

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

Dorling Kindersley: *Music: the definitive visual history* (2013, 400 pp, £25). Rev. by Julian Elloway, *Church Music Quarterly*, December 2013.

An excellent index encourages further exploration: for example, 'William Byrd' leads to pages on the start of music printing, the rise of instrumental music, the Reformation, Baroque 'keyboard maestros', and choral music.

Edinburgh Bibliographical Society: *Books, borrowers, and shareholders: Scottish circulating and subscription libraries before 1825*, by K. A. Manley (2012, 240 pp, £35). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *CILIP Update*, December 2013.

There are two indexes: one for the survey and one for the listing. Those unfamiliar with older Scottish county listings will find the location index invaluable.

Emerald Publishing: *Library and information science trends and research: Asia-Oceania*, ed. by Amanda Spink and Diljit Singh (2012, 335 pp, £75). Rev. by Doreen Sullivan, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(4), November 2012.

The book has a clear and comprehensive layout. All the chapters are highly structured – so much so that a student or researcher skim reading can easily understand the main points; to read on a deeper level provides enhanced understanding. The subject index also proves the skimming claim: a reader can easily pick out countries like Australia, Korea or Taiwan for targeted focus. Author names, association names and concepts like YouTube, social networking and Web 2.0 are included. The indexing is thorough.

Facet: *Catalogue 2.0: the future of the library catalogue*, ed. by Sally Chambers (2013, 192 pp, £49.95). Rev. by John Bottomley, *CILIP Update*, February 2014.

... it is well referenced and has a detailed index. [*But see also the review on p. 92.*]

Fourth Estate: *Eat: the little book of fast food*, by Nigel Slater (2013, 464 pp, £26). Rev. in *The Times*, 14 December 2013.

The index is particularly pleasing: find an ingredient and it gives you a bunch of options. [*Index by SI member Christopher Phipps.*]

Geological Society: *Geology and hydrocarbon potential of Neoproterozoic-Cambrian basins in Asia*, ed. by B. M. Bhat et al (2012,

312 pp, £110). Rev. by Pete Webb, *Geoscientist*, 23, October 2014.

The book is profusely illustrated, though some of the figures suffer from a reduction in size to the point that pieces of text and numbers in particular are illegible. There is a very comprehensive index.

Haynes Publishing: *Apollo 13 manual*, by David Baker (2013, 208 pp, £21.99). Rev. by Richard Farrimond, *Spaceflight*, 56, January 2014.

A complete glossary and comprehensive index help the reader through the occasional surges of NASA acronyms.

IGI Global/Information Science Reference: *XML data mining: models, methods, and applications*, ed. by Andrea Tagarelli (2012, 522 pp, 145). Rev. by Catherine Gilbert, *Australian Library Journal*, 62(3), August 2013.

Each chapter is set out as a scholarly article, with an abstract, details and examples of the research question addressed, conclusions and proposals for future research, as well as a detailed bibliography. The book also has a detailed and very useful index.

Ilex Press: *The web designer's 101 most important decisions: professional secrets for a winning website*, by Scott Parker (2012, 176 pp, £41.95) Rev. by Catherine Gilbert, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(4), November 2012.

The book is well presented, with each page presenting a different topic, similar to the design of web pages themselves. There are colour illustrations on most pages providing visual examples of important points. There is a glossary and a useful index. The one item missing from the work that would have been useful is a list of websites grouped by topic for following up later and which ideally would also include website building tools. The reader is left to follow up on these resources alone. [*Perhaps what was needed was an index of websites.*]

Information Today in association with the American Society for Indexing: *Marketing your indexing services* (3rd edn), ed. by Anne Leach (2011, 112 pp, US\$45). Rev. by Helen Dunford, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(4), November 2012.

