

Reviews

Edited by Philip Bradley and Nancy Mulvany

Indexes and indexing

Early periodical indexes: bibliographies and indexes of literature published in periodicals before 1900. Robert Balay. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2000. xxx, 317 pp., 23 cm. Bibliog., indexes. ISBN 0-8108-3868-0; \$55.00.

When the author worked as a reference librarian in Sterling Memorial Library at Yale, he 'often wished for a guide that would list the sources that index the periodical literature from the beginnings of publishing in periodical form in the 1660s through the early 1900s'. Robert Balay's *Early periodical indexes* is the result of this desire. Obtaining information about periodicals from approximately 1920 onward is not difficult. However, it was far harder to locate earlier sources (pre-1900) prior to the publication of this book.

Surely Balay's book is a godsend for reference librarians. Undoubtedly, it is already a classic in the library world. For anyone interested in the history of periodical indexing, Balay has provided an indispensable reference source.

The book is divided into three main sections. The front matter contains a useful Introduction to the book and an extensive Source Bibliography. The back matter includes no less than four indexes: Authors, Titles, Subjects, and Dates of Coverage. All index entries refer to reference locators for the bibliographic entries themselves rather than page numbers. The Subjects index is quite useful, particularly the cross-references. The subject headings are based on *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH). Generally I object to LCSH headings for a book index, however, in this case the headings are appropriate for the audience and the cross-references help the rest of us.

The main body of the book, the Bibliography, contains six classified groups: General, Humanities, History and Area Studies, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Science and Technology, Library and Information Science. Within each group the categories are further broken down into subcategories appropriate for the topic. The Table of Contents displays this classification scheme quite nicely.

All bibliographic citations are detailed and, as the author notes, based on the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (*AACR2*) and International Standard Bibliographic Description. References to online documents were complete and those that I checked were available. For the most part, the bibliographic entries are of English and West European origin. Balay has 'included any bibliography or index, whenever published, if it in some way gives access to pre-1900 periodicals by date'. Approximately 400 titles are cited.

Beyond the gathering and arrangement of this bibliography, the author's annotations are extremely valuable and informative. That the author has thoroughly reviewed these documents is apparent. While the annotations often provide an overview of the topics covered and the arrangement of the bibliography/index, some comments are more subjective. Here are some examples:

Second bibliography and catalogue of the fossil vertebrae of North America (EF11a): Very thorough.

American geological literature, 1669 to 1850 (EF12): Printed from reduced typescript, making pages crowded and unattractive. Extremely useful in spite of that.

Index of archaeological papers, 1665-1890 (DE4): There is no subject index, an unfortunate omission. This index began publication in *Archaeological review* (1888-90), but when that journal died was complete only through the letter B.

The English novel in the magazines, 1740-1815 (BE23): The catalog is very carefully prepared, with all the needed indexes and supporting lists. Impressive.

One of the longest annotations is devoted to Chadwyck-Healey's *PCI: periodicals contents index* (<http://pci.chadwyck.com/>). Balay provides a detailed description of the scope and workings of this 'very large and ambitious index'. Currently (October 2001) *PCI* has indexed 12 million articles from 3615 journals and plans to include 20 million articles from 5000 journals. Balay states that *PCI* is 'the largest index to periodicals ever attempted' and that every journal 'is indexed over its entire run, extending backward in time to 1770'. 'It should therefore be an extremely useful source, particularly for research before 1900, where its coverage is unparalleled'.

While this Goliath of an index grows and grows in size, why would Balay's book be such a major contribution? *PCI* may be large, but the indexing policies followed by the compilers leave a lot to be desired. I will address only one of several deficiencies as noted by Balay.

The indexing process, however, rests on the contents pages as transcribed; the indexing staff not only did not see the articles at any point, they did not see the journals themselves. Additionally, the only attempt at subject indexing is to assign each journal to one of the 23 subject categories listed above; no subject terms are assigned to individual articles, and no enrichment terms are added. Neither is possible when the articles themselves are not examined.

That this approach to indexing is seriously flawed needs little comment in a professional journal of indexing. Robert Balay's *Early periodical indexes* stands in stark contrast to *PCI*. It has depth and demonstrates scholarship, a quality so often lacking in expansive but shallow Internet resources.

Nancy Mulvany, *freelance book indexer*

Indexers and indexes in fact and fiction. Edited by Hazel K. Bell. London and Toronto: The British Library/University of Toronto Press, 2001. 160 pp. 22 cm. Index. ISBN 0-7123-4729-1 (pbk): £16.00.

