

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 indentation 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.

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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.of Indexers 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 Knowledge/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.