

# Indexes reviewed

Edited by Christine Shuttleworth

*These extracts from reviews do not pretend to represent a complete survey of all reviews in journals and newspapers. We offer only a selection from quotations that readers have sent in. Our reproduction of comments is not a stamp of approval from The Indexer upon the reviewer's assessment of an index. Extracts are arranged alphabetically under the names of publishers, within the sections: Indexes praised; Two cheers!; Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.*

## Indexes praised

**Edward Elgar** *Microsoft on trial: legal and economic analysis of a transatlantic antitrust case*, ed. by Luca Rubini (2010, 560 pp, \$360). Rev. by Mark Furse, *European Competition Law Review* [n.d.].

There are even good tables of cases and legislation, and a good index – an increasing rarity these days ...

**Information Today** (in association with the American Society for Indexing): *Index it right! Advice from the experts*, vol. 2 (2010, 170 pp. A\$40, ASI members A\$32). Rev. by Catherine Gilbert, *Australian Library Journal*, May 2011, **60**(2).

As one would expect in such a volume, there is a comprehensive index as well as extensive lists of resources and references for further investigation.

**Oxford University Press**: *God's instruments: political conduct in the England of Oliver Cromwell*, by Blair Worden (2012, 440 pp, £35). Rev. by R. C. Richardson, *Times Higher Education*, 12 April 2012.

... the essays have been carefully revised, a new introduction glues them together, and a meticulously comprehensive index makes for easy cross-referencing.

**Wiley**: *Heterocycles in life and society: an introduction to heterocyclic chemistry, biochemistry and applications*, by A. F. Pozharskii et al (2nd edn, 2011, 382 pp, \$79.95). Rev. by Peter G. Lehman, *Chemistry in Australia*, July 2012.

There are testing questions (answers provided) at the end of each chapter, suggested additional reading and a comprehensive index.

## Two cheers!

**Facet Publishing**: *The handbook of art and design librarianship*, ed. by Amanda Gluibizzi and Paul Glassman (2010, 330 pp, £54.95). Rev. by Sherrey Quinn, *Australian Library Journal*, August 2011, **60**(3).

The succinct index was, according to Gluibizzi's acknowledgements, compiled 'on the tightest of schedules', so the fact that it is adequate is a credit to the indexer rather than the publisher. I wish the publisher had given the indexer more time – as a reader I would like more detailed subject analysis to help me find topics quickly.

## Indexes censured

**Amberley**: *Satan: a biography*, by P. G. Maxwell-Stuart (2011, 246 pp, £12.99). Rev. by David V. Barnett, *Fortean Times*, July 2012.

Finally, the four-page single-level index is a joke. In a book entitled *Satan*, what possible use is the entry 'Satan' with 84 undifferentiated page numbers, or 'Devil' with 102, or 'demon' with 79, out of a total of 190 text pages? You'd think a scholar would know the importance of a good index.

**A & C Black**: *Copyright law for writers, editors and publishers*, by Gillian Davies (2011, 128 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Laura Hicks, *Editing Matters*, July 2012.

The index is very poor, possibly because only one page has been allowed for it: it's a straight sequence, with no separating initial leaders and no differentiation in the layout between subheadings and turnovers, and the skimpiness of the coverage is illustrated by there being no entry for 'indexes'.

**Allen Lane**: *Winner take all: China's race for resources and what it means for us*, by Dambisa Moyo (2012, 272 pp, £20). Rev. by David Blair, *Daily Telegraph*, 16 June 2012.

This cartel [OPEC] is not called the 'Oil Producing Exporting Countries' as she claims on page 47 (and in the index). She gets it right on p. 134, but by then the reader's confidence is shaken. Would you trust a military expert who was unsure about the meaning of Nato?

**Gower Publishing**: *Blogging and other social media: exploiting the technology and protecting the enterprise*, by Alex Newson with Deryck Houghton and Justin Patten (2010, 184 pp, £60). Rev. by Madely du Preez, *Australian Library Journal*, August 2011, **60**(3).

A brief and rather incomplete index concludes the volume.

**Macmillan**: *Wives and stunners: the Pre-Raphaelites and their muses*, by Henrietta Garnett (2012, 456 pp, £20). Rev. by Miranda Seymour, *Sunday Times*, 26 August 2012.