Now in its third edition, this work presents a competent marketing plan for freelance indexers or any self-employed professional relying on the publishing industry for employment. The book contains 12 papers contributed by well-known and respected indexers, covering all aspects of marketing indexing services. ... *Marketing Your Indexing Services* is sponsored by the ASI and obviously emphasises the advantages of membership for indexers. However, it can provide additional information for any library client working on a marketing plan. Needless to say it has an excellent index.

LISU (Loughborough University): *Who else writes like ... ? A readers' guide to fiction authors* (7th edn), ed. by Ian Baillie

(2012, vi + 351 pp, £26.99). Rev. by Sherrey Quinn, *Library Management*, **34**(6/7), 2013.

A quarter of the book is supporting material and indexes. ... Separate indexes that refer to names in the main alphabetical sequence are included for pseudonyms; genres/subgenres; characters, series and family names; and geographical and/or environmental settings. ... This is a must-have reference book for public libraries and an excellent guide for readers anywhere. ... it's compact, portable and quick and easy to consult.

McFarland and Company: *The laughing librarian: a history of American library humor*, by Jeanette C. Smith (2012, 239 pp, US\$49.95). Rev. by Edward Reid-Smith, *Australian Library Journal*, **62**(1), February 2013.

This work may be read through as a sociology textbook, if one can resist the temptation to go straight to Chapter 14, 'For SEX, See the Librarian'. Three of the 15 chapters are devoted to important figures in the history of library humour: Edmund Lester Pearson, Norman D. Stevens and Will Manley. As with all books that contain one, the 11-page index may be used as a cherry-picking device: 'sourpuss librarians, see librarians, bunhead'; 'Ranganathan, S.R.'; 'Librarian: The Musical'; 'Adventures of the Incredible Librarian'; and 'Unprofessional Behavior: Confessions of a Public Librarian' are examples of entries which may lead to dipping. This is an enjoyable as well as instructive work which should be on every librarian's shelf for its contribution to the history of popular culture.

Oxford University Press: *Wordsmiths and warriors: the English language tourist's guide to Britain*, by David Crystal and Hilary Crystal (2013, 432 pp, £20). Rev. by Michèle Clarke, *Editing Matters*, January/February 2014.

Each chapter has a 'Getting there' section, and there are really good indexes for places, and names and general subjects; there is also a 'Regional grouping' section, so that you can look up areas quickly that might hold a linguistic gem for you to visit. [*Indexes by the authors.*]

Particular Books: *Two girls, one on each knee*, by Alan Connor (2013, 320 pp, £12.99). Rev. by John Gallagher, *Daily Telegraph*, 16 November 2013.

Two Girls is a lovingly crafted little book, from the table of contents – where chapter titles are hidden in a crossword designed by the great Araucaria – to the index, which skips from 'I give up, see frustration' via 'primness in American crosswords', to finish with 'zookeepers, beleaguered'. Connor's wry, good-natured tone and his commitment to the serious business of play make him the perfect guide to a great pastime as it approaches its 100th birthday.

Rev. by Chris Lear, *The Magpie Crossword Magazine* (blog), <http://www.piemag.com/2013/11/27/two-girls-one-on-each-knee-7-a-book-review/>, 27 November 2013.

The book is organised so that you can read the chapters in any order, and the contents page itself is a crossword, so you can even solve along if you like. If you prefer an element of surprise, the index is comprehensive, including such beguiling entries as Run-D.M.C (band); diddybums (word); toads, lack of hopping; grocers, infuriated. [*Index by ANZSI member Denise Sutherland.*]

Purdue University Press: *Copyright questions and answers for information professionals: from the columns of Against the Grain*, by

Laura N. Gasaway (2013, 284 pp, £16.12). Rev. by Cindy Clark, *Learned Publishing*, **26**(4), October 2013.

The 20-page index allows readers to find additional information on issues such as cartoons, copying, fair price, HathiTrust, library discards, lyrics, musicals, reserves, royalties, the Sony [*sic*] Bono Act, and streaming.