When we realize that Hazel Bell indexed A. S. Byatt's highly complex novel *Possession* originally as a labour of love (among a few dozen other tasks), we can expect this collection to reflect the editor's wit and dedication to detail. She does not disappoint us in any of the three sections. First we have a history of the index enlivened with examples from earlier centuries: quaint, comic, over-elaborate or downright dreadful; many showing blatant prejudice or attack, and one used as a form of possible blackmail unless a spot of protection money was forthcoming. There is even an index whose entries all share the one page reference: 'see Pulping' (Hilaire Belloc's *Caliban's Guide to Letters*). Why? See pages 63-4.

The next section covers fiction and verse, including examples from Pope, Richardson and Nabokov. We also have a sample of the humorous index to A. P. Herbert's collections of imaginary court cases, a good index to an anthology of bad verse, and an example of story-telling by index. Perhaps the best way of conveying the flavour of this amusing and informative book is to give some of the irresistible item headings: *Mythical indexing*; *Indexmanship* (Stephen Potter, who else?); *Crampling it onto a page*; *Deer-stalkers and data banks*; *The subject elusive: anti-index*; and *Indexing in Baker Street*. Not only are there examples of indexes, but of the way indexers are regarded in fiction, especially

in the works of Barbara Pym; readers will be familiar with many of the quotations in *The Indexer*. There is a fascinating foreword by A. S. Byatt, an introduction by the editor, and contributions from well-known SI members. There is, of course, an index of authors and contributors, and Hazel's poem, *Life: not an index*, which sums it up for all of us.

The cover cartoon depicts the indexer as male, chaotic, impoverished and working with card boxes. A case can be made for the first three, but the fourth reinforces the prejudice of the general public!

Valerie A. Elliston, *freelance indexer and lecturer in English*

Indexing: the manual of good practice. Pat F. Booth. Munich: K. G. Saur, 2001. xiv, 489 pp. 22 cm. Index. ISBN 3-598-11536-9 (hbk): €110.00 (£60.92).

Pat Booth has provided a reference tool for every indexer. It is both comprehensive and informative. Based on the lectures from which most members have profited over the years, plus additional specialist information from friends and colleagues, this authoritative volume covers nearly everything anyone could wish to know about the strange world of indexing.

Using the index to the book, which is excellent, the answers to all those questions we all ask at some time or another can be found. Copyright in the work we have just done; software; invoices; actually getting paid. Equally, how to do it, the basic principles that every indexer should know before asking a publisher to pay for his/her work; the reference tools and additional reading that will answer the more complicated questions about names, elements, and the jargonistic terms for all the different academic disciplines. All this and more between two covers. In some ways, there is so much here it gives the indexer indigestion, in others, one wonders how anyone could get anywhere without it.

The section on running one's own business is pragmatic, the suggestions on how to get known in the field are sensible, and the warnings about sticking to one's own discipline(s) essential. Information on how the different formats require different approaches is helpful to anyone entering a new field of endeavour. Indexing a video can be quite daunting so it is good to have one's own ideas confirmed. The purpose of an index is also investigated. Why index the video in the first place? Is it for the prospective viewer, is it for a library catalogue? Each format has its own problems.

The different formats and their sub-divisions, such as academic and learned journals, plus trade and professional, plus consumer and special interest magazines, are all described concisely and the different approaches required for journals and books aimed at the same readership are well explained.

Regrettably the book suffers from the inevitably small readership and has been produced in a practical but unexciting format, almost as if the computer printout has been organised into standard book-sized pages and bound in that practical plastic library binding that is excellent for cookery books but less attractive on the bookshelves.

The price means that some of the people who really ought to buy it probably never will. Some of the important information is for those thinking of going into indexing and who really should not.

Most indexers go through a phase of wondering why on earth they are doing this particular index but these sections tell it how it is. Forewarned, as they say, is forearmed. Can you work on your own? Do you like words? Can you spell? Can you, in this modern day of nine-second scenes on the television, concentrate for more than 30 minutes at a time?

The browser in the bookshop may pick up this shiny blue book with the large type word INDEXING on the spine, but will they actually pay the price (£60) to learn how to do it? If they do, will they stick at reading the other chapters as well?

In spite of this, the publication is offered as a manual of good practice and every member of the Society of Indexers, both present and future, should take on board the information it contains.

Pam Le Gassick, *freelance indexer*

Running an indexing business. Edited by Janet Perlman. Medford, NJ: Information Today in association with the American Society of Indexers, 2001. xiv, 79 pp. 22 cm. Index. ISBN 1-57387-112-5 (pbk): \$31.25 (\$25.00 to ASI members).

