAHRAIN CAUSEWAY see CAUSEWAY.

With regard to the subject approach, Index to Index India presents a very gloomy picture (figure 5). The indexing is brief, entries are condensed and subject headings confusing and ambiguous. The annual cumulative volume for 1967 lists news related to anthropology and rural sociology under the term ACTIVITY, and socio-

INDUSTRIES - Gas
Advantages of Gas in Private Houses 22.4:5; 29.4:5
Newcastle Gas and Coke Company 13.5:3
Advantages of Gas in Private Houses 27.5:4; 3.6:5
Lighting the Streets - Hamilton 17.6:3
Gas! Gas! 27.7:2
Newcastle Gas Company 11.8:2
Gas - Lambton 3.10:2
Gas! Gas! For the District 16.10:3
Gas 21.10:4
Notice to Gas Users 28.10:4
A.A. Co's. Gas Rates 20.12:2

LAKE MACQUARIE
The Entrance to Lake Macquarie 6.4:2
Official Visit to Lake Macquarie 7.4:2
Pope, Hardie & Co's. Estate at New Wallsend 10.4:3
Dora Creek Bridge 18.4:2
Lake Macquarie Entrance 5.6:2
Fish Supply 29.6:2
Lake Macquarie Timber 1.7:2; 7.7:3
Wreck of Village Maid 13.9:2
Loss of Ketch Sea Gull and All Hands 21.9:2
A Wedding at Lake Macquarie 4.10:3
Lake Macquarie Timber 13.10:2
Moorings for Lake Macquarie Traders 18.10:2
Lake Macquarie Timber Trade 30.10:2

CHARLESTOWN 3.11:2
Stranding - Ketch Contest - Lake Macquarie 16.11:2
Colonial Wine License 21.12:2

LIBRARIES
Mechanics' Institute for Greta 12.7:3
School of Arts - Improvements 14.7:2
Newcastle School of Arts (Meeting) 28.7:3
School of Arts - Greta 4.9:2

LIQUOR AND LIQUOR TRADE
Barricading a Public House 6.4:3
Lighthouse Hotel 22.4:2
Bullock Island 12.5:2
Lighthouse Hotel 13.5:2
The Drink Evil (Leader) 22.5:2
Publican's License 16.6:2
Watt Street Hotels 19.6:2

Prendergast, Wood and Co's. Brewery 24.6:6
New Hotel - Perkin Street 16.8:2
Stewart's Family Hotel 12.9:3
Red Lion Hotel, Waratah 15.9:2
The Public Houses of the Colony 23.9:2
Cafe De Paris 28.10:4
Publican's Licenses 11.11:2
Transfer of License 24.11:2

The Liquor Traffic (Leader) 30.11:2

Figure 3. Index to the New Morning Herald (Australia), 1876.
JANUARY TO MARCH, 1953

SNOW MOUNTAINS HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT—
Letter to the Editor: Christian witness on the Snowy (Enid), Mar. 4-3.

SILVER—
U.S. silver up, Jan. 18-5.
Silver prices: See "The Sydney Morning Herald" (see also under Social Service).

SINGAPORE (see also under Women's section)—
Strike of Asian workers at Singapore naval establishments called off, Jan. 8-3.

SKATING, ICE—
See skating season starts, Mar. 19. (Women's section).

SLAVE TRADE (see also under Africa, Sandi Arabia)—

SLIV, FIELD-MARSHAL STV WILLIAM, Governor-General Dominion of Australia (see also under Commonwealth)—
Miss Patricia, the daughter of Captain Peter Nigel Stewart Fraser (Omniam Guard) on January 17, Jan. 17-3.
Sir Leslie Hitchcock, English woman farmer, appointed secretary to Lady Slim, Feb. 12. (Women's Section).

Sir William Slim to be sworn-in as Governor-General at a ceremony at Parliament House, Canberra, in the last week in March, Feb. 18-1.
Sir William and Lady Slim received a gesture of welcome from the Governor-General and Mrs. Menzies, Feb. 24-3; talk with General Macquarie forecast, Feb. 25-1; last-minute decision, Feb. 25-1.

Sir William to delay departure from U.K.: To be available to attend meetings and diplomatic arrangements throughout the Middle East (Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies), Feb. 24-3; talk with General Macquarie forecast, Feb. 25-1; last-minute decision, Feb. 25-1.

