Indexes and indexing


These 21 papers reproduced from AusSI’s 1999 conference in Hobart, Tasmania, show a wide spread of subjects: from ‘the difficulties, intricacies and joys’ of indexing a 19th-century settler’s wife’s diary, finding it ‘a mine of information on the social customs of the day’ and much besides, to the need for classification in metadata for a web gateway. I found particularly original and interesting Simon Cauchi’s ‘pouring some cold water on received wisdom’ about ‘passing mentions’ as being not indexable, and pleading that ‘this much-repeated rule admits of so many exceptions that it can be considered no more than a half-truth’; Mary Ann Chulik on ‘the mysteries of fiction indexing’; and Ann M. Philpott on ‘indexing and the editing process’, suggesting that ‘we should think of our indexes as stories – stories of useful information which excite and invite our readers to further explore our indexes . . . an index is an outline and synopsis of a book’s salient points and features’.

Outstanding is ‘Crosscultural terminology: politics enters indexing’ by Geraldine Trifritt, so titled because ‘I want to emphasize the political nature of terminology . . . within cultures’ and ‘access to information is a political issue’. These 12 pages chiefly consider the problems for an English-speaker indexing Aboriginal texts, where terminology is so different:

Standard English tends to focus on the properties of things – measuring and specifying, controlling and analysing, working out new ideas and organizing. Whereas Aboriginal languages focus on the qualities of things – on people, and how they relate to each other, on land and spiritual ideas, and the connection between them.

The replacement of original tribal names is seen as oppression and de-identification, and there are taboos on using people’s names for a period following their deaths – a most difficult problem for indexers, ‘not to include the names of prominent Aboriginal politicians, activists or artists in the index’ to books featuring Aboriginal people. A section on ‘World-view and folk taxonomies’ suggests that, by classification, grammar ‘reflects a particular view of the world’, and attributes different folk taxonomies to different cultures. Details are given of Aboriginal classification systems for animal and plant life. This is surely a paper that should be reproduced in a journal of linguistics.

New technology is well represented, with articles on ‘Adding value to Australian bibliographic databases’ (Penny Braybrook), ‘Is classification needed to supplement subject indexing in metadata for a web gateway?’ (Prue Deacon), ‘Secondary indexing: the specifics of managing revisions, cumulations and spin-offs’ (Frances Lennie), ‘Medical indexing as a speciality’ (Alexandra Nickerson), and ‘Boiling the ocean: Tasmania Online’s experience in indexing the World Wide Web’ (Lloyd Sokvitne).

Unfortunately, the volume is not well produced. The first paper, ‘Whithering’ (no explanatory subtitle), includes 33 slides, each reproduced at full size (10.5 x 14 cm). Four of these are passages from indexes, but with no bibliographic details of their sources given. Sixteen consist only of short text, usually heading and three questions. Instead of being compressed into normal text format, they are all printed full size, each taking half an A4 page. Eleven pages show a single slide, with a few lines of comment beneath, leaving the lower part of the page blank. Thus the article runs to 27 pages, but need have taken only two-thirds of that space.

Nine photographs of groups at the conference are reproduced, but, tantalizingly, without identifying captions.

The index, alas, is a mish-mash. Alphabetization is out: ‘Shimmin, Anne’ (actually Anne Shimmins in the text) precedes ‘selection criteria’, ‘self indexing’ and ‘series fiction’. One subject heading appears with a capital initial (‘Author as indexer’), the rest as in ‘multi-authors 97, 100’ (this one not repeated nor cross-referred under ‘Author as indexer 82–5’, the only entry for authors). Page number runs appear variously as 68–9, 93–95, 30–35, 90–1, 105–6, 102–107, 133–36. Two turnover page number lines are not indented; one is, to the same depth as subheadings. All cross-references appear as see, both underlined and italicized. ‘Classification, folk see folk taxonomy’, ‘customer service see client satisfaction’, ‘procedures manuals see manuals’ and ‘software manuals see manuals’ (mis-tracking from the particular to the general, those last two) and other such entries each lead to only a single page reference, which should have been duplicated rather than cross-referred. ‘Passing mentions’ has neither cross-reference to nor duplication at ‘mentions’ – ‘mentions’ are not mentioned under M. The ambiguity of terminology in a volume containing articles on journals both as diaries and periodicals is not dealt with neatly by the entry:

journal indexing see Dawbin, Annie Baxter
see also periodical indexing

If the title of this volume is intended as a pun, the compiler of this index most certainly does not merit it.