This multi-authored book is a collection of 12 short pieces on some of the business aspects of freelance indexing. Some of the material has been published in *Key Words* (the ASI Newsletter), and some is summarized from various email listserv discussions. The chapters vary considerably in length and level of detail. The first, on business basics, is a very brief introduction to finances and taxes, getting work, time management and business expansion issues. Two chapters on offices and project management present descriptions by several indexers, giving a glimpse of different approaches to office location, equipment, and layout and project-tracking methods from initial client contact through project completion. Kate Mertes looks at the legal and tax status of US freelancers in her chapter, providing a good description of what it means to be an independent contractor, as well as how to deal with requests for private information from clients who are concerned about proving that you are not an employee.

Setting and collecting fees are among the most critical aspects of keeping a freelance business afloat, and several chapters deal with this. Jan Wright compares per-page and hourly rates, discussing when and why you might want to use each method, or a combination of the two. Nan Badgett's piece presents the practical issues involved in charging by the entry. Janet Perlman contributes a chapter on how to work up a fee proposal, then prepare and present it. A piece on techniques for dealing with late payments, summarizing the experiences of several indexers, rounds out the material on fees.

Client relations do not get as much coverage in this book as I would like to have seen, but Dorothy DiRienzi reminds us of the client's perspective in her piece on how book production and index assignment work. She covers editorial and production responsibilities and scheduling and how indexes are assigned, as well as giving advice about getting your résumé noticed, contracts, and communications and follow-up with editors. There is also a short piece on finding non-confrontational ways to educate low-paying clients about fair indexing rates.

Two of the longer chapters cover special business situations not every freelancer will encounter. Carolyn Weaver's chapter on moonlighting is an excellent presentation of the practical and ethical issues involved in indexing when you already have a 'day job'. Enid Zafran looks at the hiring of subcontractors by freelance indexers: why one might want to use subcontractors, selecting, training, and paying them, and some of the client relations issues raised by hiring them.

Because this book is so short and addresses so many aspects of running a freelance business, the information is limited. It is useful as an introduction to some of the issues freelancers must consider once their indexing skills are solid and getting work is no longer the only business priority. Some of the most important business questions I find myself worrying about as the years go by are not covered at all, however. I would have liked at least some coverage of strategic long-range business planning, client assessment and selection techniques, and rate increases, for example. Overall, this book will probably be most useful to freelancers who have not been in business too long, as a complement to the earlier ASI publications on starting a business and marketing. Non-US indexers will need to ignore the coverage of US tax and legal issues, but these are a very small part of the book. The index, by the book's editor, Janet Perlman, is clear and thorough.

Thérèse Shere, *freelance indexer*

Indexing aids

Moys classification and thesaurus for legal materials. 4th edn. Elizabeth M. Moys and others. Munich: K. G. Saur, 2001. xlvii, 552 pp. 24 cm. Indexes. ISBN 3-590-11502-4 (hbk): €165. (Previous edn 1992.)

A practical classification system, this work has been updated by Betty Moys with her Editorial Board and includes suggestions for use in *lis-moys-users* email group. The Moys system is adaptable for use in dedicated law libraries or general libraries that use the Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal systems. There are minor alterations to edition 3, so no need to reclassify a whole library, but growth areas have been expanded, and numbers are left free for further additions. Privacy law, hate crimes (anti-paedophile or homophobic crimes) and pro bono work are so new they were added after the book went to press.

Not being library trained, I was grateful for the detailed introduction, which included the principles of classification schemes. The layout of the schedules is clear with the K (Library of Congress) notation to the left, and the 340 decimal notation to the right of the page. Words printed in italics are necessary parts of the classification which are not used as terms in the index-thesaurus. The system is biased towards the English-speaking common law, but expands to all jurisdictions and legal systems, public and private law, primary and secondary sources. Examples of how to build up the classification numbers are clear and easy to follow. Alphabetical sub-divisions can be specified using Cutter numbers, and the Tables allow addition of fine details: dates; courts; legal forms and topics; persons, parties and legal capacity; non-legal forms and treatments. Subjects are connected by linking the class numbers of constituent elements.

Appendices cover criminology (a sociological rather than legal study) and Civil Procedure Rules terminology. The index of jurisdictions is an alphabetical listing of countries with their classification numbers. More than half the pages are taken up by an 'index-thesaurus' which includes all the specific terms in the schedules, appendices and tables. Preferred terms are in bold type, and conventional thesaurus notation (UF/use for, RT/related term, SN/scope note, USE) is employed.

Essential for law librarians, would an indexer find this publication useful? As librarians are major users, it behoves indexers to know and understand how they think, and where possible to provide as entry points terms that they expect. These terms make up the index-thesaurus. The subject subdivisions within the schedules, for instance Contract, Tort and Company law, could provide a useful basic structure for indexes in those subjects. As such, yes, Moys would be a useful addition to the bookshelf. However, the same terms (with definitions) could be found in any comprehensive law dictionary,

Moira Greenhalgh, *freelance indexer*

Thesaurus construction and use: a practical manual. 4th edn. Jean Aitchison, Alan Gilchrist and David Bawden. London: Aslib-IMI, 2000. xiv, 218 pp. 30 cm. ISBN 0-85142-446-5 (pbk): £50.00. (Previous edition 1997.)

