tempts the author to resort to misleading, even erroneous analogies and categorizations. PRECIS, for example, is not – as the wording on p.81 might suggest – influenced by Tesnière's dependency grammar, but rather by Chomsky's transformational grammar and Fillmore's case grammar.

The evaluation of Hanna E.Neet's monograph has to take into account its humble origins as a reading script. Most features of the study, both its strong points and its blemishes, are largely due to the specific characteristics of the text type. Often they seem to be caused by the institutional demands of a training college (examination regulations, for example). An inclination to brevity, a certain hastiness and a liking for enumeration have already been mentioned. Equally conspicuous are:
– a preference for introductory remarks on the contents of codes and indexes which enables the students to examine more thoroughly the minutiae and inner workings of the system in question,
– the inclusion of basic, pragmatic and often fairly concise definitions appropriate for a beginners' course (the index card as a substitute for the book, for example see p.15),
– a hesitant attitude toward the introduction of terminology which goes hand in hand with a tendency to present technical terms at a fairly late stage in the text. The 'syndetic' structure of references, for example, is mentioned only on p.132, while references have already been explained in chapter IV ("Le contr' ôle terminologique et les renvois", "Terminological control and references", p.35-44). On p.13 where words of like spelling but different meaning are introduced, the concept of 'homography' is missing and is not explained until p.35,
– the emphasis on authority files (for example, R.A.M.E.A.U. and the subject authority file of the RSWK),
– the steady and sensible connection between subject indexing and bibliography. The "Halbjahresverzeichnis der Deutschen Bibliographie", for example, is explained in the chapter on RSWK (p.70),
– a pronounced sense of practicality, stressing the practical application of a rule rather than indulging in its theoretical foundations. Sometimes, however, the author's essential pragmatism makes her introductions to codes and indexes read more or less like directions for use, merely explaining their microstructure (punctuation, special characters),
– a tendency to avoid evaluations. One of the very few exceptious is the great value attributed to PRECIS (p.85), another one is the moderate criticism of the French code NF Z 44-070 (p.39, 41). Recommendations usually refer to some minor points of subject indexing only (cf., for example, p.53, 56).

The crucial characteristic of Ms.Neet's introduction is the author's determination to master encyclopedic wealth within a book of moderate length. Unfortunately this intention tempts her to present, in a succinct, enumerative and descriptive way, as many instruments of subject indexing as possible instead of introducing basic concepts in an exemplary, comparative and evaluative way, instead of placing the issues of subject indexing within

the wider context of information science and library policy (shared cataloging within cooperative systems, for example), instead of conveying the 'meaning' of the indexing systems in question by pinpointing their definite characters, the lack of which is especially marked in the author's discussion of RSWK (p.69-78). But the conflict between an enormous wealth of material – which has been passed on to the students of library science in order to improve their career prospects in a colourful and multifarious library landscape – and a sensible concentration on selected examples and paradigms, the crucial problem of the teaching of subject indexing, still remains, and, of course, Ms.Neet is not to blame for this dilemma. Moreover, a study of subject indexing cannot do without a description of the most important codes and indexing systems or without making mention of dates and figures, persons and institutions, or without a presentation of the many facts involved.

In the closing chapter (Chapter XVIII: "Tendances 2, p.165-171) of her study, which is obviously coloured by her own classroom experience and has, unfortunately, neither an index nor glossary, Hanna E. Neet summarizes the main tendencies of contemporary subject indexing: the simplification of vocabulary, the replacement of references by thesaurus relations, the growing importance of alphabetical subject indexing, the increasing insignificance of post-coordination and the gradual removal of traditional indexing by free-text searches.

On the whole the well-edited primer aims at Frenchspeaking students of information and library science. This does not mean, however, that it will be useless to a non-French and a non-student public.

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GERSTENKORN, Alfred; STÖCKER, Adelheid: **Die Aufweckcr. Kindergeschichten – Sprachübungen.** (The Awakeners. Stories and Linguistic Exercises for Children). Lengdorf, FRG: Verlag Alfred Gerstenkorn und Adelheid Stöcker, (D-8256, Postfach 11) 1988. 128p., ISBN 3-9801895-0-3