Hazel Bell, editor, The Indexer, 1978–95

Indexing children’s books. K. G. B. Bakewell and Paula L. Williams with contributions from Elizabeth Wallis and Valerie Elliston. Sheffield: Society of Indexers, 2000. x, 66 pp. 21 cm. Bibliog., index. ISBN 1-871577-21-7 (pbk): £13.00 (UK), £14.00 (Europe), £15.50 (rest of world) (£12.00/£13.00/£14.50 to members of SI and affiliated societies; price includes p&p). (Society of Indexers Occasional Papers in Indexing, No. 5.)

The authors of Indexing children’s books have already written about their research in The Indexer (21(4), Oct. 1999, 174–9) and I have also reviewed their original report prepared for the British Library (The Indexer 22(1), April 2000, 52–3). Here it remains only for me to note the additions and changes in the new format as an Occasional Paper published by the Society of Indexers and to remind readers of the importance of the series.

It will be remembered that the research examined the use of indexes by children at the National Curriculum (England and Wales) Key Stage 2 (ages 7–11). Elizabeth Wallis has contributed a background chapter to the new publication, setting out the objects of the National Curriculum and its organization and the changes that have been made in the revised version introduced in September 2000, which place greater emphasis on electronic searching for information. She points out, however, that children still need to use books with indexes, and that skill in using indexes will help them in searching the Internet.

The other addition completes the picture by describing indexing workshops with older children. Valerie Elliston showed examples...
of indexes to groups of secondary-school children and recorded their comments on using indexes and on index terminology, ‘strings’ of page references, and the arrangement and presentation of indexes. The three 75-minute sessions with three different age groups produced much critical thought about indexes. The workshops were also pronounced ‘fun’.

While being based on the original investigations and conclusions, the Occasional Paper does not exactly reproduce the text of the original report. It includes all the original substance on the importance of indexes, their presentation and quality, the indexing process and the use of indexes by children and, of course, the authors’ recommendations, but it omits the detailed tables and questionnaires. The new format is clear and pleasing to handle.

The Occasional Papers are important because, however comprehensive the general books on indexing may be, the commissioned papers are written by practitioners who bring special experience and expertise to their subject and write in more detail than could be accommodated in a general textbook. Their lists of reference works bring together useful source material and their indexes are, of course, impeccable.

Mary Piggott, formerly University College London

Indexing aids


These five books are all reprints or new editions of titles published in the Oxford Paperback Reference series during the last few years. They help to keep up to date OUP’s continuing commitment to the publication of books on English grammar and linguistics and are claimed on the jacket of each to be ‘the world’s most trusted reference books’.

**Better wordpower** is divided into several sections. The main part relates to topics arranged so that the user may find a number of words relating to a particular subject. Examples of this are Architectural Terms, Currencies and Medicine. The reasoning behind this is good but the result is inevitably somewhat limited in scope, as only 26 topics are covered. The book has supplementary sections on spellings liable to confusion (e.g. ‘amend’ and ‘emend’), foreign phrases and antonyms. There is also a lexicon on the meaning of hard words – a subjective matter.

**The Oxford dictionary of idioms** contains about 5000 idioms covering metaphorical phrases, simes, familiar sayings and proverbs. Each gives the meaning of the idiom, its first known usage and sometimes an example. Some of these examples are taken from works published as recently as 1998. The cover of the book shows a humorous example of an idiom – a pig flying an aeroplane, with the relevant entry giving the use of a phrase similar to ‘pigs might fly’, in use in Britain in the 17th century.

**The Oxford spelling dictionary** was first published in 1986, the second edition in 1995, and this book is a reissue of the latter. Because it deals with the spelling of words and not other aspects of them, a glance through the list throws up some oddities of the language that may be overlooked in a conventional dictionary. For instance, the present participle of ‘queue’ is either ‘queuing’ or ‘queueuing’, which is possibly the only word in the language containing five successive vowels. Compared with the original work, this edition is vastly increased in size, from 299 to 624 pages, and is printed in heavier, easier-to-read type. It has many more proper names as well as brief explanatory notes. For instance, the first edition has ‘Glasgow’, the second ‘Glasgow (city, Scotland)’. American spelling is included where that differs from British. It also indicates where words should be split when they run on from one line to the next. This is a subject on which publishers differ and examples in this book vary considerably from those in the Penguin spelling dictionary (1990). Another factor is that computerized typesetting has played havoc in the matter of dividing words.


