

Foreign concepts: indexing and indexes on the Continent

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The British Standard was recently taken as the basis for the new International Standard for indexing, but unexpected cultural differences may still continue to produce surprisingly non-standard results. Examples of indexes from recent Continental European books show that they typically have multiple indexes in multiple volumes, long lists of unanalysed page references, and lack cross-referencing to related concepts.

It may seem strange, in this era of alleged European Union, to speak of the Continent as being a place that harbours 'foreign concepts'. However, my plan is that, by the time the reader has finished this paper, he or she will be wondering whether Continental Europe is actually on the same planet as that inhabited by the Anglo-Saxon (or at least, by the Anglo-Saxon indexer).

Many people who go to live abroad tend to assimilate almost completely to their new environment. In my experience, however—having lived in Germany for nearly fourteen years, and having worked in publishing there for seven years—when one lives abroad for a longer period, instead of becoming more and more familiar with the host country and its ways, after a certain point one comes instead to appreciate every day more and more fully how unfathomably strange it is.

I shall be illustrating this here in connection with indexing on the continent under six headings: (1) Culture shock; (2) French books do have indexes; (3) The Amsterdam en dash; (4) *Vorsprung*, but not very good *Technik*; (5) The Mannheim en dash; and (6) Culture shock 2: the final frontier.

Culture shock

Figure 1 shows part of a German card file system. Open-minded as we are, we might think that separating out 'Sch' and 'St' might be quite a handy way of subdividing a file of names and addresses in German, rather in the same way that the 'Mac' names are sometimes separated in English card files and address books. But of course, nobody would dream of alphabetizing a file of cards for a book index in that way, would they?

Yes, they would. Figure 2a shows part of the index to a book that I happen to know has several references to the philosopher Schopenhauer in it.

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Apparently the index has missed them. Or has it? By chance, the eye runs down to the foot of the column (Figure 2b), where we suddenly notice that at the end of the letter 'S', 'Szondi' is followed by 'Schachtel', while in the following column 'Schwarzschild' is followed by 'Staiger'.

At this stage one might still presume that separating 'Sch' and 'St' must be an extremely eccentric rarity only occurring in this book, or at worst, perhaps, only used in name indexes. Alas no (Figure 3a)—even in the indexes to cookbooks, *Schalentiere* follows *Szegediner Gulasch*, and *Stachelbeer-Chutney* follows *Schweizer Sahnereis* (Figure 3b). At this stage, an Anglo-Saxon mind with pedantic tendencies may already be starting to feel that its sanity is under threat, and it consults an educated native German informant. The educated native informant, however, finds it absolutely natural for indexes and lists to be alphabetized in this way; would think it strange for it to be done any other way; and can't understand at all why anyone would think of calling it into question. What emerges is that a fundamental cultural presupposition, which one simply assumed that western European countries must have largely in common—the indivisibility of the letter 'S'—is unreliable.

When we cross the Channel, therefore, we are not simply moving from one area of homogenized modern mass Eurocratic culture to another, largely indistinguishable from it; we will probably need to discard many of our preconceptions and subconscious assumptions. This is probably just as true today as it was for travellers to the continent fifty or a hundred years ago, despite the veneer of internationalism that the European Union has provided.

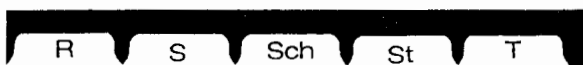


Figure 1 A German card file system.

Sartre, Jean-Paul 13, 66, 464 f.,
477, 489, 521, 594, 677 f., 694
Sassulitsch, Vera 46
Sauer, Fritz 47
Sedlmayr, Hans 582
Seidler, Irma 94
Sekles, Bernhard 87
Shareover-Marcuse, Erica 731
Shils, Edward 422, 473 f., 518
Sibelius, Jean 214
Simitis, Spiros 732
Simmel, Ernst 399 f., 438
Simmel, Georg 84, 93 f., 130, 566
Simon, Ernst 68 f., 82
Simpson, George 274
Sinzheimer, Hugo 128, 131, 149,
251 f., 617

Figure 2a Rolf Wiggershaus, *Die Frankfurter Schule*.
Munich: Hanser, 1986.