SNIKES (see also under Accidents and Fatalities)—
Special article: Watch your step: It's a bad snake season. (Staff Correspondent), Jan. 25-1.
Snake went riding with the family. (West Turas, Victoria) Jan. 12-1.
Snakes expert, has contracts with the Commonwealth Department of Economic Development, the supply of their snake venom for the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Jan. 16-4.
Mrs. Hazel Donohue trod on brown snake but was not bitten (Papwood), Jan. 18-1.
A car-ride for the snake (Melton), Jan. 21-4.
Dog, galah, gave snake alarm in Melbourne suburbs, Jan. 23-1.
Mrs. W. F. Butcher said as she left Preston (Melbourne) Town Hall 52 people to Melbourne in the last six weeks, Jan. 23-3.
Snakes killed on golf links at Walka and Ululadja, Jan. 27-1.

SNOW MOUNTAINS HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT—
Letter to the Editor: Christian witness on the Snowy (Enid), Mar. 4-3.

SPECIAL REPORT—
Appointment of Director of the Royal Zoological Gardens to the position of Director of the Zoological Gardens, Sydney, Feb. 21-4.

SPECIAL REPORT—
Visit of the Governor-General of Australia to the State of Victoria, Feb. 22.

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Fourth Five Year Plan. 76,9a.

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Third Five Year Plan. 6a, 187b.

SPECIAL REPORT—
Natural Resources of Australia (see also under Accident and Weather Forecast).

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Canberra Times, Mar. 19-2.

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Sydney Morning Herald, Mar. 19-2.

SPECIAL REPORT—

SPECIAL REPORT—

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Sunday Age, Mar. 19-2.

SPECIAL REPORT—

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Argus, Mar. 19-2.

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Sydney Morning Herald, Mar. 19-2.

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Argus, Mar. 19-2.

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The Argus, Mar. 19-2.

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SPECIAL REPORT—
The Argus, Mar. 19-2.

SPECIAL REPORT—
The Argus, Mar. 19-2.
logical news under Accident. The frequent use of and to link two terms makes it difficult for the researcher. An administrative aspect of agriculture is indexed as: Administration and Agriculture and Agriculture and Administration. Spying activities are indexed under Alleged Espionage.

The ERU Press Index (figure 6) issued in Karachi, Pakistan, gives a better subject approach, following the pattern of The Times Index, although multiple index entries for any news item have not been made, in view of the cost of indexing. Under each country, the relevant subject heading followed by the news title is mentioned.

An Index to the San Francisco Chronicle displays an effective subject structure, but there are instances where it ignores assigning subject headings or descriptors within the main geographical headings. A news item concerning prospects for the passage of the new Philippine constitution which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on 16 October 1986 is entered straight under the heading Philippines, along with many others. In terms of USA news, it is very comprehensive, apparent from its structure of allocating specific descriptors to the news items (figure 7).

Koch lists some problems of tackling a new item. One heading may be applied to two stories only minimally related, or two aspects of the same story may be located next to each other and given two different headings; treating the heading as the defining bibliographic unit may therefore cause major problems. Indexers should not rely on headlines. A leading news story in the Saudi Gazette of 15 March 1987 with the heading Years of a Growing Love Affair gives no clue as to the indexable concept, and the first paragraph helps little. The complete story deals with the overall USA foreign policy, its current position towards Arab-Israeli conflict and its warm relationship with Israel during Reagan's presidency (figure 8). The standard description in the news thesaurus can be assigned.

In any indexing, straightforward entries under the first word of the title are illogical and unnecessary if the first word does not convey any meaning or if it is unlikely to be sought by the user.

Editorials and reviews

Each editorial must be assigned a specific descriptor. The writer, if named, can also be used as a heading, and the title may be indexed too.

Regarding book reviews, Smith recommends entering title and author's name under the subject Book Reviews and author's name under the title used as an entry. An entry can be made under the author's or reviewer's name or both. The New York Times Index lists under Book Reviews the book titles and reviewers' names, as well as listing them separately under the titles, with authors' names.