For any book to reach a fourth edition is an indicator of its continuing importance. This title, first published in 1972, benefits from the renewed interest in taxonomies, classification, categorization, and the organization of information in general, that has arisen from the development of the Internet. Its aim continues to be 'to provide a practical, concise and handy guide to the construction of thesauri for use in information retrieval'. The main section identifies the same matters as in the third edition. After setting out the nature, purposes and uses of a thesaurus ('a vocabulary of controlled indexing language, formally organized so that *a priori* relationships between concepts are made explicit') factors affecting planning and design – such as the subject field, the type and quantity of literature, the kinds of users and their information needs, and the resources available – are considered.

Two of the indexer's central concerns are dealt with in the 'Vocabulary control' and 'Structure and relationships' sections. 'Vocabulary control' covers the use of preferred terms (descriptors, keywords) and non-preferred terms (terms that provide leads through *see* cross-references or *use* instructions); the forms in which terms can be shown – touching not only on grammar, but also spelling variants, transliteration and romanization, punctuation and capitalization, abbreviations, initialisms and acronyms; the choices to be made between various

types of terms (e.g. loan words, neologisms, slang and jargon, common and trade names, popular and scientific names, place names, proper names of institutions and persons); and the restriction and clarification of meaning (treatment and use of homographs and homonyms, scope notes, and definitions). 'Structure and relationships' illustrates the three basic relationships: equivalence – as in synonyms and quasi-synonyms, US/UK spelling variations, and singular/plural differences; hierarchy – genus/species (vertebrata: amphibia, aves . . .), whole/part (England: East Anglia: Essex . . .), class/instance (seas: Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea . . .), polyhierarchy (ear: acoustic nerve, and nerves: acoustic nerve); and association – terms related in other ways (e.g. art therapy: psychiatric patients). The use of classification (including notation) and facet analysis, as tools for finding and showing structure and relationships, is highlighted.

Other sections cover: specificity and compound terms; auxiliary retrieval devices; thesaurus displays; multilingual thesauri; construction techniques (finding, selecting and recording the terms, establishing the structure, editing, preparing a comprehensive introduction for users); thesaurus management (maintenance and modification, e.g. incorporation of new topics and terminology); and thesaurus reconciliation and integration (enabling compatibility and integration with other controlled languages).

An appendix contains the guidelines established by the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) for dealing with compound terms; for example, it is recommended that 'clay pigeons' should not be separated into 'clay' and 'pigeons' (the bound term has a meaning over and above its two parts), but 'stone' and 'floors' may be given separate entries.

Plentiful examples are given throughout the manual and there are extracts from several published thesauri in different subject fields. There is a 14-page bibliography.

The substantial index (around 1600 lines plus an introductory statement) uses section and 'paragraph' (subsection) codes as locators; this is not always helpful, as some subsections cover more than two pages, so that when opening the book to look for a particular subsection you may be faced with a double-page spread bearing no indication of its subsection code – only the page numbers. An asterisk added to a locator indicates hierarchical inclusion (the topic is covered in all the subdivisions of that section or subsection). The arrangement is word-by-word. The layout is clear, with set-out subheadings and plenty of surrounding white space.

The book is recommended not only to those charged with the responsibility of creating, maintaining or developing a thesaurus for indexing and retrieving information, but also to anyone who wants to know what thesauri are for and why they are necessary.

Pat F. Booth, *Registered Indexer and information/training consultant*

Information technology

Finding and using health and medical information on the Internet. Sue Welsh, Betsy Anagnostelis and Alison Cooke. London: Aslib-IMI, 2001. x, 317 pp. 23 cm. Illus., index. ISBN 0-85142-384-1 (pbk): £29.99.

In recent years there has inevitably been an ever-increasing use of the Internet for the accessing of medical information. Healthcare professionals use it for disease and drug information and to read medical journals, as well as for more general purposes. Patients seek information on medical conditions and for access to support groups. Many using the facility are fairly new to the Internet and this book aims to provide them with a starting point for the acquisition of the skills necessary to find, evaluate and use the information available in a discriminating manner.

It has five sections. Section 1 is described as an Internet quick tour and covers available sources of information, including reference tools (dictionaries, directories, etc.) along with more particular areas such as education, research projects and funding, molecular biology and resources to support evidence-based medicine.

The second section, 'Searching for information', includes search engines, web directories and how to use them, as well as how to search medical literature and the accessing of electronic journals. Section 3 deals with communication, both among professionals and with patients, and Section 5 looks at using the Internet browser to best effect and at creating Web pages.