I can live with the unattributed quotations, random snatches of verse, a lamentable index and an absence of spelling skills that causes her to correct a quoted 'parallel' with a stern 'sic.' I do, however, wish that she had checked her facts.

**Sage**: *Encyclopedia of family health*, ed. by Martha Craft-Rosenberg and Shelley-Rae Pehler (2011, 193 pp, 2 vols). Rev. by Mary A. Wickline, *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, **100**(2), April 2012.

An index at the back of the second volume has page numbers, but the index itself is not a comprehensive subject index. It still largely relies on the reader to think of the title word to find an article. For example, the index has no entry for 'insurance,' but the book has an article titled, 'Cost of Medical Care and Existing National, State, and Private Pay avenues for Families.'

**Springer:** *At home in space*, by Ben Evans (2011, 481 pp, £35.99). Rev. in *Spaceflight*, July 2012.

One glaring irregularity is the appalling index. No references at all to Ken Mattingly and no Salyut references – probably a lot more omitted – but there is adequate coverage of these in the text. Also, beware of the bibliography, which starts out chronologically and then defaults to an alphabetical listing two-thirds of the way through, but there is little else to fault.

## Indexes omitted

**Cambridge University Press, London:** *a social and cultural history, 1550-1750*, by Robert O. Bucholz and Joseph P. Ward (2012, 415 pp, \$27.99). Rev. in *British Heritage*, September 2012.

Some 50 pages of drawings, prints and maps illustrate the text, and it includes a substantial bibliography. Unhappily, the book lacks an index, which makes it difficult to use as a convenient reference. As an account of how and why London is London, however, this is the best book to come along in a generation.

**Collins:** *The fix*, by Damien Thompson (2012, 352 pp, £20). Rev. by Max Pemberton, *Daily Telegraph*, 16 June 2012.

My one quibble with the book is that, for some inexplicable reason, there is no index. But this is a minor fault in an otherwise enthralling, terrifying work.

**Health Administration Press:** *Social media in health care: connect, communicate, collaborate*, by Christina Beach Thielst (2010, 85 pp, \$46). Rev. by Hope Leman, *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 100(2), April 2012.

The lack of an index is unfortunate. It is hard to determine the currency of a book on social media if there is no index in which to search for such words as Twitter or Facebook, let alone Google+, the latest social media kid on the block. Twitter and Facebook are, in fact, extensively discussed, but it would have been nice to be able to find mentions of them with the help of an index. The index, alas, is an endangered species in the modern publishing landscape.

**Norton:** *Breasts: a natural and unnatural history*, by Florence Williams (2012, 340 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Gigi Santow, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 July 2012.

... the book presents a great deal of impartial information, and an index would therefore have been welcome.

**PM Press:** *Sex, race, and class: the perspective of winning: a selection of writings*, by Selma James (2012, 300 pp, \$20). Rev. by Seth Sandronsky, *Z Magazine*, June 2012.

An index would have improved this book of writings by Selma James.

## Obiter dicta

*Fifty Shades [of Grey]* isn't the only publishing phenomenon. There are also scenes of passion and great excitement artfully described in Alastair Campbell's diaries. And when you've read the book, there is always the index, from which you get an instant view of Alastair's impatience with Clare Short. 'Ghastly to deal with, 89;

ridiculous in Cabinet, 256; spills tea over new Cabinet Secretary, 307; 'totally ridiculous', 331; interruptions worse than usual, 348; exacerbates problems, 544, 548, 550.' The text is superfluous really. Hugh Muir, *Diary*, *The Guardian*, 21 June 2012

The printed word is becoming more and more challenging for the rising generation of media operatives. A friend recently contributed a piece to a national newspaper, and suggested, to a sub-editor checking something, that it would be best to look it up in *Who's Who*. The man rang him back. 'How do you use this book?' he asked, as if the concept of alphabetical order were beyond him.

Charles Moore, 'The Spectator's Notes', *Spectator*, 26 November 2011.

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

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*Contributions of review extracts welcomed by the editor of this section, Christine Shuttleworth (please see inside front cover for further details).*



Pilar Wyman addresses the DNI annual meeting (see p. 210)