Table: ERU Press Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Entry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Education in Afghanistan being converted into Communist system MN 8 Jan 1983, 5:2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>100 p.c. inflation in Afghanistan PT 2 Jan 1983, 5:4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan Trade</td>
<td>Dumping of Afghan transit imports hit Pak industries. MN 25 Jan 1983, 1:6-8; 10:5</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Railways Planning</td>
<td>Railway network planned in Afghanistan. DAWN 25 Jan 1983 12:6-7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>USSR War</td>
<td>Afghan army General defects to Pakistan. MN 18 Jan 1983, 1:2-4</td>
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<td>Afghan crisis: elusive accord, A.T. Chaudhri. DAWN 8 Jan 1983 7:4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Afghan crisis: no change in Soviet policy evident, Burs. BR 31 Jan 1983, 3:3-4</td>
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<td>Afghan crisis threat to global stability, Mol. PT 17 Jan 1983 8:1-2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6. ERU Press index (Pakistan). 1983.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHILIPPINES (CONTINUED)</th>
<th>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE CHIEF JUSTICE TANCAKIAN DISCUSSES NEW CONSTITUTION</td>
<td>FOREIGN POLICY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE PRES. AQUINO ANNOUNCES LAND REFORM PLAN</td>
<td>US ready to work with Iran for better ties. 01c 08 Jan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDITORIAL ON COMPLETION OF DRAFT OF PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION</td>
<td>US sanctions caught in row. 06e 26 Apr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE DEFENSE MINISTER RAAN PONECE EXPRESSES RESIGNING INTENT</td>
<td>US seeks further data in Iran probe 02e 25 Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIGHT BETWEEN PHILIPPINE PRES. AQUINO &amp; A MILITARY LEADER</td>
<td>US seeks to improve ties with Syria 01h 27 Jun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDITORIAL ON CHAOS FACING A PHILIPPINE GOVT IN PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>US sees progress in UN's Gulf efforts. 01b 05 Jun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE PRES. AQUINO MOVES TO END RIPT WITH DEFENSE MIN.</td>
<td>US set to ride roughshod over Allies on ABM broad view. 8b 25 Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MURDER OF PHILIPPINE ARMY LIEUTENANT REMY RACHIDAN DISCUSSED</td>
<td>US to pursue more active Mid-east policy. 01b 30 Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS EME BFT WITH PRES AQUINO</td>
<td>US wants no deal on hostages: Shultz 01b, 02a 13 Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. AMBASSADOR BOSWORTH REFFERS SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINE PRES.</td>
<td>Untold truth. 06a 07 March.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE MILITARY LEADER THREATENS SPLIT WITH GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>VOA ordered to praise Iran during hostage talks. 02d 01 Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE AIDE SUGGESTS ENRIQUE L.</td>
<td>Washington wants allies to join Iran trade curb. 02g 29 Oct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAVE</td>
<td>We won't abandon Contras. 05a 26 Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE DEFENSE MINISTER ENRILE ADDRESSES CROWD OF 3000</td>
<td>White House ignored all Warnings. 2e 20 Jan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. APPEAL CT DENIES ALLEGED U.S. CUSTOMS TO KEEP MARCOS RICHES</td>
<td>White House tried to influence Tower report. 01b 07 Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MURDER OF PHILIPPINE ARMY LIEUTENANT REMY RACHIDAN DISCUSSED</td>
<td>Will we know our interests. 04c 18 Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINE DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS EME BFT WITH PRES AQUINO</td>
<td>Years of a growing love affair. 06b 15 Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. AMBASSADOR BOSWORTH REFFERS SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINE PRES.</td>
<td>Zayed tells US to revamp policy. 01b 11 May.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 7. Index to the San Francisco Chronicle, 1986.**

**Figure 8. Saudi Gazette Index, 1987.**
The Times Index give the main heading BOOKS (TITLES AND REVIEWS) but does not give the name of the reviewer (figure 9). The Washington Post Index enters all reviews under generic headings: CONCERT REVIEWS; BOOK REVIEWS (giving authors' names followed by book titles—see figure 10). The Chicago Tribune Index includes reviews under relevant subject headings: ART, BOOK REVIEWS, MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS, etc.

Augmenting titles

Headlines do not always contain terms accurately representing the contents and concepts of the news story: this is the drawback in many computer-produced indexes. In word-derivative indexing the word 'to appear this is the drawback in many computer-produced...

In summary

News analysis is concerned with the analytical and critical evaluation of news titles, subtitles, leading paragraphs, single terms, compound phrases and statements which make up news stories. It is also an identification of central themes, subthemes, unrelated aspects and potential syntagmatic relations of subjects. Without an intellectual approach, consistency, professional skill, imaginative insight and a gifted memory, indexers would find it a stupendous task to analyse the contents of a news story and simultaneously identify the indexable concepts. Recognition of concepts which express the news leads indexers to formulate descriptors closely related to newspaper language. In the absence of any predetermined news thesaurus, the process of devising new descriptors will continue for a considerable time. A wide variety of new thesauri produced by different newspaper organizations and indexers is available.