Throughout the text attention is drawn to the disadvantages and pitfalls of Internet use in this subject field. In addition, Section 4 deals specifically with the very important topics of evaluation and the concerns caused by the quantity and variability of health and medical information on the Internet. The book ends with an alphabetical list of links and the index, which interestingly has as its first entry **+– notation**.

The emphasis in this text is on the resources available and how to go about using them, and as such is packed with information. However, as the introduction points out, it is not meant to be used as a directory of resources and so, for example, the reader looking for sites on drugs will not find drugs in the index, although helpful tips do occur in examples.

Anne McCarthy, *freelance indexer*

Other subjects

Everyday grammar. John Seely. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. 219 pp. 20 cm. ISBN 0-19-280116-3 (pbk): £7.99. (Oxford paperback reference.)

It is interesting how informal everyday usage seems gradually (some would say insidiously) to be taking over where the purist and traditional conception of grammar once reigned. In view of this the title of the book, *Everyday Grammar*, doubtless deliberately chosen, must be appropriate.

There are a number of examples. 'Like' is used as a conjunction of manner instead of 'as if' or 'as though'. In the absence of a neuter personal pronoun, the use of the plural pronoun 'they' instead of 'him/her' is found. 'None are' is often heard in spoken English where 'none is' finds a proper place in written English.

If such things can be considered by some as becoming changes in usage, there are others that must be regarded as errors. It is pointed out that, correctly, 'less' is used with uncountables and 'fewer' with countables. 'Also' is an adverb and not a conjunction, although sometimes used instead of 'and'. It seems scarcely necessary to mention, were it not a common conversational error; but, of course, 'I' must be the subject and 'me' the object or the word to follow a preposition.

As to the 'rule' that a preposition should not stand at the end of a sentence, the writer suggests that this is a 'rule' that can happily be ignored. As also the 'rule' that an infinitive should not be split, there being no justification for a 'rule', which, it is said, derives from Latin in which the infinitive is formed by a single word.

The grammar, normally considered a dry subject, is set out in readable style with a full coverage of examples – both of sentences showing the use of words, and of lists of words relevant to the text. A Glossary and Usage Guide is more full than an index could be. Throughout the book there is a scattering of Factboxes and Writing Tips.

The student and general reader cannot but learn from these pages.

Britton Goudie, *freelance indexer*

Alphabet to email: how written English evolved and where it's heading. Naomi S. Baron. London and New York: Routledge, 2000. xiv, 316 pp. 23 cm. Bibliog., indexes. ISBN 0-415-18685-4 (hbk): £16.99; ISBN 0-415-18686-2 (pbk): £11.99.

Assessing the development of written English, on both sides of the Atlantic, is a daunting concept. Naomi Baron has succeeded in writing a fascinating yet erudite, and quite compact, history that draws together threads from a bewildering variety of sources. As modern journalists are paid by the number of words, so 16th-

century scribes were paid by the linear inch of writing. Both need(ed) proofreaders. Punctuation developed the way it is because the printers made it so! Equally, much spelling is fixed for the same reason. Caxton has a great deal to answer for. Development of the index, such a useful tool and so needed in the ancient times, was dependent upon the invention of paper, which could be produced in quantity at a reasonable price.

It becomes clear that some of the linguistic developments over the centuries, particularly in the spoken word, make it surprising that anything produced in English can be understood by more than a handful of people. Anyone interested on what used to be called philology, and is now termed linguistics, will find their thoughts stimulated and their emails improved by reading this book. The bibliography is extensive, so further reading is encouraged. The indexes (name and subject) are fairly extensive and so far have provided the answers to the questions asked.

The book is published in London and New York, and seems to have been anglicized, although about once every fifty pages a spelling comes up and hits one in the face – proof, if proof were needed, of the difficulties the English-speaking/writing world has in ensuring that communication is comprehensible.

Pam Le Gassick, *freelance indexer*

Cataloging and classification for library technicians. 2nd edn. Mary Liu Kao. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2001. xiv, 146 pp. 21 cm. Bibliog., index. ISBN 0-7890-1062-3 (hbk): \$39.95/£33.12; ISBN 0-7890-1063-1 (pbk): \$19.95/£16.56.

Organizing material so that library users can find it is one of the main activities of any library's technical services department. Cataloging by hand was once the job for a professional librarian. However, since automation became the norm for library cataloging departments, nearly every library catalogs or has cataloging done for them in Machine Readable Cataloging format (MARC). This consistent format allows libraries to access cataloging from online databases such as the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Because of this, most libraries do far less original cataloging and much more copy cataloging. And with training, much of the copy cataloging work has been shifted from professional librarians to library technicians.

