

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