A comparison with earlier editions of all these books shows how the language is developing all the time. The introductions, as is so often the case with reference books, discuss peripheral matter that is of interest in its own right and may lead the reader to consider aspects of the subject not indicated by the title. They are all attractive and interesting, with relevant and sometimes comical cover illustrations, and they are a bargain at a total price of £36.95.

Philip Bradley, formerly Dundee College of Technology


It is 15 years since Margaret Drabble took on the daunting task of preparing the 5th edition of this classic work of reference, first edited in 1932 by Sir Paul Harvey. In 1985, the editor, ‘highly conscious of the responsibility of revising a much-loved volume’, declared in her introduction that she had largely ‘pursued the original policy of Harvey and his publishers’, apart from dropping his entries for ‘allusions commonly met with . . . in English literature’, to make space for new entries and expansion of old ones. To the 1985 edition she added ‘many past authors who have only recently received critical attention, and many modern authors born in or before 1939’.

The date of 1939 is perhaps significant, being the year in which Margaret Drabble herself was born. In this, the 6th edition of the *Companion*, the editor has more boldly abandoned the cut-off birth date, and writers as young as Nick Hornby (b. 1957) and Will Self (b. 1961) are included. Germaine Greer (also b. 1939) makes a belated appearance, as do many new women writers and publishers. And this time there has been ‘a judicious and tactful pruning of the entries for the many works of Sir Walter Scott’, so highly esteemed by Harvey, but now not such a commanding figure in contemporary literature, as a major omission from the volume. Drabble


It is 15 years since Margaret Drabble took on the daunting task of preparing the 5th edition of this classic work of reference, first edited in 1932 by Sir Paul Harvey. In 1985, the editor, ‘highly conscious of the responsibility of revising a much-loved volume’, declared in her introduction that she had largely ‘pursued the original policy of Harvey and his publishers’, apart from dropping his entries for ‘allusions commonly met with . . . in English literature’, to make space for new entries and expansion of old ones. To the 1985 edition she added ‘many past authors who have only recently received critical attention, and many modern authors born in or before 1939’.

The date of 1939 is perhaps significant, being the year in which Margaret Drabble herself was born. In this, the 6th edition of the *Companion*, the editor has more boldly abandoned the cut-off birth date, and writers as young as Nick Hornby (b. 1957) and Will Self (b. 1961) are included. Germaine Greer (also b. 1939) makes a belated appearance, as do many new women writers and publishers. And this time there has been ‘a judicious and tactful pruning of the entries for the many works of Sir Walter Scott’, so highly esteemed by Harvey, but now not such a commanding figure as in Harvey’s day.

Perhaps the greatest change, apart from the increased coverage of contemporary authors, particularly women, is the new emphasis on postcolonial literature. For the 5th edition, Drabble was guided by Harvey’s own criteria for the inclusion of foreign authors, who were included merely ‘as matter of allusion in English’. Now they appear in their own right, Anglo-Indian literature being represented by, for example, V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie, while the Anglo-Chinese Timothy Mo (born in Hong Kong in 1950) and West Indians Caryl Phillips (b. 1958) and James Berry (b. 1924) also merit inclusion.

But surely an essential criterion for being included in a companion to English literature in one’s own right is that one should write, or have written, in English. American writers are present – Whitman, Dickinson, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Stein, Ginsberg all have lengthy entries, despite the existence of a complementary *Oxford Companion to American Literature*. The diarist of the *Times Literary Supplement*, J.C., was, however, unduly demanding in his claim that C. K. Fong is the Nobel Prize winner for Literature, as a major omission from the volume. Drabble

The Indexer Vol. 22 No. 3 April 2001 163
promptly wrote to the TLS to apologize (‘Mea culpa’) for this ‘lamentable’ failure, but her letter was followed by one from another correspondent asking ‘why should Margaret Drabble have to apologize for failing to include . . . a Chinese author with French citizenship, little of whose work is yet translated into our tongue?’ Names of fictional characters are of course to be found, as in previous editions, sometimes given under forenames (Zuleika Dobson) and sometimes surnames (Melmotte, Augustus), on the sensible principle of placing them where the editor guessed most would expect to find them – but without cross-references.

The thematic entries have been greatly augmented, ranging from ‘Aga saga’ and ‘lads’ literature’ to ‘halyrecst and ‘structuralism and post-structuralism’. But here, the publishers have committed a hilarious gaffe in their press release. Noting an entire ‘dub, dub poetry’ (dub being a style of instrumental music, and dub poetry a style of poetry performed to a backing of dub music), the writers of the press release have conflated the two into one and announced a new genre entitled ‘dub dub poetry’.

