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

These 21 sections were indeed retained in volume two, and only enlarged by one further section on "Concord-

ances". 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

science – resources, railways, public administration, jurisprudence, religion and society. A number of the authors begin their contributions by listing the five laws; time and space could have been saved by printing them at the beginning of the book, as Ranganathan so often did.

In spite of his multifarious contributions to librarianship, Ranganathan will always be remembered primarily as a classificationist, so it is not surprising that section 2 of the proceedings, on classification and subject organisation, is easily the largest with sixteen contributions occupying nearly 200 pages. The section begins with a superb contribution by Jean Aitchison showing how the second edition of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification which, under Mills's outstanding editorship, owes so much to Ranganathan, can be used as a source of thesaurus terms and structure; she uses two thesauri with which she has been associated, the DHSS-DATA thesaurus and the ECOT (Educational and Occupations Thesaurus) to illustrate her points. If the first contribution, by Aitchison, is the outstanding one in this large section, the final contribution, by Ranjana Vohra, is perhaps the least satisfactory; he appears to think that Ranganathan's influence in Britain ceased with the second edition of D.J. Foskett's *London Education Classification*, but in reality a great deal has happened since 1974. In between these two papers, various authors revisit the principles of facet analysis, the personality facet, the relevance of the postulational approach, PMEST and the fundamental categories, and consider the influence of Ranganathan on the Dewey Decimal Classification and other schemes.

Section 3 (Indexing models) considers the influence of chain procedure on other pre-coordinate indexing systems. The three contributions all include some rather superficial comments on PRECIS, wrongly translated (as so often) as Preserved Context Indexing System instead of Preserved Context Index System. Sakti (or Shakti? – the contents table and page 317 differ) seems unaware that *British Technology Index* was replaced in 1981 by *Current Technology Index* and that Coates's indexing system was modified – though the influence of Ranganathan is still apparent. The International Conference on Cataloguing Principles, and the Anglo-American cataloguing rules which developed from the principles agreed at this conference, owed a great deal to Ranganathan – a point which is made in the six contributions to Section 4 (Document description). The six contributions to Section 5 (Management of library/information system) include studies of the significance of seminal mnemonics, the impact of scientific management on Ranganathan's philosophy, and Ranganathan's own approach to management at Madras University Library. Section 6 contains four contributions on Ranganathan's influence on reference service.

Nobody was a greater believer in standardisation than Ranganathan – he would, for example, have deplored the decision of the publisher of these proceedings only to include the ISBN on the dust jacket, which is far from permanent, and not on the verso of the title-page. It is right, therefore, that Section 7 should deal with standardisation in library and documentation but it is unfortunate that it should only include one rather unsatisfac-

tory paper by Derek Austin. Dr. Austin describes his contribution as 'a subjective view' of standards for documentation, and it is probably inevitable that he should concentrate on those standards with which he has been intimately concerned; it is a pity, however, that he fails to refer to the work of the International Organisation for Standardisation and the British Standards Institution on a number of topics which would have been close to Ranganathan's heart such as documentation terminology, book indexing and alphabetical arrangement.

The first contribution to Section 8 (Education and training in library and information science) is an interesting paper by Peter Havard-Williams on the position of British library education today, but one has to look hard for any relevance to Ranganathan's philosophy. It may be true that, as stated on page 575, the study of the community was pioneered by the Department of Information Studies at Sheffield, but a great deal of work has been done by my colleague Ray Astbury at Liverpool on the teaching of community librarianship and information work. The other six papers in this section consider more directly the influence of Ranganathan on library education and the library profession.

In Section 9 (Information technology), Large shows the relevance of information technology to Ranganathan's laws and Shepherd and Watters demonstrate how recent developments in national database management systems make it possible for faceted classifications to be used as the basis of automated information retrieval. Section 10 (Library movement) contains only one paper, concerning Ranganathan's influence on library legislation in India. The final section consists of four contributions on Ranganathan as humanist and teacher.

The proofreading of this book is abysmal. There is at least one error on almost every page, which makes it difficult to read and almost impossible for the uninformed to follow up references adequately. Two examples have been given above; the following are just a few more: in the list of contributors on page xi Aitchison is mis-spelt Atchison; the titles of Sections 10 and 11 are incorrectly given in the contents table on page xxvi; Berwick Sayers was Chief Librarian of Croydon Public Library, not Groydon Public Library as stated on page xxxi; PRECIS becomes PRESIS on page 30; on page 38 Farradane becomes Farradana and Vickery becomes Vickey; Ranganathan himself becomes Ranganathgn on page 40; on page 81 there is a reference to seomentation instead of segmentation; Pauline Cochrane becomes Pauline Crochane on page 93; in the title of Jean Aitchison's contribution on page 106 thesaurus is spelt theasaurus; on page 310 Cranfield becomes Granfield and diamond becomes diamod; India's own version of PRECIS, POPSI, becomes PPOSI on page 347; reference 13 on page 431 should be reference 3; *Ascent of man* was written by Bronowski and not, as stated on page 441, Bronowiski; and I suspect that Pauline Atherton would like the Hall of Fame Award to be given to Ranganathan and not, as stated on page 103, the Hall of Frame Award.

