Book Reviews

WELLISCH, Hans H.: **Indexing and Abstracting 1977-1981. An International Bibliography.**
Santa Barbara, CA; Denver, CO; Oxford, England: ABC-Clio Information Services 1984. 176 p. ISBN 0-87436-398-5.

In the most recent number of The Indexer, a new feature is included: "Indexing and Abstracting: A Current-Awareness Bibliography" by Hans H.Wellisch. It is meant to continue the work which he had started with a first volume of 1980 (bound in red) covering the entire literature on these fields until 1976 (see the book review by S.Seetharama in Int.Classif.1981-2, p.104) and a second one of 1984 (bound in grey) for the literature between 1977 and 1981. The first volume covered 2383 references, the second one continues the counting and ends with No.4011, that is, it covers altogether 1628 references with their abstracts.

Wellisch himself has provided us with some insights into his works: In Int.Classif.1980-3, p.135-9, he gives the statistics of the first volume and in Int.Classif.1985-1, p.11-16 ("Vital statistics on abstracting and indexing revisited") he evaluates the second one.

The second volume is again in two parts according to the two fields indicated in the title. Whereas in the first volume the relationship of references to indexing versus abstracting was 1996:387, it is in the second volume 1217:411. Has the literature on abstracting been increasing in these five years? A closer look into the contents list shows that in the second volume literature on *abstracting in subject fields* has been considered, too, which had previously been omitted and this seems to have enlarged Part II.

A comparison of the two outlines reveals that there had been 155 divisions in the first volume as against 185 in the second one, although the coverage is less by some 750 references. It could also be found that 73 new divisions were needed in addition to the 155 of the first volume whereas 43 divisions of the first volume were dropped. In his introduction concerning the arrangement of entries, Wellisch states, "in a current bibliography one must evidently follow literary warrant rather than a preconceived classification scheme". But somehow he has conceived a classification scheme with the following breakdown into 21 sections:

Part I: Indexing
Indexing
Indexing Languages
Indexing Systems
Comparisons and Tests of Indexing Languages
Citation Indexes
Indexing Techniques
Index Production
Indexing Specific Formats
Name Indexes
Subject Indexing
Users and Use Studies
Cost and Time Studies
Indexers
Indexing as a Profession
Training in Indexing and Abstracting
Indexing Around the World
History of Indexing and Abstracting
Humor in Indexing
Part II: Abstracting
Abstracts and Abstracting
Abstracting Techniques
Abstracting and Indexing Services

These 21 sections were indeed retained in volume two, and only enlarged by one further section on "Concordances". In some cases they were a bit switched around (because of literary warrant?), and in some other ones they were not treated on the same level of abstraction, as e.g. "Training in Indexing and Abstracting" which is now subsumed under "Indexers". Some divisions received new names, as e.g. "Other cycled and rotated term systems" which became "Other string indexing systems" - quite naturally according to new terminology. Apropos, problems of terminology were not entered any longer under this heading in three different divisions; it does not seem to play the important role as in the earlier years.

Quite a lot of such developments can be detected and contemplated about. For those who know the literature this bibliography with its helpful annotations and its outstanding subject index is indeed a treasure, just as much as for the newcomer. We can only hope that the new feature in The Indexer will be brought up-to-date as soon as possible and that its annotations (or better abstracts) will not be taken from their sources (author or reviewer) - albeit their being edited - but become critical abstracts and by this may help to digest the literary meal served in such a rich way rather than to duplicate already existing current bibliographic services.

I.Dahlberg

Rajagopalan, T.S. (Ed.): **Ranganathan's Philosophy: Assessment, Impact and Relevance.** Proceedings of the International Conference organised by the Indian Library Association and co-sponsored by Sarada Ranganathan' Endowment for Library Science. New Delhi: Vikas Publ. House 1986. xxxvi, 690 p. ISBN 0-7069-3027-4.

This collection of invited papers attempts to reflect the many intellectual contributions of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in various facets of library and information science and generally succeeds in doing so. By far the majority of the contributors (56) hail from India, with eight from the United Kingdom, two from Canada, one each from Pakistan and West Germany and one from a British exile in the United States.

Section 1 of the proceedings contains ten papers on the five laws of library science, demonstrating that they are as relevant to librarianship and information science today as they were when Ranganathan first enunciated them in 1931 – though, as Navlani (or Navalani? – the contents table and page 54 differ) and Sidhu point out (citing Srivastava and Bhattacharyya) the words 'book' and 'reader' should perhaps be replaced by 'information' and 'user' respectively. Lancaster, in a very short contribution, suggests that, though the advent of a 'paperless society' may mean the end of the library as a physical artifact, it will not make a great deal of difference to the role of the professional information specialist; he states that the development of information technology makes the observance of the fifth law (a library is a growing organism) even more important. Rajagopalan and Rajan show that the laws are applicable to online searching and Rangra demonstrates their importance in developing a marketing approach to library and information services. Sethi applies the laws to a number of fields outside librarianship and information

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