

terizing the capable indexer and abstractor are discussed, and the institutions are mentioned where - besides the still widespread training on the job - instruction for exercising this profession is offered. The different types of institutions employing indexers and abstractors either as salaried personnel or as free-lancing co-workers are described, including the locally customary salaries and benefits. Recommendations for the equipment to be used in the work are also given. A realistically positive description of the future prospects in this profession conclude the book. An annex lists the relevant professional societies, major conferences and most important directories and serials, while the book is rounded off by an index.

The book is strongly to be recommended for anyone wishing to start working in the indexing and abstracting field or maybe already working there, not only in North America. Management in charge of the employment of indexers and abstractors might also profit from reading this book, which might well correct many a misappraisal of the work of indexers and abstractors. It is also well suited to serve as interesting exercise material for students in attempting to draft a more advanced index.

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RADA, Roy: **From Text to Expertext**. London, etc.: McGraw-Hill Book Co. 1991. 237p., ISBN 0-07-707401-7

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There is no longer any shortage of books on hypertext, at least not in Anglo-Saxon territory. In most publications it is not difficult to recognize the information connection either; the talk is ostensibly about the classical topics of information science: knowledge representation, obtaining information through browsing or direct searching, document management, i.e. controlled and standardized availability of "texts" ... Basically the interest in hypertext is mainly explained by the non-linear demonstration of knowledge and information, that is achieved without losing contact with the linear, textual "ancestry".

The book reviewed here makes this relationship between hypertext and information science explicit. It does not come as a surprise since the author has a reputation within the broader context of information retrieval, including the areas of writing research and expert systems. Rada's work is not so much experimental, but it is rather the interpretation of respective topics in a systematic and clearcut way; a method well reflected in the present book. He does not elaborate on selected experimental research or hypertext progress reports but analyses in a detailed manner the literature of his territory, hypertext (of course only those in English), places it in the context of information science and thereby arranges it in view of an academic construct.

What does the book actually contain? The author divides the text, in quite a traditional and familiar way, into five

major parts, followed by a chapter with the conclusions and another providing the answers to those practical exercises the chapters include. (It should be noted that the text of the book is available, on demand and without extra charge, in four hypertext versions: Emacs-INFO, Guide, HyperTies and SuperBook.)

Chapter 1 accomplishes the complex task of presenting the principles of text reading and writing, such as structuring, i.e. in master languages like SGML, on about 20 pages. Though the author did not have much space at his disposal to elaborate on details and thus one can survey only the tips of many different icebergs, it is nevertheless possible to learn about fundamental linguistic text theories like the Kintsch/Van Dijk text model, or general writing theories, e.g. by Hayes et al. and also about master languages as well as text processing software. And one might say this is valid for the whole book through and through. When the task is to reconstruct various aspects of hypertext from the vantage point of information science the author knows how to create his material freely from the unusually wide background knowledge.

The actual hypertext descriptions and representations are arranged as corresponding to the four main aspects in chapter 2-5.

Chapter 2 is about "Small-volume" hypertexts, that also include Microtext-Systems which usually confine hypertext navigation to one single document and its individual components (down to the individual words) which are more or less intensively connected through intra-linking. Consequently chapter 3 treats big-volume hypertexts, and thus the whole field of classical information retrieval (or more precisely relationships between, not inside, documents) is addressed.

Chapter 4 considers the growing tendency of collaborative availability of texts and hypertexts, whereas chapter 5 intends to portray the possibilities the interaction of creative intelligence and hypertext systems might produce. For this reason the author finds no fault in that hypertext is viewed as on the way from text to expertext. (Otherwise the hypertext book of the reviewer offers a nice parallel where, too, the subtitle assigns hypertext a position between "Book and Knowledge Base").

The individual chapters are designed along similar patterns: First there is a brief historical introduction which is followed in each case by the description of the most important principles and completed by potential applications and detailed examples of major systems respectively. Theory and practice will thus be demonstrably linked. It may concern the existing hypertext theory itself which still needs to be improved that the author hardly misses an opportunity to venture into neighbouring areas, like e.g. database theory, information retrieval, thesaurus research, writing research, knowledge representation, expert systems or machine-aided learning. It might lead perhaps too far to ask what target group the author has actually had in mind. For each subject area as well as information retrieval, artificial intelligence, writing research description must remain necessarily general and at the same time represent good analytical standards. But who would seri-