

a rather technical talk,² and perhaps a little less relevant for indexers. Nevertheless, I think it is very important for us indexers to know what is going on in the publishing world, and this conference made me realize that it is in quite a turmoil right now. It is not just about the ebook 'revolution', there is so much more that concerns us indexers. It is very important to attend indexing conferences, and I attend them as much as possible. But I think it is essential that we attend publishing conferences like this one as well.

If you want to know more about this particular conference, many of the sessions are already online (in some cases as PowerPoint slides). It is all in Dutch, but some of them may be easy to grasp even without a knowledge of Dutch: see www.inct.nl/events/inct.formatie/index.html

Notes

- 1 A good overview of what book metadata are and advice to authors on how to create them can be found in Joel Friedlander's 'Self-publishing basics: introduction to metadata' (www.thebookdesigner.com/2012/05/self-publishing-basics-introduction-to-metadata/), and a good resource on how the Onix standard is used in the Netherlands and Flanders can be found at the site of the ONIX working group: <https://portal.boekhuis.nl/xmlpages/page/onix/handleidingen-en-documenten> (in Dutch).
- 2 For anyone wanting to know a bit more about the technical issues raised by public library ebook lending, the 2013 CILIP briefing paper at www.cilip.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Ebook%20Acquisition%20and%20Lending%20Briefing%20July%202013_0.pdf makes a good starting point.

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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; Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.

Indexes praised

Emerald Publishing: *Social information research*, by Gunilla Widén and Kim Holmberg (2012, 282 pp, £62.95). Rev. by Margaret I. Katny, *CILIP Update*, March 2014.

The book is supported by extensive and wide-ranging bibliographies and a thorough index.

Liveright: *The red and the white: a family saga of the American West*, by Andrew R. Grayhill (2013, 338 pp, £21). Rev. by Mick Gidley, *Times Literary Supplement*, 28 March 2014.

The Red and the White – complete with a Clarke family tree, maps, extensive notes, an up-to-date bibliography and a helpful index – constitutes an engrossing and important contribution to our understanding of the very mixed and complex past of the American West.

Neal-Schuman: *Communicating professionally: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians* (3rd edn), by Catherine Sheldrick Ross and Kirsti Nilsen (2013, 445 pp, \$70). Rev. by Margaret I. Katny, *CILIP Update*, May 2014.

The index is thorough and includes information from sidebars.

Oxford University Press: *The collected works of Gerard Manley Hopkins, vols I-II: Correspondence*, ed. by R. K. R. Thornton and Catherine Phillips (2013, 1,184 pp, £175). Rev. by Helen Vendler, *London Review of Books*, 3 April 2014.

A reader can follow the various themes of these letters by letting the eye run down the subject headings in the excellent index, especially the 12 columns devoted to 'Hopkins, Gerard Manley'. The most plangent heading is 'health', under which a chronological list of subtopics becomes ever more dreadful (even as it omits Hopkins's 1877 adult circumcision):

very weak, cold, ill lately, daily indigestion, medicine, sick in bed, diarrhoea, operation for piles, diarrhoea and vomiting, fagged, jaded, chilblain, dentist, in a great weakness, nervous prostration, nervous weakness, permanently injuring my eyes, dying of anaemia, coffin of weakness and dejection, much like madness, murderous cold and rheumatism, usual despair, in a prostration, eczema, toothache, gloomy mind, feeling very old, distress of mind, ill, rheumatic fever.

After such a recital of suffering, the final (and fatal) entry, 'typhoid', comes almost as a reprieve.

Oxford University Press: *Does spelling matter?* by Simon Horobin (2013, 288 pp, £20). Rev. by Caroline Petherick, *Editing Matters*, May/June 2014.

The index is divided into two types: word and subject. This helps the book become a handy reference source after first reading. Highly recommended.

Virago: *Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst*, by Vita Sackville-West and Sarah Raven (2014, 400 pp, £30). Rev. by Tim Richardson, *Country Life*, 23 April 2014.

The book would have been better without colour photographs, which betray the relative stiffness of the garden today (which the author carefully criticises at the close of the book). The excellent index, on the other hand, is a great bonus and, as a result, this compendium can be placed alongside other useful works of reference.

Indexes censured

Oxford University Press: *The Athenian amnesty and reconstructing the law*, by Edwin Carawan (2013, 320pp, £65). Rev. by Paul Cartledge, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 April 2014.

Nuremberg does not feature in Carawan's rather too sparing index, but the 'Nuremberg' [sic] defence is mentioned, implying that the author has some notion of comparativism at the back of his mind.

Oxford University Press: *Faithful labourers: a reception history of Paradise Lost, 1667–1970* (2 vols), by John Leonard (2013, 853 pp, £155). Rev. by Nigel Smith, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 May 2014.