References

17. AIRS, op. cit., 127.
18. Friedman, op. cit., 127.

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**NEWSPAPER INDEXING**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Blue Cross-Blue Shield will offer insurance coverage for in-patient drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs for federal employees (photo) (m)

Blue laws
see Sunday legislation

Blues (Songs, etc.)
see also Chess

Boats and boating
see also House-boats

Board games
see also Chess

Boards and education
see also School boards

Boards of trade

Nicaragua
Nicaragua accusses Chamber of Commerce vice pres. Guillermo Quim Tui for spying for CIA (s)

Boats and boating
see also House-boats

Boning
Reeling
Saltfish

Submarines

Accidents and injuries

Griffis O'Neill pleads not guilty to charges in boat crash case near Mesh of Gian Carlo Coppola, son of film director Gian F. Coppola (s)

Bombers
see also Bombs

Columbia
photo of 3 Colombian policemen trying to disarm bomb in Nemcos; policemen are killed during process (s)

France
bomb explosion demolishes automobile in Toulouse. France killing driver and all 3 passengers (s)

4 members of French right-wing group killed in car explosion (s)

Germany, West
Palestinians arrested in Berlin discotheque bombing received aid from Syrian Embassy in West Germany (s)

German woman is arrested in connection with July terrorist bombing death of top Siemens executive (s)

Italy stresses Jordanian student allegedly involved in Apr. bombing of West Berlin disco (s)

bomb explodes outside Dresden Bank in Marburg (s)

Honduras
Honduran journalist Rodrigo Wong Arevia's car and house damaged by bomb (s)

Iraq
car bomb kills 11 in Iraqi city of Qora (s)

car bomb kills 20 persons in central Tehran (s)

Bone marrow
see Marrow

Bone Diseases
see also Osteoporosis

Book censorship
see Censorship

Book industries and trade
see also Bookstores and bookselling

Book lending
see Libraries—Circulation, loans

Book reviews

Merkis, Daphnis. "Encounter" (photo) (m)

Ambler, Eric. "Here Lies An Autobiography" (photo) (m)

Barker, Clive. "Clive Barker's Books of Blood: Volumes 1,2;3" (photo) (m)

Barker, Clive. "The Inhuman Condition" (s)

Barnd, Mary. "Time and the White Tigress" (s)

Beach, Edward L. "The United States Navy: 200 Years" (photo, illus) (m)

Boyle, Walter J. "The Wild Blue" (photo) (s)

Brandt, Willy. "Arms and Hunger" (photo) (m)

Bruce, Leon. "The French of Renown: Fame and Its

A & P, - speculation on involvement in UK takeover bid, June 12, 23h; will not join venture, 14, 25b

Aanen, Lennard (US-ER) - audit deputy PM mtd to Govt brains trust commission on economic reform, June 23, 8g

Asbury, J.R. (Maj.) - record prices paid for magnificent sale of collection at Sotheby's, June 21, 5a

Asbury National Building Society:
Customer accounts see Building societies

PLC status - compresses flotation plans, June 3, 17b; savers and borrowers given deadline to return form for free shares, (ST) 4, D17f; flotation close to postponement, 4, D32f; ruling due, 6, 25f; Building Societies Commissioner rules that co. must give cash payment to young savers, 7, 1e; was permission for flotation, 7, 25f; City comment, 7, 27f; impact of flotation summarized, conduct of accountants to be investigated, 10, 23a; note on share price, (ST) 11, D17f; immigration counselor calls for judicial review of flotation approval, 13, 25f; likelihood of court action fades, 14, 2pf; speculation on share price, 15, 25f; share value set, 16, 25f; advice to new shareholders, 17, 23c; Barclays share offers share selling service, 21, 27c; IG Index predicts share price, 23, 23c; note on success of share offer, 24, 17f; subscribed twice over; Sterling Asset management caters to account holders confused by account debit notice, 24, 23c; note on cheap share-dealing services, (ST) 25, D13a; City institutions advised against chasing shares, 26, 25f; further note, 27, 25a; society expresses confidence in investor support as share applications deadline approaches, 28, 25f;

Figure 9. The Times Index, 1989.

Figure 10. Washington Post Index, 1986.
NEWSPAPER INDEXING

Subscription television See Pay television.