The first edition of this book (1995) was designed to be a textbook of cataloging and classification for library technicians enrolled in a two-year Library Technology Associate Degree or Certification Program at Three Rivers Community Technical College in Norwich, Connecticut. The second edition was prompted by changes in the field of cataloging, including the overwhelming presence of automation in even the smallest of libraries. The target audience for this edition is 'students with no library experience' and 'library technicians working in the cataloging department with little previous training'.

The topics covered are library catalogs, tools used for cataloging, descriptive cataloging, subject headings, classification, copy cataloging, cataloging on computers, the cataloging department, and issues and trends such as retrospective conversion and outsourcing.

Each chapter begins with a general introduction, and a short glossary of relevant terms used in the chapter. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of the chapter's topic, with references to standard cataloging tools such as *Anglo-American cataloguing rules (AACR2R)*, *Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH)*, *Dewey decimal classification and relative index (DDC21)*, and *Library of Congress classification schedules*. Numerous examples are used to illustrate each topic and each chapter ends with a list of review questions. The book ends with 23 suggested readings and a complete six-page index. Unfortunately, the last two pages of the index in the review copy were reversed, a problem that should be corrected in the next printing.

While this book may not appeal to the general public as such, it will be useful to its intended audience of students and library technicians. It is also a good overview for anyone who wishes to learn the basics about library cataloging and classification.

Nora Harris, *freelance indexer*

The concise Oxford dictionary of literary terms. 2nd edn. Chris Baldick. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. x, 280 pp. 20 cm. ISBN 0-19-280118-X (pbk): £7.99/\$14.95. (Oxford paperback reference.)

As we browse through this book, whatever we look for seems to be there. It is a comprehensive selection of literary terms and includes many that the average reader must find difficult and needing explanation. The book is written in readable style, so much so that, once the book has been delved into for a particular purpose, there is a temptation to allow the mind to travel further to yet other interesting items.

Words and phrases that, in the author's judgement, are well-understood are not included, nor are any that are self-explanatory. A spelling guide to many of the items is provided. Based on analogies (e.g. 'air' as in hair; 'aw' as in law), it will be found useful especially where foreign words are concerned.

The book is a second edition and includes items, such as 'cyberpunk', which would, a few years ago, either not have been heard of, or not been received into general currency. There are adequate cross-references. Perhaps, however, 'poetry' could have received treatment in this regard, although possible references would be many and choice difficult. 'Verse', 'free verse', 'blank verse' come to mind.

It would have been good to follow up the etymology of more literary terms, but doubtless it would have made the book inordinately long. For terms beyond the scope of this dictionary, where the reader will want to research further, there is at the end of the book a useful list of reference books under such headings as 'literary theory', 'poetry and drama' and 'linguistics'.

Room could be found for this book in most indexers' libraries, where it would be readily referred to on many occasions.

Britton Goudie, *freelance indexer*

Marginalia: readers writing in books. H. J. Jackson. New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 2001. 324 pp. Bibliog., index. ISBN 0-300-08816-7 (hbk): \$27.95/£19.95.

Marginalia – the practice of writing in one's books in order to argue with, expand on, or at times accentuate the words of the original author – once an accepted practice among book people, has fallen into general disfavor. Ironically (or perhaps inevitably), it is now gaining increasing academic attention as part of the study of reading. This book provides a comprehensive, scholarly, yet entertaining look at marginalia, based on the author's examination of more than 2000 annotated books in public and academic libraries.

H. J. Jackson describes her research into marginalia as 'curiosity-driven', i.e. it was done because of her own interest, and she feels free to include even obscure and atypical examples. No doubt it is the author's passion for her subject that makes this book such a pleasure to read (although she sometimes provides more and longer examples than we might wish). Jackson discusses marginalia of all types, from the highlighter pen of today's student to the golden age in the early 19th century when annotated books were circulated regularly among scholarly and professional colleagues.

The most common reasons for writing in books are to correct mistakes, add relevant information, serve as a learning and memory aid, and express disagreement with the author, but marginalia have also been used to impress one's friends, to advance the cause of love, as a means of revenge, and for other complex motivations. Jackson sees marginalia as the work of an alert, confident reader who actively engages the author and/or text in dialogue. The most famous annotator of all was Samuel Taylor Coleridge, also the first person to publish his own marginalia. For Coleridge and his circle, marginalia served as a sort of conversation, a shared workspace. Even strangers sent Coleridge books to annotate.

For one chapter of this book, Jackson examined every copy of Boswell's *Life of Johnson* that crossed her path; 386 of these were annotated and are described here. She also devotes a chapter to extra-illustration, or grangerizing, and other excessive forms of annotation, illustrating the degree to which people sometimes define themselves through and interact with their books. Her

research demonstrates how marginalia, when viewed with respect, can help us to understand the complex relationship among books, authors, and readers, as well as the topics of discussion and modes of thought of previous ages.

