

book is not exempt from them either. The most amusing is to find Lenin in the index with the forename of Nikolai. Or is it just the sign of the times, a pardonable slight? Another slip obviously committed in a humorous vein is the case when the reader interested in indexing as a hobby is directed to a blank page. Other more serious mistakes which might even result in information loss include e.g. the confusion around medical vs. biomedical terms. On the one hand important information in this context (on p. 273) is ignored and remains unindexed, on the other - though "biomedical terms" is designated as the preferred term in the index - the article on Latin terms retains a subchapter entitled "Medical terms" (boldfaced).

The bibliography is possibly the best concise compilation one can find in this field but again, that has been another specialty of the author. It is conveniently up-to-date, divides into selected major writings about indexing and handy technical reference aids respectively; confirming - willy nilly - that the basic orientation is towards beginners and to a lesser extent to practitioners.

The easy-going, witty style, often anecdotic makes it an attractive reading for all those interested.

Irrespective of its intended audience this book should be part of private and public reference collections for a long time to come.

Daniel Benediktsson

(1) Bar-Hillel, Y.: Language and information: selected essays on their theory and applications. Reading, MA.: Addison-Wesley, 1964. p.361.

(2) Soergel, D.: Indexing languages and thesauri: construction and maintenance. Los Angeles: Melville, 1974.

(3) Knight, G.N.: Indexing, the art of. London: Allen & Unwin, 1979.

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HARROLD, Ann; LEA, Graham: MUSAURUS: A Music Thesaurus. A new approach to organising music information. London: Music Press 1991. 128p. ISBN 1-873260-00-8

In 1960 a paper was published by B.C.Vickery with the title "Thesaurus - a new word in documentation" (1). Nowadays "thesaurus" no longer is a "new" word in the field of documentation.

Outside traditional documentation many new approaches for thesaurus application are seen to exist as for example in expert systems, interface systems, object-oriented design and programming, hypertext systems, machine translation and machine abstracting (2). In the meantime, special thesauri are available for nearly all fields of knowledge (3) and in this connection MUSAURUS indeed is a new word in the world of music, a new instrument in organizing music information, which can permit the inclusion of music scores and the scholarly, professional and business aspects of music as well. The

aim of MUSAURUS is to provide a comprehensive system for indexing the whole field of music, including music scholarship, the music profession, and the music industry.

Furthermore, MUSAURUS is designed to be suitable for indexing music books, journal articles, newspaper items, documents, recordings, instruments, brochures, files, artefacts - in fact anything of musical interest. MUSAURUS consists of a subject part with the following seven subject divisions, which are divided in "subdivisions" of different degrees of specificity: A Musicology, B Musical instruments, C Musical works, D Performance, E Music profession & education, F Music business, G Music documentation. In addition some auxiliary tables can also be used, for example: history, geography, and language auxiliaries. Each auxiliary table has its primary, secondary and tertiary divisions, each division has a code and an associated term.

A rotated index allows to enter the MUSAURUS by using the codes. I think MUSAURUS is a suitable combination of a classification and thesaurus. "Both classification systems and thesauri have their specific strengths and weaknesses. Through properly combining both approaches one can eliminate the latter and largely preserve the strengths" (4).

As to future developments it is intended that MUSAURUS will be used to index a database, called MusBase, that will store data, full text, digitized musical notation, scanned documents, and bibliographical references.

Gerd Bauer

(1) Vickery, B.C.: Thesaurus - a new word in documentation. J.Doc. 16(1960)No.4, p.181-189

(2) Schmitz-Esser, W.: New approaches in thesaurus application. Int.Classif.18(1991)No.3, p.143-147

(3) Dahlberg, I. (Ed.): Classification systems and thesauri, 1950-1982. (International Classification and Indexing Bibliography. ICIB-1). Frankfurt: INDEKS Verlag 1982. XIV, 143 p. (The bibliography is continued in the issues of the journal International Classification.)

(4) Fugmann, R.: An interactive classaurus on the PC. Int.Classif. 17(1990)No.3/4, p.133-137

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MEADOWS, A.J.(Ed.): Knowledge and Communication: Essays on the Information Chain. London: Library Assoc.Publ. (A Clive Bingley Book) 1991. IX, 164p. ISBN 0-85157-454-8

Man needs information next to absolutely bare necessities of life; and every human being possesses knowledge of certain kind and level. But only a few persons in society are concerned with the 'science of knowledge' which cuts across many disciplines. The study of the nature of knowledge is the concern of anthropologists, philosophers, sociologists, psychologists, educationists,