

p.43 where the explanatory notes on the "Source Index" of the "Science Citation Index" are 'cut off' in the right margin. Often the graphic representation is inconsistent and inconsequent. The review of the "Social Science Citation Index" emphasizes the difference between "citing" and "cited" by the following italics "zitierender" vs. "zitierter" (p.185), whereas the review of the "Science Citation Index" has "zitierenden" vs. "zitierten": another lack of parallelism. In some instances notes and comments are badly placed. The division of space does not always come up to adequate didactic standards.

Since very often only a coherent sample section of the alphabet is shown, cross references from other sections of the alphabet are not reproduced. Thus, the syndetic element inherent in most indexes is denied a graphic representation. All in all Reinitzer's and Gossler's work is lacking in pedagogical vividness, and, of course, an impression of the three-dimensional voluminousness of the abstracts-works in question, filling dozens of shelves bursting with information, cannot be conveyed by a single book of 230 pages. The authors' expectation that a competent and intelligent use of index-works might be trained "even outside of libraries and their hustle and bustle" (p.10) with the mere assistance of their work is difficult, or even impossible, to fulfil.

Many technical terms are translated into German, some remain untranslated (e.g., "high-density journal", p.117); from time to time hybrid forms creep in (e.g., "Review-Autor" instead of "Review-author" or "Rezentsent", p.201). The use of the word "Verweis" (cf. p.10 *et passim*) is disturbing. Whereas German usage usually demands a clear distinction between "Verweis" ('reprimand') and "Verweisung" ('reference'), in Austrian German "Verweis" is homonymous, thus having both meanings ('reprimand' and 'reference').

The work by Reinitzer and Gossler, offering manifold examples of specific classification systems (e.g., the subject classification of "Electrical and Electronics Abstracts", p.219; the systematic groups of "Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts", p.140; the major taxonomic classification of "Biosystematic Index", p.149) surely deserves a second edition: a revised edition, purged of misprints, provided with a detailed preface, generous comments and a more didactic styling.

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Notes:

- 1 Cronin, B.: The citation process. The role and significance of citations in scientific communication. Oxford: Taylor Graham 1984, p.26.
- 2 One could recommend, e.g., Nacke, O. (Ed.): *Zitatenanalyse und verwandte Verfahren. Vorträge einer öffentlichen Sitzung während der 32. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Dokumentation, Oktober 1979*. Bielefeld: Idis 1980. – Heiber, H.: *Meßung von Forschungsleistungen der Hochschulen. Ein empirischer Ansatz auf der Basis von Zitatenanalysen*. Baden-Baden: Nomos 1983.
- 3 Guide & List of Source Publications. Arts & Humanities Citation Index 1987 Annual. Philadelphia 1988, p.25.
- 4 *ibid.*, p.18.
- 5 Cf. *Österreichisches Wörterbuch. Mittlere Ausgabe*. Ed. by order of the Bundesministerium für Unterricht. Wien 1955, p.246.

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SALTON, Gerard, McGILL, Michael J.: **Information Retrieval: Grundlegendes für Informationswissenschaftler**. Hamburg, McGraw-Hill 1987. 465p. ISBN 3-89028-051-X

The present book is a translation of Salton's and McGill's encyclopaedic handbook *Introduction to Modern Information Retrieval*. The text is essentially that of the original version published in 1983. Examples have been adapted to a German speaking environment, though, and the references have been updated and occasionally enriched to meet interests of German readers or to list material within easy reach in this country. The bibliographic sections concluding each chapter, however, were left in the states of the original to allow for screening the background of Salton's and McGill's book.

While four years may be considered almost a generation in computing and information retrieval, the present translation is not at all belated. For the book remains a standard introduction into information science. With regard to the proliferation of commercial databases and the progress of PC-based database management systems, its focus on information retrieval is most important. Keeping the textbook character in mind, the authors provided a step-by-step introduction into the technicalities of information retrieval and its computational context, illustrating the text by numerous diagrams and rounding off each chapter by a brilliant summary and a set of well devised exercises which lead to a rather thorough repetition. It is certainly an advantage that no prior knowledge of information retrieval is necessary; on the other hand, even experienced readers will find the book useful: Boolean operators are explained, and so are most advanced theories such as fuzzy sets.

The present review can but summarize the main topics of a book displaying the whole variety of information retrieval. Following an introduction explaining the differences of various data systems and structures, the authors start right from the scratch for a survey of information retrieval as supplied by commercial host systems. There are also extensive chapters on natural language processing as well as automated indexing and classification (notably on the experimental systems SMART and SIRE, employing relevance feedback, ranking of descriptors, clustering techniques etc.). Readers will also welcome information relevant for an assessment of retrieval systems, in terms of both recall/precision as well as cost/ effectiveness. As for the computational context, there is exhaustive coverage of hardware and software solutions and developments, including database management systems.

The translator, Dr. Wolfgang von Keitz (Saarbrücken), did an excellent job. That goes for the text itself, as well as for the exercises and the overall adaptation of the book for German readers. To say the book is a treasure of information and contains a wealth of advice for further reading is indeed quite close to a mild understatement.

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