

processes of indexing and abstracting. Findings are finally discussed in relation to Patrick Wilson's hypothesis about the four methods of subject analysis: purposive, figure-ground, objective and appeal to unity.

Professor Sauperl suggests that her thesis will stimulate subject cataloguers to make adjustments and improvements to their work, provide suggestions for improving subject searching in online catalogues, help editors of classification systems and subject headings to organize these tools in such a way that they would be easier to use, aid in the training and education of new cataloguers.

Importance of the local authority file is stressed. Suggestions for bibliographic and catalogue management software that would actually help subject cataloguers in their work are also offered.

Sauperl's text reveals its origin as a doctoral thesis in a good amount of didactic redundancy and repetition, some of which could have been edited out. The structure has remained that of the standard thesis, with distinct chapters on background, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion, and suggestions for further research. In her text, the author never expresses any critical comment on the ways things are done; this is frustrating, as it leaves the reader without arguments to judge of the efficacy and efficiency of the work done in subject cataloguing departments across North America and of the model proposed.

This document will be particularly useful to subject cataloguing teachers and trainers who could use the model to design case descriptions and exercises. We believe it is an accurate description of the reality of subject cataloguing today. But now that we know how things are done, the next interesting question may be: Is that the best way? Is there a better, more efficient, way to do things? We can only hope that Dr. Sauperl will soon provide her own view of methods and techniques that could improve the flow of work or address the cataloguers' concern as to the lack of feedback on their work. Her several excellent suggestions for further research in this area all build on bits and pieces of what is done already, and stay well away from what could be done by the various actors in the area, from the designers of controlled vocabularies and authority files to those who use these tools on a daily basis to index, classify, or search for information.

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SCHROEDER, Sandi, ed. **Software for Indexing**. Medford, NJ : Information Today, in association with the American Society of Indexers, 2003. 275 p. ISBN 1-57387-166-4

This collection of articles by indexing practitioners, software designers and vendors is divided into five sections: Dedicated Software, Embedded Software, Online and Web Indexing Software, Database and Image Software, and Voice-activated, Automatic, and Machine-aided Software. This diversity is its strength.

Part 1 is introduced by two chapters on choosing dedicated software, highlighting the issues involved and providing tips on evaluating requirements. The second chapter includes a fourteen page chart that analyzes the attributes of Authex Plus, three versions of CINDEX 1.5, MACREX 7, two versions of SKY Index (5.1 and 6.0) and WINDEX. The lasting value in this chart is its utility in making the prospective user aware of the various attributes/capabilities that are possible and that should be considered. The following chapters consist of 16 testimonials for these software packages, completed by a final chapter on specialized/customized software. The point is made that if a particular software function could increase your efficiency, it can probably be created.

The chapters in Part 2, Embedded Software, go into a great deal more detail about how the programs work, and are less reviews than illustrations of functionality. Perhaps this is because they are not really stand-alones, but are functions within, or add-ons used with larger word processing or publishing programs. The software considered are Microsoft Word, FrameMaker, PageMaker, IndexTension 3.1.5 that is used with QuarkXPress, and Index Tools Professional and IXgen that are used with FrameMaker. The advantages and disadvantages of embedded indexing are made very clear, but the actual illustrations are difficult to follow if one has not worked at all with embedded software. Nonetheless, the section is valuable as it highlights issues and provides pointers on solutions to embedded indexing problems.

Part 3, Online and Web Indexing Software, opens with a chapter in which the functionalities of

HTML/Prep, HTML Indexer, and RoboHELP HTML Edition are compared. The following three chapters look at them individually. This section helps clarify the basic types of non-database web indexing – that used for back-of-the-book style indexes, and that used for online help indexes.

The first chapter of Part 4, Database and image software, begins with a good discussion of what database indexing is, but fails to carry through with any listing of general characteristics, problems and attributes that should be considered when choosing database indexing software. It does include the results of an informal survey on the Yahoogroups database indexing site, as well as three short case studies on database indexing projects. The survey provides interesting information about freelancing, but it is not very useful if you are trying to gather information about different software. For example, the most common type of software used by those surveyed turns out to be word-processing software. This seems an odd/awkward choice, and it would have been helpful to know how and why the non-specialized software is being used. The survey serves as a snapshot of a particular segment of database indexing practice, but is not helpful if you are thinking about purchasing, adapting, or commissioning software. The three case studies give an idea of the complexity of database indexing and there is a helpful bibliography.

A chapter on image indexing starts with a useful discussion of the elements of bibliographic description needed for visual materials and of the variations in the functioning and naming of functions in different software packages. Sample features are discussed in light of four different software systems: MAVIS, Convera Screening Room, CONTENTdm, and Virage speech and pattern recognition programs. The chapter concludes with an overview of what one has to consider when choosing a system. The last chapter in this section is an oddball one on creating a back-of-the-book index using Microsoft Excel. The author warns: “It is not pretty, and it is not recommended” (p.209). A curiosity, but it should have been included as a counterpoint in the first part, not as part of the database indexing section.

The final section begins with an excellent article on voice recognition software (Dragon Naturally Speaking Preferred), followed by a look at “automatic indexing” through a critique of Sonar Bookends Automatic Indexing Generator. The final two chapters deal with Data Harmony’s Machine Aided Indexer; one of them refers specifically to a news content indexing system.

In terms of scope, this reviewer would have liked to see thesaurus management software included since thesaurus management and the integration of thesauri with database indexing software are common and time-consuming concerns. There are also a few editorial glitches, such as the placement of the oddball article and inconsistent uses of fonts and caps (eg: VIRAGE and Virage), but achieving consistency with this many authors is, indeed, a difficult task. More serious is the fact that the index is inconsistent. It reads as if authors submitted their own keywords which were then harmonized, so that the level of indexing varies by chapter. For example, there is an entry for “controlled vocabulary” (p.265) (singular) with one locator, no cross-references. There is an entry for “thesaurus software” (p.274) with two locators, plus a separate one for “Thesaurus Master” (p.274) with three locators. There are also references to thesauri/controlled vocabularies/taxonomies that are not mentioned in the index (e.g., the section Thesaurus management on p.204). This is sad. All too often indexing texts have poor indexes, I suppose because we are as prone to having to work under time pressures as the rest of the authors and editors in the world. But a good index that meets basic criteria should be a highlight in any book related to indexing.

Overall this is a useful, if uneven, collection of articles written over the past few years. Because of the great variation between articles both in subject and in approach, there is something for everyone. The collection will be interesting to anyone who wants to be aware of how indexing software works and what it can do. I also definitely recommend it for information science teaching collections since the explanations of the software carry implicit in them descriptions of how the indexing process itself is approached. However, the book’s utility as a guide to purchasing choices is limited because of the unevenness; the vendor-written articles and testimonials are interesting and can certainly be helpful, but there are not nearly enough objective reviews. This is not a straight listing and comparison of software packages, but it deserves wide circulation since it presents an overall picture of the state of indexing software used by freelancers.

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