Scarecrow Press: *Digital media: technological and social challenges of the interactive world*, ed. by Megan A. Winget and William Aspray (2011, 237 pp, £34.95). Rev. by Ian McCallum, *Australian Library Journal*, **61**(4), November 2012.

Themes tackled are long-term archiving of digital media, defining the boundaries of digital entities, the personal and interactive nature of digital media and the interaction between technology and culture. There are references to follow up for each chapter, plus a comprehensive index to reveal the specifics.

Scarecrow Press: *How to thrive as a solo librarian*, edited by Carol Smallwood and Melissa J. Clapp (2012, 300 pp, £27.95). Rev. by Sharon Uthmann, *Australian Library Journal*, **62**(1), February 2013.

To further add to its usefulness as an excellent toolkit for the solo librarian, Smallwood and Clapp have ensured that each chapter is indexed by author, title and subject, with 'see' and 'see also' references for ready access. The book can be read as a unitary work or individual chapters referred to on an as-needed basis.

Thames & Hudson: *The book of books: 500 years of graphic innovation*, edited by Mathieu Lommen (2012, 463 pp, AU\$84.00). Rev. by Barbara Frame, *Australian Library Journal*, **62**(1), February 2013.

Arrangement ... is chronological, so that a reader can gain a real sense of progression, from early woodcuts and hand-coloured illustrations, through Victorian design to the influences of William Morris, the Doves Press, art nouveau and artists such as Aubrey Beardsley, Eric Gill and Lucien Pissarro, to the postmodernism of recent decades. Due attention is given to printers' manuals and the development of typefaces, often with detailed discussion, and about 70 typefaces are listed in the index.

Wiley-Blackwell: *Photographic theory: an historical anthology*, by Andrew E. Herschberger (2014, 476 pp, \$94.95). Rev. by Jan Baetens, *Leonardo on-line*, 1 February 2014.

The volume is also well indexed and the editor has done great efforts to cross-reference his editorial presentation. [*Actually, the credit for this should go to the indexer, SI member Jane Read.*]

Yale University Press: *Faisal I of Iraq*, by Ali K. Allawi (2014, 634 pp, £30). Rev. by Alan Rush, *The Spectator*, 15 February 2014.

Albeit a hefty, magisterial affair of 600-odd pages, Allawi's book is loosely written and less comprehensive than it looks... Also, despite its superb index, it lacks a bibliography and contains many typos. But it is undoubtedly an important achievement ...

Two cheers!

Oxford University Press: *Oxford handbook of paediatrics* (2nd edn), ed. by Robert C. Tasker et al (2013, 1120 pp, £34.99). Rev. by Helen Goodyear, *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, **74**(5), May 2013.

The book is in general well referenced with a few omissions, e.g. Gilbert's syndrome is not referenced but can be found by looking up jaundice in the index.

Indexes censured

IGI Global/Information Science Reference: *Current trends and future practices for digital literacy and competence*, ed. by Antonio Cartelli (2012, 254 pp, £125); *Methods and innovations for multimedia database content management*, ed. by Shu-Ching Chen and Mei-Ling Shyu (2012, 334 pp, £135). Rev. by Lois Robertson, *Australian Library Journal*, 62(2), May 2013.

The indexes are minimal.

Murray: *The new digital age*, by Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen (2013, 336 pp, £25). Rev. by Christopher Hirst, *The Independent*, 8 February 2014.

Their faith in technology is not borne out by the index, which fails to include Edward Snowden, who is considered in a new afterword.

[*Ian Craine, who submitted this item, wrote to the Independent:*

I am a book indexer – it's a vocation which might appeal to a number of *Independent* readers.... Firstly an index should not be a product of technology; a proper index requires careful human input from a trained professional. Secondly it sounds to me as if the Snowden afterword may have been included after the book went out for indexing, which would not be the fault of the indexer anyway.

Unfortunately the letter was not published.]