One type of notation that most readers of *The Indexer* have probably practised is the reader's self-made index, constructed either because the book has none at all or the existing one needs supplementation. Jackson describes in passing the indexing practices of several readers she has encountered in her research. Unfortunately, one cannot use the index to this book to locate all of these passages; the book, though published by a leading university press, is essentially unindexed (except for names). Topical entries in the index are abnormally few and don't begin to reflect the information in the text. Perhaps Jackson actually does expect readers to make their own index, as did Prime Minister William Gladstone and others she cites.

Though scholarly, this book arouses strong feelings. Marginalia, after all, has been called 'the crime against the book'. Jackson directly addresses these issues, pitting A (annotator) against B (bibliophile), the camaraderie of reading vs the intimacy of reading and the integrity of the text. Jackson presents the arguments against (the banality and predictability of most marginalia, the fact that it can be an imposition on future readers), but she is clearly and unabashedly an advocate. This book may not convert us all, but it certainly succeeds in widening our view of books and their readers. Even those readers who don't mark their own books will probably now look with greater interest and discernment at the markings in books they come across.

Clare Imholtz, *librarian and freelance indexer*

The Oxford dictionary of allusions. Andrew Delahunty, Sheila Dignen and Penny Stock. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. xiii, 453 pp. 22 cm. Index. ISBN 0-19-860031-3 (pbk): £15.99/\$25.00.

Introducing Eliot's *The Waste Land* or Hardy's novels for sixth-formers' (16–18-year-olds) A-level studies usually requires lengthy explanations of the many allusions contained in them, and each year reveals how increasingly unfamiliar such references have become, especially those from the Bible and classical mythology. Not only does *The Oxford dictionary of allusions* cover most of these, it also trawls through Shakespeare, Dickens and other seminal works, as well as modern novels that contain just as many allusions, although often from more recent origins, including newspapers. It lists characters from folklore and legend, children's classics, television and cartoon films, bringing right up to date the use of these images to enrich the description of human experience.

The material is grouped under themes arranged in alphabetical order; access is facilitated by an introductory list of themes and a list of those special entries that are worth fuller detail and have many cross-references. For example, the entry for Odysseus gives a summary of his journeys and the indication to 'see Calypso at Danger'; 'Circe at Danger, Magic, and Sirens'; 'Lotus-eaters at Happiness and Memory' and so on. There is also an index of characters located with their appropriate themes instead of page references, so that one can access through either entry point.

Wandering through by theme, the reader comes across some amusing combinations: under 'Adventure', James Bond and Indiana Jones consort with Homer, Jason and Sinbad the Sailor. Under 'Anger', we find Hotspur, Vesuvius, Capulet and Basil Fawlty; Brigitte Bardot shares her love of animals with St Francis of Assisi and Walt Disney. 'Intelligence' includes Einstein, Stephen Hawking and Dr Spock. Wherever possible, entries are supported by examples of modern use. One might be slightly unsure of Rousseau's feelings about being included with Candide, Shirley Temple and the Waltons under the heading 'Naivety' – but what would you make of Quasimodo in the company of Beethoven, David, St Cecilia and Orpheus? His love of the bells of Notre-Dame places him under the heading 'Music', with the supporting quotation referring to a burglar alarm: 'I couldn't for the life of me see how anyone could have got through my system undetected without

setting off enough bells to drive Quasimodo completely round the bend.' (*Clean Break* by Val McDermid, 1995.)

It is interesting to note how some allusions have changed in meaning over the years: the Introduction points out how the 19th-century archetype of person who carried out successful escapes was Jack Sheppard who was later replaced by Houdini. There are also those characters who can be listed under more than one theme; for example, Don Quixote appears under the themes of Thinness, Insanity, Illusion and Idealism.

This book is obviously a useful work of reference to be kept handy with most of one's reading, but it is also a delight to dip into purely to refresh memory and the use of metaphor and simile.

Valerie A. Elliston, *freelance indexer and lecturer in English*

The warden of English: the life of H. W. Fowler. Jenny McMorris. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. xix, 242 pp. 24 cm. Bibliog., illus., index. ISBN 0-19-866254-8 (hbk): £19.99/\$27.50.

Henry Watson Fowler's name resonates for all those concerned with writing and publishing, in our mantra, 'Fowler's modern English usage'. This indispensable writers' mentor, suffused with wit (look up the end of the entry for elision, or the description of Mrs Malaprop) was indeed planned (as an 'idiom dictionary') by Henry and Frank, one of his six younger brothers, and completed entirely by Henry after Frank's early death. On its publication as *A dictionary of modern English usage* in 1926 it received huge acclaim – and has done so ever since.

