rithms) etc.[7]. Other major issues which can only be mentioned here arc navigation and browsing facilities as well as help screens. OPACs will be the more efficient and usable for non-specialist users if a kind of guidance is provided, leading the users through the net of descriptors and paving the way to subject areas which may be related to the initial search statement. "Intelligent" OPACS overcome the static situation of user's query and system's answer. Interactive systems will give "opportunity for search term and document appraisal and relevance feedback during the search process" (p.105). Many OPACs at least suggest different search modes to improve retrieval results; and some, in fact, automatically implement alternative search strategies if there is no recall to a search statement.

Hildreth's survey is not exactly a market analysis; and he has no "best buy" OPAC to recommend[8]. Almost by definition, however, by being included in the survey, all 23 systems reviewed provide more "intelligent" subject searching facilities than most common second generation OPACs. Yet it should not be overlooked that a couple of systems are repeatedly and favourably mentioned for their intelligent approaches. These systems include CITR (at the National Library of Medicine), I3R (at the University of – Massachusetts), KIM (at the University of Aberdeen), and OKAPI (designed at the Polytechnic of Central London, and partially included in the integrated turnkey library system LIBERTAS marketed by SWALCAP Library Services Ltd.).

Concluding his survey, Hildreth concisely states the most important requirements of a future information retrieval system of the Library of Congress. It will have to include MARC and non-MARC files, employ multiple thesauri, rely on a traditional database structure utilizing inverted indexes, provide Boolean search mode as one variety accompanying other, probablilistc, interactive retrieval modes. The most important requirement probably will be the system's efficiency for the library's clientele expected to be unfamiliar with the mysteries of Booleans and information retrieval. There will never be a totally "automatic" OPAC; yet "automatic" techniques will certainly help to make OPACs and other information retrieval systems more interactive, or, to put it in Hildreth's own words, cooperative and engaging.

Heiner Schnelling

1   Mitev, Nathalie N., Efthimiadis, E.N.: A classified bibliography on online public access. London: British Library 1987.
2   Hildreth, Charles R.: Online Public Access Catalogs: the human interface. Dublin, OH: OCLC 1982.
3   Hildreth, Charles R.: Online Public Access Catalogs. In: Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, 20(1985)p.233-285. Reprinted in: Hclal, A.H., Weiss, J.W.(Eds.): Future of Online Catalogues. Essen: Universitätsbibliothek 1986. p.3-55
4   See Markey, Karen: Dewey Decimal Classification Online Project: Evaluation of a library schedule and index integrated into the subject searching capabilities of an online catalog. Final report to the Council of Library Resources. Dublin, OH: OCLC 1986. See also Cochrane, P.A.: Improving LCSH for use in online catalogs. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited 1986. 348p.
5   Hildreth, Charles R.: Beyond Boolean: Designing the next generation of online catalogs. Libr. Trends 35(1987)p.647-667
6   See Salton, Gerard; McGill, Michael J.: Introduction to modern information retrieval. New York: McGraw-Hill 1983.
7   See Walker, Stephen; Jones, Richard: Improving subject retrieval in online catalogs. London, GB 1987.
8   See Lecves, J.: Library systems: a buyer's guide. Aldershot: Gower 1987. 2nd cd.forthcoming in 1989.

Dr.H.Schnelling. Universitätsbibliothek Giessen,
D-6300 Giessen

NEET, Hanna E.: **A la recherche du mot clé. Aualyse documentaire et l'indexation alphabétique.** (In search of the keyword. Document analysis and alphabetical indexing). Genève: Les Editions IES, Institut d'Etudes Sociales 1989. 187p. ISBN 2-88224-014-7 = Les Cours de l'I.E.S., 2

Hanna E.Neet, lecturer at the library school in Geneva and author of "Assoziationsrelationen in Dokumentationslexika für die verbale Sacherschließung" (Geneva 1984) presents a concise introduction to document analysis and alphabetical indexing; she gives an overview of the subject, based, for the most part, on a lecture script put at her student's disposal. Ms.Neet's book is a quick, sometimes even hasty tour d'horizon, reviewing the major instruments of subject indexing (such as alphabetical subject catalogue, thesaurus, KWIC-index, KWOC-index, abstract, online searching) and discussing most of the central concepts and categories (e.g., terminological control, difference between pre-coordination and post-coordination, permutation). It is, in other words, a rapid overview in which "categorisations fines" (p.135) are mostly spared.

The bilingual Franco-German origin of the Swiss author and her legitimate recognition of the powerful Anglo-Saxon influences on international library research account for a welcome internationalism necessary for the multilingual information, documentation and library landscape of post-92 Europe. The technical terms, for example, referring to the semantic relations between the descriptors of a thesaurus, are given in English, French and German (p.133, 136). Unfortunately, such a polyglot view over the borders of national traditions of subject indexing is rather atypical of library research, and, all too often, the far too willing acceptance of the Anglo-American hegemony within international information and library science tends to suppress the urgently needed, careful consideration of all systems of subject indexing not germane to the librarianship of the United States and of Great Britain.

Freeing herself (and her readers) from the shackles of provincialism, the author displays a large, international set of systems of subject indexing such as the French subject authority file "Répertoire alphabétique de matières, encyclopédique, automatisé et unifié" (R.A.M.E.A.U.), the German "Regeln für den Schlagwortkatalog" (RSWK), the British PRECIS (chapters VIII-X). Unfortunately, the presentations of individual codes, authority files and alphabetical subject indexes are lined up in a rather incohesive fashion. Comparisons and cross-references are missing and the requirements of comparative librarianship are hardly met. From time to time the transnational bias of the script, however welcome it may be,

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 French-speaking 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.

Werner Bies

Dr.Werner Bies, Universitätsbibliothek der FU Berlin, Garystrasse 39, D-1000 Berlin 33

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 beif 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