Leonard also reveals himself to be a man of his age when he draws comparisons from modern popular culture ... there are notable comparisons with *Star Trek*, *Spinal Tap*, Steven Spielberg and Bruce Springsteen, although only the latter two are in the index. Only here will you find A. L. Rowse juxtaposed with Carly Simon.

Oxford University Press: *Rebranding rule: the Restoration and Revolution monarchy, 1660–1714*, by Kevin Sharpe (2013, 849 pp, £45). Rev. by Jean Wilson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 May 2014.

The task of preparing the work of a dead colleague for the press, which fell in this case to Mark Knights of the University of Warwick, requires decisions about what is owed to the dead, and to scholarship. It is not clear that in preparing *Rebranding Rule* for publication, these debts have been adequately weighed. Apart from obvious typos, slips in nomenclature and date should have been silently corrected, along with factual mistakes which do not affect the text. Nicholas Lanier appears as 'Lanner' in both text and index. Eye in Suffolk is 'Ely in Suffolk', and Market Harborough loses its three final letters. Welbeck is not 'close' to Burghley: it is over sixty miles away. There are too many slips like this, although one cannot know how many were in the script Professor Knights inherited.

Palgrave Macmillan: *The Bloomsbury Group Memoir Club*, by S. P. Rosenbaum, ed. by James M. Haule (2014, 212 pp, £20). Rev. by Stuart N. Clarke, *Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain Bulletin*, issue 46, May 2014.

I would like to read Clive Bell's unpublished 'Mrs Raven Hill', a scabrous account from which we get tantalising fragments here and there. It is discussed in the book (81–3) – I have just found it in the index under Bell (it is not a particularly user-friendly index). [Nothing wrong with putting it under Bell, surely?]

Indexes omitted

Allen Lane: *Flash boys: cracking the money code*, by Michael Lewis (2014, 277 pp, £20). Rev. in the *Economist*, 5 April 2014.

As a piece of investigative journalism, the hardback edition of the book has a few holes. There is no index, nor are there any charts of tables to bolster Mr Lewis's case ...

Knopf: *The most of Nora Ephron*, by Nora Ephron (2014, 555 pp, \$35). Rev. by Lidija Haas, *Times Literary Supplement*, 21 March 2014.

One of the book's failings is its lack of an index – as a child in Hollywood and a journalist in 60s and 70s New York, Ephron met well nigh everyone you can think of, but once you've encountered them, it's no easy feat to look them up again.

NativeSpain: *Going native in Murcia* (3rd edn), by Marcus Jenkins and Debbie Jenkins (2012, 286 pp, paperback £14.99, Kindle edition £5.97). Rev. by Moyden, www.amazon.co.uk, 19 September 2013.

A good guide, well researched, but it cries out for an index. In an E-book form, it's very difficult to refer back to any particular item. I'll have to buy the paper version.

Obiter dicta

Penguin: *Margaret Thatcher: The authorized biography, vol. 1: Not for turning*, by Charles Moore (2013, 896 pp, £30). Rev. by Rachel Johnson, *Mail Online*, 16 March 2014.

The brief #banbossy video reveals that, in the US, the average girl's self-esteem plummets 3.5 times faster than a boy's between grade (i.e. primary) and high school (i.e. secondary), and that, at 12, girls have lost interest in being a leader, or even expressing themselves.

I agree this is a problem.

After all, in the index to Charles Moore's biography of Lady Thatcher, under 'character' these are the complete entries between A for 'ambition', and C for 'courage': antiques collecting, attitude to children, attitude to other women, attitude to sport, bossiness and hectoring, caution, compassion, competitiveness, concentration, conversational style.

Which makes me think that if you're not being called bossy, you're doing something wrong.

But even so I can't imagine the words 'bossiness and hectoring' peppering the index of a doorstep biography of any great male leader.

[Index by SI members Christopher Phipps and Marian Aird.]

Random House Canada: *An astronaut's guide to life on earth*, by Chris Hadfield (2013, 304 pp, £18.99). Excerpts quoted in *GEIST Weekly E-Newsletter*, <http://www.geist.com/findings/spacing-out/#sthash.WSx5HJYj.dpuf>

all-astronaut band; attitude (distance from Earth); attitude (thinking/feeling); Barenaked Ladies; bones; bubble wrap races; Calgary Stampede; Canadian identity; capability, pushing boundaries of; *Cast Away* (film); circadian rhythms; consciousness, losing; control, sense of; decompression sickness. *See* bends, the; Depeche Mode; difficult people; expertise, degrees of; exploratory surgery; failure, confronting; failures, summary of; false alarms vs. actual failures; fear (*See also* negative thinking, power of); garbage; hair cutting; Hanks, Tom; 'lessons learned' (*See also* mistakes, teachable moments); long underwear; *Lord of the Rings* (film); Moose Jaw (SK); nails, clipping in space; over-eagerness; personality conflicts (*See also* difficult people); planets; play-acting; pleasures, appreciating small; pretense, culture of; public opinion, space travel; 'Rocket Man' (song); Rogers, Stan; Sharpies; *shashlik* (Russian barbeque); smugness; snake incident; spine; tooth-brushing; Toronto Maple Leafs; visors, wiping interior of; whining; wonder, sense of (*See also* Earth, view from space).