The editor recognizes in her preface that ‘it is impossible to satisfy all demands in a one-volume book’. It is easy to quibble about who and what should or should not have been included in this new edition, but Drabble has done a superb job and no user of this authoritative reference book can fail to be grateful to her.

Christine Shuttleworth, freelance indexer

Information technology


The author states that it is not her goal ‘to attempt a definitive declaration of what information or information science is, but rather to stimulate a constructive and creative discourse upon both topics.’ She does not state the intended audience of the book, leaving it unclear whether the work is intended as an elementary introduction or a consciousness-raiser for those with some background in the field.

Each chapter touches briefly on a broad topic within the domain of information science. Chapter 1 discusses the pervasiveness of information in a variety of environments, and describes how it has been viewed over time. It is impossible to cover the history of information in seven or eight pages, but the discussion does a reasonable job of giving a sense of how information science developed. The second chapter consists of reprints of two seminal works on information science. Valuable though these two papers are, they are not enough to justify the price of the book.

While all the chapters are painfully brief, chapters 3 (Communication), 5 (Bibliometrics) and 7 (Evaluation of information) each provide a helpful overview of their topics. The problem is that the small page allocation for each topic barely permits an introduction, let alone stimulating discourse.

In the fourth chapter, on information retrieval, the lack of an audience focus is especially clear. For instance, Dialog and Lexis-Nexis are referenced in a context that requires the reader to know what these organizations do in order to understand the author’s meaning. An audience that has this level of background knowledge does not need several pages devoted to why arranging supermarket shelves alphabetically, or shelves of books by color, is not workable.

What this chapter does not do is discuss information retrieval to any significant extent. Most of the chapter is dedicated to the basics (library catalog card-level) of human organization of information. No attention is given to today’s realities, where electronic retrieval dominates and the vast majority of systems supplement human indexing with machine aids – if indeed the material is human-indexed at all. The idea that all information is humanly organized may be gratifying, but it hardly matches today’s realities.

I liked the following observation: ‘The Indexer. . . . the current state of the Internet can be likened to a library in which everyone in the community has donated a book and tossed it into the middle of the library floor.’ Descriptions of current automatic search and retrieval techniques seem accurate, and the need for human intervention in selection, evaluation and indexing is reinforced. Guidelines are given for the questions to ask in the evaluation of Internet resources. Text mark-

Jessica Milstead, vocabulary/thesaurus development consultant


This introductory textbook for undergraduate and postgraduate students of information management and library studies has been revised and restructured in this third edition (previous editions 1987, 1992) to take account of the increasing significance of electronic information resources.

Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it (Samuel Johnson).

Unfortunately, in the current field of information studies the definition of knowledge is not so easy. The Internet has had a significant effect on information and document delivery, and the latest information systems are developing into knowledge-based systems where information has structure, context and usability.

The book covers the nature of information and knowledge and how structure can be imposed: ways of describing documents; resource access tools, including indexing; organization of and access to knowledge through CD-ROMs, online searching, online catalogues and the Internet. However, the need to create and use printed indexes is not overlooked. Indexing and searching are seen as complementary and emphasis is placed on understanding users, their needs and search patterns before designing information systems.

I liked the following observation:

Retrieval is recognized to be a significant problem on the Internet . . . the current state of the Internet can be likened to a library in which everyone in the community has donated a book and tossed it into the middle of the library floor.
up and metadata are covered, but there is no mention of XML (Extensible Markup Language).

The index is comprehensive, though lacking style, and gave me confidence that I had found what I was seeking. However, references to indexing within the text are not always clear and in line with current practice. Quotes are taken from Mulvany’s Indexing books (1994), but the standard referred to is BS 3700:1988, with no mention of BS ISO 999:1996. There is mention of CINDEX, MACREX, etc., with a description of what dedicated indexing software is capable of doing, but without any mention of indexing electronic media. Examples would have made the description of features clearer. The references and further reading at the end of each chapter had few mentions after 1997. A lot has happened in knowledge management since then.

Caroline Barlow, freelance information scientist

**Slavic & East European Information Resources.** Edited by Karen Rondestvedt. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press. Four issues per year. ISSN 1522-8886. Annual subscription: individual $30.00, institutions and libraries $60.00; elsewhere price varies. First issue published 2000.