Success

"Impostors feel their success is unreal" TS O 786 p62

Sudan

Relief groups will defy Sudan rebels' threat MG O 136 p68
Sudan relief flight cancelled G&M O 286 p9
Breze from Canada touches Sudan G&M O 146 pA1A
Mother Teresa in Sudan in attempt to end civil war VS O 286 pA4
Mother Teresa in Sudan to get relief food move, G&M O O 66 pA1A1
Sudanese claims food aid grounds TCH O 686 pA8
Sudan relief flights dealt final blow G&M O 886 pA10
Operation Rainbow approaches list for flight of mercy G&M O 986 pA14
Sudan wages war among the runes - Valpy (CH) G&M O 1086 pA7
Operation Rainbow gets off the ground with 2 mercy flights G&M O 1386 pA10
Food, drugs flown south in the Sudan G&M O 1486 pA12
Operation Rainbow's food flights for Sudan live off at last MG O 1486 pA4
Sudan aid begins CH O 1486 pA12
Crisis alleviated in southern Sudan city; Operation Rainbow's organizers careful not to celebrate victory G&M O 1586 pA9
Sharp justice: Sudanese surgeon proud of role in amputations of thieves' hands G&M O 1686 pA1A6
Experts spur on ancient laws' worth G&M O 1886 pA8
"Starving millions" in Sudan a myth relief workers say TS O 2786 pA3
Flit of last resort works to aid Sudan G&M O 3286 pA17

Supercomputers

Federal tax program key to computer project G&M O 2886 pA11A
NS computer plan likely won't be viable expert says TS O 386 pA10
Supercomputer planned for Sydney HCH O 386 p12
Sydney supercomputer centre races deadline to quality for tax credit G&M O 386 pA11
Cape Breton computer plan "dead," invest G&M O 786 pA8
Supercomputer in jeopardy Ottawa may reduce investors tax credit HCH O 886 p1A1
Supercomputer seeks clients TS O 1086 pA11A6
Graphics company is first to hire university's new supercomputer TS O 1886 pC3
Donahoe "reactiving" supercomputer proposal HCH O 2886 pA9

Supermarkets

Daily departments

In-store shops give estersy mogestion* WFP O 2186 p33
In-store delicatessen a worry for restaurants* MG O 2286 pA4

Superstores

New Steinberg superstores will be twice as big MG O 286 pC1

Surgery

See also Plastic surgery
Gary gets artificial right arm looks forward to success TS O 386 pA7
Fetus taken from womb for successful surgery MG O 886 pA2
Surgery on fetus reported CH O 886 pA11
Baby Mitchell's survival illustrates new dilemma* VS O 1186 pB6

SYNAGOGUES

Toronto

Residents lose light to stop synagogue in neighborhood TS O 3186 pA16

Syn Crudie Canada Ltd.

Syn crudie appears as Masse missing CH O 2486 pA1
Syn crudie expansion plans are in trouble without help CH O 2586 pA10

Syndical des fonctionnaires du Quebec

Government makes concessions in public-service contract offers MG O 2286 pA4

Syria

British prosecutor fingers Syna in bomb plot CH O 786 pA1
Clark orders envoy to return from Syna VS 786 pA8

Baby Mitchell's survival illustrates new dilemma* VS O 1186 pB6

What's in a title?

In Scholarly Publishing 22 (3), April 1991, Anne B. Piternick surveys book, journal and article titles, including their implications for indexing.

The informational content of titles is important for abstracting and indexing services, which of course use substantive words in titles as subject indicators rather than indexing articles alphabetically by their titles. H. Peter Luhn took advantage of the informational content of titles in creating the KWIC indexing system, using a computer to manipulate title keywords in context as indexing terms. Meaningful keywords therefore occur increasingly in the titles of articles; they have a higher information content in science, technology and law than in the social sciences and the humanities. Titles of papers in chemistry have become lengthier as well as more informative as an effect of KWIC indexing. The Chemical Abstracts Service developed a computer program to classify documents automatically by comparing individual word titles with words in a reference dictionary, which correctly assigned 78% of the documents to major section groupings, and 67% to specific sections or cross-references, at the rate of 100 documents per second. Including the journal title in the process increased the accuracy of the results.

Where titles are obscure, abstracting and indexing services increase their informational content by adding substantive words or explanatory comments in parentheses, a process known as 'title enrichment'. The Arts & Humanities Citation Index includes a 'Permuterm' subject index based on permuted title keywords. Ten per cent of English or have their spelling changed to conform to English or American usage, and abbreviations, symbols and nomenclature may be standardized. Where patent specifications have deliberately vague titles, more meaningful ones may be substituted.

Abbreviations of journal titles sometimes lead to errors such as the creation of a spurious Intercontinental Ballistics Missiles Journal for the IBM Journal published by International Business Machines.

Altogether fascinating findings in a thorough 14-page study ('From incipits to colon counts: a natural history of titles', pp 170–83).