[Chris Hadfield served as Commander of the International Space Station and performed David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' while in space. A reader's comment reads: 'makes you wonder what really goes on up in space.']

Jesus not found

The *Serpent's Promise* ignores issues – the existence of God, the afterlife, the nature of good and evil – which science can neither confirm nor deny. One correspondent bemoaned the fact that 'Jesus is not even in the index' (which would make a good subtitle), but that omission is deliberate.

Steve Jones on his own book (*The serpent's promise: the Bible retold as science*, Abacus, 2014), *The Times*, 31 May 2014.

Cucumbers ignored

The reference from Isaiah is wrong, having got corrupted in the course of the years. Since the index of my current Bible ignores cucumbers, I couldn't correct it until somebody lately told me it should be Isaiah 1.8.

The owl of Minerva: a memoir, by Mary Midgley (Routledge, 2005, p. 57)

[In this passage the author is talking about a poem she wrote at school called 'Rhapsody on Isaiah 58.11'.]

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).

Book reviews

Expert internet searching, 4th edn. Phil Bradley. London: Facet Publishing, 2013. 272pp. ISBN 978-1-85604-605-3 (pbk) £49.95

The author is a recent past-president of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, and I'd guess that he uses the word 'librarian' about as often as the word 'internet' in this wide-ranging survey of general and specialized search engines and the often similar facilities they offer. But few instances better emphasize the distinction between the two classes of information professional than this book by Facet, the publishing arm of CILIP. Librarians it seems are chiefly concerned to identify all the possible sources, whether books or websites, that might contain the information sought by their readers, but have little interest in how accessible that information might be within each source.

Will indexers, on the other hand, need such impressive breadth of coverage? Of course, in every working day a good indexer has to check numerous facts to resolve ambiguities, identify errors and confidently assign near-synonyms without recourse to the author or editor, and of course it's now inevitable that such fact-checking will involve Internet searching. Typical queries might be, what does ICOLD stand for; should a particular organization's name end with Centre or Center; is this author Macdonald, MacDonald or McDonald, and does (s)he need distinguishing from another similarly named; is a Wolf-Rayet star young or old; is cortisol a steroid? Nevertheless our needs are inevitably more restricted than those of librarians.

The three previous editions were entitled *The advanced internet searcher's handbook* but neither title adequately describes the content. The search techniques described seem relatively unsophisticated (unless you regard the use of nesting parentheses and the three Boolean operators, AND/+, OR/| and NOT/- as 'expert') and the main body of the book (13 out of 16 chapters) is just a very detailed survey of many different types of search engine, including aggregating and updating services.

One of the book's declared aims is to rebut the assumption that 'it's all on Google'. It reproduces the rather smug quotation, 'Google will give you 100,000 answers: a librarian just the right one', which certainly depends on the type of question (and the quality of librarian). Personally I wasn't persuaded of the invariable need to investigate alternatives, and actually found the chapter on Google the most useful. It explores the site's, link: and related: functions and the useful filetype filter, which might be helpful for suppressing those irritating pop-song lyrics, though it wouldn't prevent the 'auto-correction' of unfamiliar technical terms. There are useful sections on a large number of Google's undocumented features (which are liable to appear and to be withdrawn without notice) like proximity searches using * and AROUND, and its 'unexpected behaviours' (for example, not only does word order matter, with 'A B C' often returning very different numbers of results from 'C A B' but sometimes 'AAA B C' will retrieve more precise results than 'A B C' (a process of non-intuitive term repetition known as 'the Google sinker').

Among conventional term-based search engines, Bing may be especially good for video and DuckDuckGo for statistics, while Exalead has many extra search options; but I'd suggest a working indexer doesn't need everything available on a subject, only a quick answer they judge they can trust, so Google (and a slightly more guarded recourse to Wikipedia) could prove sufficient. Indeed, indexers might benefit from knowing one search engine well enough to find answers fast, rather than wasting time on needless excursions through unfamiliar interfaces. There are a number of sites that offer training in Google searching, and the book lists a few. However, my perspective is science indexing: biography or social science specialists may well find more use for, say, news or social media search engines.

The author justifies his new edition by pointing to several fascinating trends. Internet access is now through a wider range of devices than just static PCs (indeed phone access was expected