The charter (first) issue of this journal includes a tribute to Wojciech Zalewski on his retirement as Curator for Slavic and East European Collections at Stanford University Libraries, USA; the use of western bibliographic databases and research library catalogues to search for Slavic and East European language research materials in the social sciences and humanities, including the scope of named databases; a ten-year overview of the Hungarian press; Internet resources for Russian news, including newspapers; the acquisition of Russian publications through independent book agents; publishing trends in Poland; Slavic Internet news sites; Institute of Library and Information Science (at Jagiellonian University in Cracow) website as a link to Polish library Internet resources, in both Polish and English; REESWeb, a virtual library to facilitate the location of electronic material relating to Russia and Eastern Europe; publishing in Russia in 1998–9 and the effects of the Russian financial crisis on periodical and newspaper publication; reviews of books and electronic media. Members of the editorial board are from the USA, Russia, Poland and UK, with the editors in USA.

There are 30 countries involved, from Albania to Yugoslavia. Slavic & East European Information Resources is intended primarily for librarians and other information professionals. While maintaining scholarly standards, the journal will emphasize current and relevant developments, as well as the practical aspects of providing information to users. ‘A practical response to the challenges confronting libraries as they struggle to cope with the consequences of dramatic, transformational events …’ (Tania Konn, Glasgow University Library)

Although only the first issue, it contains valuable details of many resources for this area of study. ‘It is timely, useful, interesting, and long overdue’ (Jaryna Turko Bodrock, Harvard College Library).

Caroline Barlow, freelance information scientist

**Other subjects**


James J. O’Donnell is Professor of Classical Studies and Vice Provost for Information Systems and Computing at the University of Pennsylvania. This academic background provides a gracious and thought-provoking tour that truly takes readers from papyrus to cyberspace. Avatars (‘manifestations’) of the word are traced from the spoken word to the written word to the codex to the Internet. The revolutionary shifts, such as those from oral to written culture, from papyrus to manuscript, from monastic codex to the print culture, are examined. This book is particularly timely as we witness the release of books on the Internet (Stephen King), the emergence of the ebook market, and electronic publishing of scholarly journals.

Readers are challenged to re-examine the history of the written word and consider new directions for the future.

The challenge for us today, . . . is to balance old models with new modes of behavior that exploit the possibilities of the new environment effectively without disorienting us so completely that we forget who we are (p. 13).

This is a very well-written book that pulls together much from the past in a seemingly effortless manner. There are some gems, such as the short chapter on ‘The instability of the text’. This is perhaps one of the most lucid presentations of the problems we now face with incompatible electronic file and storage formats.

O’Donnell presents a seductive, persuasive argument for embracing the new technology with vigor. Persuasive as the argument may be, I am not convinced that I shall enjoy ‘postmodern authorless creations’ (p. 63) or the abandonment of linear narrative in favor of ‘multiple pathways and links’ (p. 135). Surely I cannot accept that the scholarly monograph published by a scholarly, distinguished press ‘is beginning to look more and more like a great lumbering dinosaur’ (p. 58). Who published _Avatars of the word?_ Harvard University Press. Why didn’t O’Donnell just post the text on his website?

Despite my disagreements with the author, I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the spoken/written/printed/electronic word. I am in debt to any author who stimulates me to reconsider my assumptions. O’Donnell’s writing at one point got me up on my feet to find my copy of the _Philopon_ , and re-read it so that I could judge for myself the context of Socrates’ statement, ‘that nothing worth serious attention has ever been written in prose or verse’.

There are eight pages of bibliographic notes that expand and document various topics. In addition to print-based references, O’Donnell provides Web addresses for many materials that are available online. These ‘notes’ are excellent and a rich resource for readers wishing to explore topics in more depth. Unfortunately, the index is awful. Had I not heavily annotated this book as I read, I would have been hard pressed to find some of O’Donnell’s choice remarks by relying on the near-useless index, which is mainly a collection of names and proper nouns with only a few concepts included (I counted ten concepts in the index). I am surprised that such a thoughtful book was allowed to be published with such inadequate access to material inside.

Lastly, this book has its own avatar. This is an electronic avatar (http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/avatars/) that is well worth a visit.

Nancy Mulvany, freelance book indexer


A 300-page book about bookshelves? Yes, indeed. The nature of a bookshelf, a structure to store books upon or in, has evolved along with the form of books. ‘Book’ is used very loosely here to describe containers for text; they may be scrolls or the more familiar codex. Civil engineer and historian Henry Petrofski takes readers on an enchanting trip that highlights the history of the ‘book’ and ‘bookshelves’.