In a second volume – "to appear later" – further papers and an index is to be published.

On page 101 of these proceedings, Eugene Garfield is quoted as saying "Ranganathan is to library science what Einstein is to physics". Most of these contributions provide a worthy memorial to the great man, but he could have been much better served by the publishers.

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Deutscher Bundestag. Gruppe Datenverarbeitung: **Struktur** des **Thesaurus für Parlamentsmaterialien. PARTHES.** Formaler Aufbau und Datenverarbeitungs-Konzept. (Structure of the Thesaurus for Parliamentary Materials. Formal structure and data processing conception.) Dem Leiter der Abteilung Wissenschaftliche Dokumentation, Heinz Matthes, zum 65.Geburtstag. Bearb. v.J.Hansis, W.Mausberg u. J.Tappertzhofen. München, etc.: K.G. Saur 1985. 146p. ISBN 3-598-10584-3

This book contains explanations and instructions for users of the PROTOS software for the maintenance and use of thesauri as applied to PARTHES, a German thesaurus for legislative information systems. Others may find the work of limited usefulness. The conceptual schema for thesaurus data used here is complex, inflexible, and limited in the structures it can represent. It is geared primarily to the support of printed index production, and it makes quite a number of sophisticated provisions in this area. However, it allows only for one level of indention in the index. There is no capability for producing a good classified listing of the descriptors (notations are limited to four-digit numbers) and no capability for entering the source of a descriptor or the dates of introduction of a descriptor except as free-format comments. On the positive side, each relationship between two terms is treated as a separate record, which facilitates creation and updating of the thesaurus data base. The style of the book is more technical than it has to be and far from lucid. The book seems to be written for those who already know the system. For example, formal definitions of data elements or operations are usually introduced before their function is explained, making these definitions very hard to understand and remember. (They are needed to follow the text.) Thus the reader must work hard to understand the material presented. There is no index.   Dagobert Soergel

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WEINBERG, Bella Hass (Comp.with the assistance of L.Dombeck): **Education and Training in Indexing and Abstracting.** A directory of courses and workshops offered in the United States and Canada, with a bibliography of textbooks used in indexing and abstracting courses. 3rd ed. New York: Amer.Soc.ofIndexers 1985. 144p.

This directory lists 71 courses given by 59 instructors at 56 universities, colleges or other places in the USA, Canada and England (1 correspondence course). The arrangement is alphabetical by name of state, or city, or university, or institution. The indexes give (a) the names of instructors, (b) the correspondence courses, seminars and foreign language courses, and (c) the geographic distribution, showing 9 entries in Canada, one in England, one in Puerto Rico, and 45 in the United States.

In 1976, the American Society of Indexers had published its first edition of this directory, entitled "Directory of Courses on Indexing in Canada and the United States". The second edition of 1981 was already differently named: "Education and Training in Indexing for Document and Information Retrieval". In the edition of 1985, a further topic has been included: abstracting. This corresponds indeed to the actual situation, as the course title "Indexing and Abstracting" occurs 27 times (x) whereas the rest of the titles show a considerable variety of names, as, for instance, Cataloging and Classification (4x), Indexing (4x), Organisation of Knowlege/Materials (3x), Information Storage and Retrieval (3x), Information Systems (2x), Thesaurus Construction (1x), Classification and Indexing (1x), Indexing Language Design (1x), etc.

The data was collected by questionnaires, and it was pointed out that not only courses on indexing and abstracting will be collected but also on related fields (some of which were named). However, not all the schools answered. It would have been interesting to learn about the percentage of schools that did not answer. Some schools sent information on more than one course; Rutgers and Simmons are listed with 5 courses each, Drexel with 3, the rest with only one course. I am missing many colleagues in the instructors index: where are the courses of Phyllis Richmond, Nancy Williamson, Paule Rolland-Thomas, Harold Borko, Jean Perreault, Dagobert Soergel?

The textbooks used had also to be included in the questionnaire and the 39 which are listed (p.135-138), together with the schools using them, are surprisingly heterogeneous, most of them used only at one place. The few exceptions are: (1) Cleveland and Cleveland: Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting, used at 11 places, (2) Borko and Bernier: Indexing Concepts and Methods, used at 5 places, (3) Foskett, A.C.: The Subject Approach to Information, used at 4 places, and (4) Wynar: Introduction to Cataloging and Classification, used at 3 places. In many cases this information had not been supplied, perhaps this counts for the perplexing result.

This survey was meant for students and educators for orientation purposes. However, it is also highly interesting for all those who would like to acquire a picture of what is understood in the US and Canada as constituting the field of indexing and abstracting. Perhaps for a new edition, the questionnaire could also ask for information on courses in the field of classification and subject analysis. This would comply with the interest of FID/CR who is preparing to start such a survey in all its member countries for comparative purposes.

North-America has already done most of the job for its region, a helpful contribution for which we should be very grateful!   I.Dahlberg

GERSTENKORN, A., ROLLAND, M.Th. et al (Eds.): **Thesaurus Guide. Analytical directory of selected vocabularies for information retrieval, 1985.** Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers BV (North-Holland) 1985. XXXVI+748 p. ISBN 92-825-4897-X; 0-444-87736-3.