How difficult it can be to describe what one actually is doing all day and what one is busy with for what purpose is an experience which most every documentalist, library or information scientist engaged in subject description and classification will have made some time or other. How much easier would these attempts at explanation turn out to be if all participants in such discussions had already in their childhood come into touch with the book "The Awakeners", had played with it and learned from it. For, besides offering spelling and grammar exercises the book provides a playful approach, adapted to the juvenile mind, to the understanding, summarization and abstraction of texts, to keyword selection and allocation (indexing), appraisal (reviewing) and other techniques of knowledge extraction. The team of authors, consisting of a mother of three and a specialist in linguistics, has invented eight stories that center around the subjects of usage, customs and history, nature and environmental

protection, communication, signs and symbols, as well as information and technology. They can be read already *to* children of the pre-school age and – printed as they are in large characters – *by* children from the age of eight upward, while at of the age of nine or ten the children can be familiarized with the language exercises. Clues to all questions asked and an index comprising all words of the spelling exercises are found at the end of the book. Throughout the stories and exercises the youthful readers are accompanied by Adalgard and Umundum, both transposed from the Middle Ages into the present. As they read the stories and solve the exercises the children acquire elementary skills in information and documentation, and with them in scholarly activity and learning. One would wish for further books along these lines, books acquainting one in a playful way with the arts of looking for knowledge, of filing and retrieving it, of searching for it. Such structural capabilities in dealing with knowledge will become more important all the time.

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PRASHER, R.G.: **Index and Indexing System.** New Delhi; Medallion Press (A46 Mohan Garden) 1989. IX,196p.

In India, the practice and study of indexes and indexing has always remained delegated in a subordinated position to notational classification. Mostly, this has happened under the heavy weight of hierarchical classification in the Indian library school curricula. Thus verbal classification has not received its due importance. This has worsely affected the construction and use of indexes and subject catalogues in India. Accordingly, there is a dearth of Indian standard books on this traditional tool of information retrieval. Because of this, a book on various aspects of indexes and indexing is welcome.

Dr.Ram Gopal Prasher, at present a professor at the University of Sagar, is an experienced librarian and a dedicated teacher. His services to Indian scholarship and the library profession in the form of "Indian Books: An Annual Annotated Bibliography (from 1971-1975)" and "Indian Library Literature, 1950-1970" are enviable and enduring. He is thus well equipped to write on indexes and indexing.

The whole book, covering a large spectrum of the art and science of indexing, has been regimented into ten chapters. The first chapter makes a close survey of the various prevailing definitions of an index and the technique of indexing: it enumerates the functions of an index differentiating it from a bibliography and a catalogue and lists also some important indexing services. This chapter is valuable for its survey of the major indexes and their types. The second chapter traces the history of the subject from Cutter to Craven. The history has been narrated not under concepts but under individual personalities and their work in chronological sequence. The next six chapters are devoted to individual indexing systems such as chain indexing, PRECIS, POPSI up to post-

coordinate systems. Among them there could have been added a chapter on automatic indexing as well as one on the role of computers in indexes. Also, a chapter on Sears and LC lists of subject headings would have been helpful since they are invariably taught in theory and practice in all the library schools.

The ninth chapter describes some existing indexing services. These include book indexes, collection indexes and newspaper indexes. The rest of the indexing services are listed by subject. Only 53 major services are described, though no explicit criterion has been stated for the selection. For instance "Library Literature" (H.W.Wilson) has been included while LISA (London: Library Assoc.) has been omitted. The chapter, however, is nevertheless useful to the students of reference services. The last, the tenth chapter describes a procedure to evaluate an index in the wider context of an information system. Evaluation is a diagnostic process aiming at its efficiency and efficacy with the overall economy. It enlists factors effecting the handling of an indexing system in the context of practical reality and in the traditional terms of precision and recall ratio. Some surveys and experiments having been carried out, such as the Cranfield Project and the Medlars Evaluation Program have also been described in brief. In the appendix (p.182-192) facsimile reproductions from some eleven indexes are given, so as to provide students with a visual idea of the shape and structure of these indexes.

Basically, it is a textbook. Each chapter - divided into Ranganathanlike paragraphs with feature headings - ends with a summary followed by references and lists further readings. The text is well illustrated with diagrams and examples. The language is simple and in a matter-of-fact style. Here the author shows off as a meticulous editor. The production standards are high. This book bringing many things under one roof, comes handy to the students of indexing and subject cataloguing.

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H., GALINSKI,Ch. (Eds.): **Terminology and Knowledge Engineering. Proceedings.** International Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering, 29 Sept. - 1 Oct. 1987. University of Trier, FRG. 2 vols. Frankfurt/M: INDEKS Verlag 1987/88. 448 + 256p.
ISBN 3-88672-202-3 and -203-1.

The two volumes contain 74 papers (53 in English, 19 in German, 2 in French) of the First Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering organized by the International Information Centre for Terminology and the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer under the patronage of UNESCO. The papers reflect all present activities in terminology science. They may be grouped roughly into (1) fundamentals of terminology science, (2) linguistic problems, (3) knowledge organization, and (4) application.

About 9 papers are devoted to the *fundamentals* of terminology science. Attempts are made to answer questions