While Petrofski presents an engaging introduction to the evolution of the book as we know it, much of the delight in this title is his asides. The discussion about the benefits of vellum and parchment as alternatives to papyrus includes:

Unfortunately, the animal-derived material did not come easily, for ‘one sheep yields no more than a single sheet (two leaves) for a folio book.’ Thus, ‘a very large flock of sheep’ might have to be slaughtered to obtain the parchment needed for a single codex.
The index as a book element comes up in various chapters, considered that the nature of the book (e.g. its size and informative Contents pages) did not merit an index.

Britton Goudie, freelance indexer.


This scholarly overview of reading in the West was originally published in Rome in 1995, in Paris in 1997, and now in English. Reading as we think of it today, as a silent, private practice using only the eye, was not always the way texts were read. A distinguished group of international scholars contribute 13 chapters that take us from the classical Greek world right up to the present time.

The organization of the book makes it possible to jump into any period one chooses. Thus one can visit reading in the early Middle Ages and then move ahead to the Renaissance. However, I would suggest that the beginning chapter be read first. Before people could read, there had to be something to read. While this is not a book about the history of writing, the development of alphabets in relation to the vocalization of sound is discussed. After the development of writing how can we know when people began to read? Jesper Svenbro, in the first chapter about archaic and classical Greece, writes:

If at first sight there seems to be a total lack of evidence regarding archaic Greek reading . . ., the situation changes the minute we turn to the vocabulary that was forged, from the archaic era on, to express the idea of reading. The Greek language possesses more than a dozen verbs signifying ‘to read’, attested from around 500 BC.

It is this focus on historical detail throughout the book that offers us insights into the practice of reading we take for granted today. How did people learn to read? What was it like to read from a scroll? (Often it was tedious and tiring, requiring the use of both hands to roll and unroll the scroll.) What did people read? (We are told that even in ancient Rome some people read ‘escapist texts’ for pleasure (volutas) and not for utilitas.) Where did people read? Who was reading? Did women read? How were books acquired? These are the types of questions the contributors attempt to answer.

Often the history of books, writing and reading involves extensive discussion of the Christian churches and, indeed, the scribes, monks and interpreters of the Bible play roles in this collection as well. It is refreshing to note the inclusion of Robert Bonfil’s chapter, ‘Reading in the Jewish Communities of Western Europe in the Middle Ages’.

Another theme that is developed throughout this collection is the notion of revolution. For example, the move from scroll to codex, from hand-copied manuscripts to movable print and the printing press are familiar technical revolutions often referenced. In this volume one will discover other types of revolution regarding reading. ‘Reading revolutions’ are concerned with the move from vocalized reading to silent reading, intensive versus extensive reading, and now the transition from reading a printed book to reading writings on a computer screen.

The index as a book element comes up in various chapters, primarily when other finding aids such as tables of contents and concordances are introduced. In the last chapter, ‘Reading to read: a future for reading’, Armando Petrucci briefly discusses classification systems (such as the Dewey Decimal System) from a cultural perspec-

Nancy Mulvany, freelance book indexer


As a practical guide to the complexities of copyright, this small book must be answering the requirements of many in the library and information services for this is its second edition. In considering copyright, much is made of the need, where possible infringement is being considered, to balance the right of the copyright holder and the right of users of copyright material.

There are two main exceptions to copyright. In the first, fair dealing and its limitations are dealt with, but fair dealing is difficult to define and Lord Denning is quoted as stating: ‘that what is fair will depend on the circumstances of the case’. It certainly includes ‘fair dealing within library work other than a database . . . for the purpose of research and private study’. ‘Library privilege’, the other exception, and the responsibility of librarians in prescribed libraries are discussed, as are the procedures they have to comply with to earn the indemnity they enjoy.

Collective licensing schemes obviate the need for an approach to the copyright holder directly, and a number, such as the Copyright Licensing Agency and the Newspaper Licensing Agency, are dealt with in detail. A chapter deals with the licensing of electronic resources.

In regard to the World Wide Web, it is pointed out that a single page can be subject to dozens of different copyrights, consents for each of which is required. Databases, however selected, collected and assembled in an original way, have copyright protection. The Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, the main statute, is covered, together with a list of certain statutory instruments, as also are European Union documents and international conventions. The chapter ‘Copyright in the work environment’ is rounded up with some practical questions asked by information practitioners.

The last three chapters form useful appendices. It was probably considered that the nature of the book (e.g. its size and informative Pages) did not merit an index.

I will admit to having wondered about this issue.