This biography fills out the background of Fowler's life and other work. After leaving Balliol College, Oxford (with degrees in Moderations and Literae Humaniores) he spent 18 years as a teacher, then earned his living by his pen, writing essays and articles. He and Frank together translated the dialogues of Lucian; their work was published by Clarendon Press in 1905 to high praise, bringing the Fowler brothers to the notice of the Oxford press, for which they continued to produce volumes on request for the rest of their lives (with an interval for service in the first world war).

The brothers composed, together or separately, *The King's English*, 'a sort of English composition manual, from the negative point of view . . . with a few rules on common solecisms', and its abridged edition 18 years later; *Sentence analysis*, a small school text-book; and two small dictionaries abridged from the great *Oxford English dictionary*: the *Concise Oxford dictionary*, 'designed as a dictionary, and not as an encyclopedia', with particular attention to the explanation of common words; its later revision and supplement; and a further abbreviation, with new words admitted, the *Pocket Oxford dictionary*. The attendant problems in all these works of currency, definitions, etymology, spelling, typography, and 'Yankeefication' (Americanisms), and the brothers' methods of dealing with them, are all detailed in this book. They had also to cope with what we now call, with a sigh, political correctness – treatment of racial and religious words. The Westminster Catholic Federation prepared a libel case against OUP on discovering the definition of 'Jesuit' in the *Concise Oxford dictionary* as 'dissembling person, prevaricator'.

After Frank's death, as well as the triumphant production of *A dictionary of modern English usage*, Henry contributed sections to the *Shorter Oxford English dictionary*, and collaborated with another brother and a third partner to produce 'a great new dictionary of current English', to be called the 'Oxford dictionary of modern English'. However, the successive deaths of all three, and of one successor, caused the project to be dropped after all, and 'Henry's last dictionary was never published'. His obituary tributes in the press included, 'students of English have lost their best philosopher and friend'; his death was said to 'deprive British scholarship of one of its brightest ornaments'.

The foreword to this book claims that in its pages 'all grammar, syntax and style will be impeccable'. Alas, this cannot be said of the

curiously (and anonymously) compiled index. Its sub-subheadings are not indented under the subheadings, making for most confusing reading; continuation headings lack '(continued)', giving no indication that there are earlier subheadings for the entry. 'Decency doubts about Lucian' and 'dream of Queen Victoria' (Fowler's dream, though not so specified in the index) are both filed under D. At the end of the entry for Fowler, Henry Watson, we find:

appearance [page numbers]
attitudes see opinions and attitudes
character see personality
ill-health [page numbers]
eye problems [presumably should be indented under ill-health; page numbers]
pastimes see sport and pastimes
work see publications

There seems no good reason for this dispersal through the index, which continues further. Subheadings under 'opinions and attitudes (HF)' include 'money see under payment' and 'see also personality; religion'. Under 'personality of HF' are further see references:

modesty and reserve see reticence
wit see humour

The four subheadings under 'sport and pastimes' all refer to other people's; Fowler's own are listed under a second main heading, 'sport and pastimes (HF)'. 'Publications' is actually 'publications and writings (mainly HF)'.

There are even errors of alphabetical order: Wilson, Mrs Bernard comes before Wilson, Bernard, and

Fowler, Robert Clive (son of HF) 218

before

Fowler, Robert (father of HF) 2–6, 7, 11, 218

But sheer bewilderment now takes over; in fact Henry Fowler had no children, by the name of Robert Clive or any other; and page 218 is entirely blank.

How disgraceful an index, for a work that is a tribute to the master composer of reference works, and from the very publisher to whom his works brought such great credit, Oxford University Press!

Hazel K. Bell, *freelance indexer and former editor of The Indexer*

Publications received and publications noted

Copyright: interpreting the law for libraries, archives and information services. Rev. 3rd edn. Graham P. Cornish. London: Library Association Publishing, 2001. vi, 210 pp. 24 cm. Index. ISBN 1-85604-409-2 (pbk): £19.95. (First published 1990.)

Dictionary of lexicography. R. R. K. Hartmann and Gregory James. London and New York: Routledge, 2001. xviii, 176 pp. 25 cm. Bibliog. ISBN 0-415-14144-3 (pbk): £19.99. (Hardback edition reviewed in *The Indexer* 21(2), October 1998, p. 102.)

Managing cataloging and the organization of information: philosophies, practices and challenges at the onset of the 21st century. Edited by Ruth C. Carter. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2000. xxiv, 405 pp. 21 cm. Index. ISBN 0-7890-1312-6 (hbk): \$79.95/£85.15; ISBN 0-7890-1313-4 (pbk): \$39.95/£32.55. (Also published as *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* 30(1, 2/3), 2000.)