Oxford University Press: *Rebellion: Britain's first Stuart kings, 1567-1642*, by Tim Harris (2013, 588 pp, £30). Rev. by John Adamson, *Literary Review*, February 2014.

Court faction is also treated cursorily. The complex processes by which government policy was formulated tend to be glossed over, as are the often sharp ideological divisions – which sit uncomfortably with the arguments for the essentially consensual character of early Stuart secular politics – within the political elite. The result is a strangely depleted dramatis personae, an approach that continues, with austere consistency, to the book's index. Here, no one beneath the rank of a sovereign is deemed worthy of mention. Thus there are index entries for James I's 'embalming' and Charles I's 'speech impediment', but the reader hoping to find references even to such major figures as Bacon or Salisbury, Strafford or Laud, Warwick or Pym, will search in vain.

Scarecrow Press: *A social history of books and libraries from cuneiform to bytes*, by Patrick M. Valentine (2012, 203 pp, £39.75). Rev. by Barbara Frame, *Australian Library Journal*, 62(4), November 2013.

The index is capricious. For example, the British Library, the London Library and Mechanics' Institutes all receive significant mentions on p. 96, but none of these can be found via the index – neither can a brief but very informative account of Indian libraries on p. 106.

Indexes omitted

Aurum: *Of rhubarb and roses: the Telegraph book of the garden*, ed. by Tim Richardson (2013, 464 pp, £25). Rev. by Jane Powers,

'One Bean Row' (blog), <http://onebeanrow.com/2013/12/09/a-few-good-books/>.

I have a plea. I have noticed that an increasing number of books now contain no index. Negotiating a book without an index is like navigating without a compass, GPS or other aid. My plea to publishers is this: don't lose the index for the sake of a few quid. If non-fiction books are to compete with the internet, they must hold on tight to their indexes.... This is a compendium of articles from the newspaper for the pin-striped elite, which has always had excellent horticultural coverage. The book's contributions range from 1935 to the present day and come from Vita Sackville-West, Constance Spry, Mary Keen, Fred Whitsey, Beth Chatto, Dan Pearson, and many others. Also included are garden-related letters to the editor and news items. Not included is an index, but the publisher has left 20 blank pages at the end, so you could write your own, I suppose. [*No comment.*]

Cornovia Press: *All Cornwall thunders at my door: a biography of Charles Causley*, by Laurence Green (2013, 220 pp, £10.99). Rev. by John Greening, *Times Literary Supplement*, 10 January 2014.

But the main problem with *All Cornwall Thunders at my Door* (apart from the lack of an index and footnotes that repeat what is in the text) is the author's reticence in the face of poetry and the creative process, which is where all the fascination surely lies.

Rowman & Littlefield: *The Rowman & Littlefield guide to writing with sources* (4th edn), by James P. Davis (2012, 99 pp, AU\$15.95). Rev. by Helen Dunford, *Australian Library Journal*, 62(3), August 2013.

It is not indexed, but the comprehensive contents listing makes it easy to locate the various sections. [*So that's all right then.*]

Otto Sagner: *The new age of Russia: occult and esoteric dimensions*, ed. by Birgit Menzel et al (2011, 448 pp, €48). Rev. by Eric Naiman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 November 2013.

In a collection of this size the absence of an index is a major flaw, the effect of which will be to keep the history of Russian esotericism esoteric. Still, some of the chapters are genuinely thought-provoking ...

School Library Association: *A time and a place: local studies and the school library*, by Steve Hird (2013, 50 pp, £7.50). Rev. by Lucy Gildersleeves, *CILIP Update*, December 2013.

A significant limitation is the lack of index – a problem common to the SLA [School Library Association] series.

Obiter dicta

United States Congress: Congressional record (government publication, available on microfilm, online, as a database from ProQuest, and in print). Rev. by Rich Gause, Discussion on Discussion of Government Document Issues <GOVDOC-L@lists.psu.edu>, March 2014.