The book includes many illustrations. One of my favorites is Agostino Ramelli’s book wheel from 1588. The reader sits in a chair and faces a Ferris-wheel-like contraption that holds an open book on a shelf, the reader rotates the wheel to bring forward the next book. The wheel itself is fascinating, but Petroksi points out a very important detail in the illustration: the books on the shelves in the back of the room are all arranged vertically, with their spines out. In the 16th century the vertical arrangement of books that we now take for granted was highly unusual.

Books were valuable and I learned of chained libraries with ample details provided about where to attach the chains, designing the presses (bookcases) so that there could be rods for the chains to run through, and a place to put the chained book down upon. With an engineer’s eye for detail, Petroksi describes the design of monasteries and later libraries to allow light in so that it was possible to read during the daylight hours. In the ‘Up against the wall’ chapter, the stall and wall systems for book storage are detailed. The stall system arranges the bookcases perpendicular to exterior walls. The wall system differed in that cases were arranged parallel to and against the walls. It was Sir Christopher Wren who combined the wall and stall system in the design of Cambridge’s Trinity College Library (1695). Many who have spent hours and hours working in libraries give not a thought to the design of the building and arrangement of bookcases. After reading this book, it is clear to me that the design of the stacks in the old Doe Library (University of California, Berkeley) is what contributed to the spookiness and other-worldliness of that environment. And in another dark library, what a joy it was to be assigned a carrel of my own that had a window!

The Appendix is devoted to a wonderful discussion about the order/arrangement of books. The typical systems are reviewed: by author, by title, by subject. Other schemes are also presented: by read/unread books, by order of acquisition, by enjoyment, by sentimental value. There is also a discussion about shelving books with their jackets on or off. Leaving the jacket on conceals the binding, which does have a character of its own, but it also protects the binding. In any event, dust jackets do take up valuable space on the bookshelf, once calculated to be 2.5 percent of the total, which is space enough to accommodate a small public library for every million books.

The book on the bookshelf is a charming and insightful book that will warm the hearts and excite the minds of those who work with books. The bibliography and the index are both excellent.

166 The Indexer. Vol. 22 No. 3 April 2001
tive and concludes that the hierarchy in Dewey ‘shows, on the one hand, a perpetuation of earlier schemes of knowledge and, on the other, a deliberate application of the secular, scientifically oriented values of American culture of the time and of Western positivistic culture in general.’ He then examines Italian adaptations of Dewey, which prove interesting but still present the canon of Western culture with serene certainty, displaying no doubts or hesitations.

Petrucci also turns his attention to the audiovisual media and the television remote control device that allows viewers to move from one channel to another, a practice called zapping:

The practice of zapping and the interminable plots of the soap operas have created potential readers who not only know no ‘canon’ or ‘order of reading’, but have not acquired the respect, traditional in book readers, for the order of the text, which has a beginning and an end, and is thus intended to be read in a precise sequence established by someone other than the reader. Such new readers, however, are also capable of following an extremely long serial sequence of events, provided those events reflect the mythical hyperrealism typical of narrative fiction of a so-called popular sort.

Although this is not truly a book one would read for voluptas, it does provide a detailed background for so many modern discussions about the impact of electronic books, the decline of literacy, and virtual libraries. Each chapter is accompanied by extensive notes for readers wishing to obtain more information. The index is thorough and allows easy access to topics.


A quote from the jacket blurb indicates that

... the book trade from an early date seized on travellers’ tales and narratives of exploration as a saleable commodity ... by the nineteenth century, guide books ... were included in travellers’ luggage and in emigrants’ shipboard libraries, whilst wealthy armchair travellers could enjoy colour-plate books evoking the scenery of exotic and distant lands.

It is interesting how there is a world of difference, literally, between the traveller and the tourist. While the majority of us wallow in other people’s footprints, those hardy few, the literate band of those bound for Australia. The chapters are thus very diverse but also rather esoteric and not what one would immediately expect from a book on travel writing. It is also academic in design and style, with references and notes at the end of each chapter, which does not make for easy or entertaining reading. A rather old-fashioned index completes this book; all entries begin with capitals, so the subject matter does not stand out from the names, and there are en rules to lead the sub-entries. The whole book has a feel of a dry, academic text, despite its 1999 publishing date, but no doubt its intended market will value the nuggets inside.

