

References

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2. On this see Van der Werff, Y. *Council of Europe Information Report on the Cultural Heritage of North Cyprus*, Doc 6079, 6 July 1989, 15.
3. Hill, G. *A history of Cyprus* (4 vols). Cambridge, 1940–52.
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THE INDEXER Thirty years ago

Technology to the fore

The spring, 1965 issue of *The Indexer*, Volume 4, No. 3, had forty pages of text, predominantly technological.

In 'A scientific examination of codification', F. R. Gurney claimed, 'in the scientific and engineering fields, the functions of indexing, classification and codification . . . have become almost synonymous. In engineering particularly, a new specialist is emerging . . . in one branch he is a Compiler; in another, a Compiling Engineer; in another, a Documentation Clerk. . . . The essence of his work is the documentation of all aspects of Science and Engineering'. Gurney examines several codification systems used in these fields—GRACE, NATO's, UNESCO's ISIC, KOMPASS, BRISCH, 3-letter—in over five pages of text with seven pages of illustrative figures.

G. J. Narayana and K. Ramaswami had conducted a study 'with special reference to subject indexing, examining indexes to individual volumes of 30 periodicals in the field of science and technology'. They noted 'the widely differing types of indexing practices in use today' for work on periodicals, and observed that a major contribution to the improving of indexes to periodicals had been the Society of Indexers' distribution of a leaflet, *Standards for indexes to learned and scientific periodicals* to editors and publishers (in 1960): 'the first and only effort directed exclusively at periodicals'. Two appendices of tables show details and pattern of subject indexing as followed by research, technical and trade, and educative periodicals. The authors conclude, 'A study of indexes to individual periodicals . . . yields valuable information on the anatomy and physiology of the periodical itself'.

Hard-nosed technology continues with R. C. Wright's 'Analytical index to documents on aerodynamics' (two pages). Two new systems, WADEX (word and author indexing) for retrospective search, and uniterms for co-ordinate indexing, are described.

More generally, Ronald Sturt surveys books on the heritage of libraries. The first pages of 'Comments and extracts' from press reviews mentioning indexes appear, including Anthony Powell's 'To publish it without an index was worse than a crime: it was a blunder. Even a phoney one would have made a nostalgic Dada gesture'.

The conditions of the Wheatley Medal are published, with further expansion (the award is to be limited to indexes compiled by individuals, not by corporate bodies); while as a postscript to the award for 1963 reported in the previous issue of the journal, a Highly Commended for that year is now also announced (Joyce Line for *Salaries in public services in England and Wales*).

Correspondence considers humour in indexing (rather ponderously) and indexing the peerage. G. Norman Knight is notable in providing fillers and short items. Eight more books are reviewed, chiefly on libraries.

H.K.B.

Can it be?

'The senior librarian . . . Joyce Babcock . . . was a woman without vision or curiosity; her distaste for books was equalled only by her dislike of people. . . . Helen often wondered at her choice of career. It had something to do with order, she decided; Joyce mistrusted books for their content, but liked the way they could be marshalled.'

—Penelope Lively in *Passing on* (Deutsch, 1989).