We have microfilm and ProQuest Congressional versions, so we had to relinquish our print copies due to space needs, but we kept the print index volumes and are extremely glad we did. It is many orders of magnitude easier to browse the print for certain types of info than to search or browse the electronic. Example: patron was looking last week for information regarding the voting record for

a bill from 1948 or 1949 about integration of blacks in the military and he knew the last name of the senator who introduced the bill. Turned out that the senator had tried to amend another bill unsuccessfully. We would have been hunting a very, very long time online if we hadn't been able to browse the print index under the senator's name to discover in the 'remarks by' section the listing for 'Armed Forces – segregation' with specific page numbers.

Cape: *Selected letters of Robert Frost*, ed. by Lawrance Thompson (1965, 645 pp). Rev. by Jennifer Schuessler, *New York Times*, 4 February 2014.

The Harvard edition, which will include more than 3,000 letters from nearly 100 archives and private collections, is not the first presentation of Frost's correspondence. An edition of selected letters was rushed out by Mr Thompson (with index entries for 'Badness,' 'Cowardice,' 'Fears,' 'Insanity' and 'Self-Indulgence') a year after the poet's death, followed by several smaller collections, all of which have long been out of print.

Harvill Secker: *The love and wars of Lina Prokofiev*, by Simon Morrison (2013, 336 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Paul Griffiths, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 November 2013.

By no means, though, is he totally charmed by Prokofiev the man; the references under the composer's name in the index of this book on Lina are most copious for 'self-centredness'.... Admirable as it is, Morrison's book is not faultless. Information is sometimes repeated; we are told four times, for instance, who 'Frou-Frou' was. On the other hand, Prokofiev's cousin 'Shurik' goes unidentified, unless one knows to look him up in the index as Alexander Rayevsky, and we are left to guess that Nadezhda Bryusova, one of the Soviet officials charged with negotiating Prokofiev's repatriation, was the sister of Valeriy Bryusov, the author of the source novel for the composer's opera *The Fiery Angel*. [A cross-reference from 'Shurik' would have helped.]

Simon & Schuster: *Norman Mailer: a double life*, by J. Michael Lennon (2013, 960 pp, £20). Rev. by Roger Kimball, *Literary Review*, February 2014.

The longest index entry under Mailer's name is 'infidelities of'. Lennon plays Leporello to Mailer's Don Giovanni, patiently listing the long succession of women he bedded. (He somehow missed out on Marilyn Monroe, one of his more embarrassing obsessions.)

Collective characteristics

[Penelope Fitzgerald's] index to the book [*The Knox brothers*] sums up their 'collective characteristics':

Bath, inspiration in; Bible, knowledge of; critical spirit; Edwardian; emotion at war with intellect; family feeling; fearlessness; foreign travel, distrust of; games, love of inventing rules for; generosity; honesty; intellectual severity; love, need for; pipe-smoking; poetry, love of; rhyming, skill at; speaking ability; temper, loss of; tenderheartedness; transport, passion for forms of (railways, trams, bicycles, motor-bikes); understatement, tendency to.

The key to them is the phrase 'emotion at war with intellect'. The brothers had deep and largely inexpressible feelings for each other, which came out in their 'poetry, love of': of Housman's *A Shropshire lad*, or of Cory's elegy for 'Heraclitus' ('They told me, Heraclitus, they told me you were dead ...'), which she keeps returning to, like

a sad tune. ... Another woman who is kept almost concealed in the book is 'the daughter', or 'the niece', whose arrival is very quietly signalled as the birth of 'Christina's second child' and who is the only member of the family to get no entry in the index ...

Fitzgerald did her own index, as usual, to her biography [of Charlotte Mew], and the entry for Dr Scott reads: 'Avoids wife's literary friends; thinks CM mad'.

from *Penelope Fitzgerald: a life*, by Hermione Lee (Chatto & Windus, 2013)

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

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