Nancy Mulvany, freelance book indexer


I am not quite sure why this book has been compiled. It looks pretty, and many a lazy journalist might find it handy to use; it is, after all, much smaller than the usual dictionaries of quotations. After-dinner speakers might find some pithy remarks added from this new volume as well. About 10 per cent of the quotations are late 20th century, and so unlikely to be in the other publications. But use the index in the old familiar works, and your thematic problem is answered. And the entry for Asia is six entries long (for the whole of India, China, anywhere east of Israel). American Cities, on the other hand, has 14 entries, Love 58, Loyalty 8 and Luck (see also chance) 6.

It is quite fun to sit and browse through; there are a few chuckles and reminders of things said, and exactly which words were used in the first place, rather than the bowdlerized version we probably all use. But no matter how I try, I really cannot justify spending £14.99 on this, when the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, at about double the price, has more than double the content.

Pamela Le Gassick, freelance indexer


In The Indexer (22(1), April 2000, 14–20), David Crystal discussed the indexing principles and procedures used in compiling this book. He called it ‘one of the most enjoyable books it has been my good fortune to write’; it is certainly one of the most fascinating it has been my good fortune to read or, rather, dip into, since it is a book of quotations about language – surprisingly, the first on this subject. Yet, as one dips, it is almost impossible to put down. What did St Augustine say about grammar, for instance? ‘I was told that it was right and proper for me as a boy to pay attention to my teachers, so that I should do well at my study of grammar and get on in the world.’ Four quotations further on, we read Ambrose Bierce: ‘Grammar, n. A system of pitfalls thoughtfully prepared for the feet of the self-made man, along the path by which he advances to distinction.’ It is a sad reflection on this reviewer that she did not return to the Confessions but ordered a copy of Bierce’s A Devil’s Dictionary.

The quotations are arranged thematically under 65 headings within seven main sections: ‘Language’; ‘Languages’ (diversity, translation, teaching); ‘Analysing language’ (speaking, pronunciation, reading, writing, grammar); ‘Good and bad language’ (eloquence, conversation, truth and lies, keeping quiet); ‘Words’ including slang and swearing; ‘Style, genre and variety’ covering language in poetry, politics, law, music, religion, science and media; and ‘Postscript’ on the use and abuse of quotations.

The general index is a model for the user-friendly approach as it gives the key words and phrases in a quotation as separate access points. Iris Murdoch’s ‘goodness is a foreign language’ is referenced under ‘goodness – is a foreign language’ and ‘foreign language, goodness is a’. (How often do we accurately remember a ‘well-known quotation’?) There is an index of authors with their dates, nationalities and professions, giving a valuable contextual dimension, and a separate index of key authors’ and others famous for their comments on language. In anticipation of a second edition, readers are invited to tell the editors of their own favourites omitted from this collection, but finding ideal quotations is not easy. Brian Friel’s play Translations, entirely about language and full of memorable numbers, would surely be a source for inclusion, yet it is almost impossible to find a sentence that could be used in this anthology: the impact relies on the dramatic situation. However, at least one reader of the first edition will keep searching, and looking forward to the second.

Michele Clarke, freelance editor and indexer

The Indexer Vol. 22 No. 3 April 2001

Valerie A. Elliston, freelance indexer and lecturer in English
Publications received and publications noted


This work and the Marriage and census indexes listed above between them list around 2500 indexes.

Indexers wanted!

Indexers with recognized qualifications are invited to tender for the job of indexing Volume 22 of The Indexer (four issues concluding with No. 4, October 2001). The index will be published as a loose-leaf insert in the October 2001 issue.

Please contact Christine Shuttleworth, Executive Editor, The Indexer, Flat 1, 25 St Stephen’s Avenue, London W12 8JB, UK; email: cshuttle@dircon.co.uk

Tenders should be submitted by 1 July at the latest.


CINDEX™ for Windows and Macintosh

The choice is yours

- easy to use
- elegant design
- outstanding capabilities
- unsurpassed performance
- legendary customer support

CINDEX™ does everything you would expect and more...

- drag and drop text between indexes or word-processor
- view and work on multiple indexes at the same time
- check spelling with multi-language capabilities
- embed index entries in RTF-compatible word-processor documents
- exploit numerous powerful capabilities for efficient data entry and editing: search and replace, macros and abbreviations, auto-completion, etc.

Download a free demonstration copy along with its acclaimed User’s Guide and see for yourself why CINDEX is the foremost indexing software for indexing professionals.

For Windows (‘95 & higher) and for Macintosh (OS 8.0 & higher)

Special editions for students and publishers are also available.

For full details and ordering information: www.indexres.com

Simply the best way to prepare indexes