Sumner, William G. 533
Szondi, Peter 584, 688

Schachtel, Ernst 161, 193, 302, 306
Schäfer, Gert 662
Scheler, Max 32, 53, 61, 81, 84 f.,
98, 108, 115, 258, 511, 592, 655

Schumacher, Kurt 520
Schumpeter, Joseph A. 20, 610
Schwarzschild, Leopold 288

Staiger, Emil 580 f., 584, 587
Stalin, Jossif W. 425
Stammer, Otto 498
Stanton, Frank 269 f., 273
Stein, Lorenz von 33
Steiner, Rudolf 86

Figure 2b Rolf Wiggershaus, *Die Frankfurter Schule*.
Munich: Hanser, 1986.

French books do have indexes

It used to be claimed, by Nancy Mitford among others,¹ that French books never have indexes. If that was so in the past, a quick survey which I have carried out of French non-fiction and academic books indicates that things may be gradually beginning to change. Both in France and Germany, book reviewers have, at least in recent years, occasionally been known to lament the omission of indexes in non-fiction books.² Provision of an index of some sort is the rule rather than the exception in German non-fiction publishing, and it is not in fact an absolute rarity in France, either.

What we see in Figure 4 is part of the index to the first volume of a biography of de Gaulle in three 800-page volumes. It is an index of names only, and there is no subject index. The index to each volume contains some 4000 individual location references, representing around five index items extracted per page. The introductory footnote claims that pressure of space has meant that only the major names mentioned in the text, those of the 'principal figures of the story', could be included; 'historians and journalists', it says, have

had to be excluded. A note at the head of the index to the second volume states that 'only *contemporaries*' are included, while at the head of the index to the third volume there is no introductory note, although it seems likely that similar restrictions applied. Two characteristics of this index are found generally in a range of French indexes I've examined: first, each volume of a multi-volume work is indexed separately, and a general index is not provided; and secondly (Figure 5), there is no limit except the size of the book to the number of unanalysed location references that can follow a heading—a practice condemned in British indexing as long ago as 1902 by Wheatley, and of which Knight says, 'Nothing could be more futile or more infuriating to the would-be user.'³

Another index to a three-volume French biography (Figure 6), in this case of Victor Hugo, while it does provide a general index to all three volumes, divides it into two parts, the first being an index to the works of Victor Hugo and the second a general index of names, works, and journals. A major flaw here again is the way in which the unanalysed location references are virtually limitless.

The index to a three-volume French encyclopedia of zoology produced in the Pléiade series epitomizes these three tendencies—separate indexing of each volume; division into several indexes; and failure to analyse location references.⁴ Each one of the three volumes contains (in this order): its own alphabetical index of species names; its own alphabetical subject index; a systematic, not alphabetical, analytical table of the various concepts discussed, including page references; then follows a 'table' of illustrations; and finally there is the table of contents, which, as in most French books, appears at the very end. A user of the book looking for all the references to a particular species is therefore going to have to go to each separate volume, search somewhere two-thirds of the way through the book for the subject index, abandon that search and go to the species index, and may then need to plough through dozens of location references, before starting the whole process again in the following volume.

Before leaving France we can look briefly at two further indexes. An edition of de Gaulle's letters and notebooks includes an index (Figure 7) with the peculiar feature that it incorporates a biographical dictionary of the correspondents. The page references that follow the biographical details indicate letters to those specific correspondents, but the contents of the letters themselves, and any persons mentioned in them, are not indexed. Once again, there are unanalysed sequences of up to 35 location references.

A final visit to France (Figure 8) will illustrate another feature common to continental indexes—the use of the abbreviations 'ff.' or 'sq.' to indicate a page range, a practice which the British Standard condemns for its impreciseness. This index, the length of which again indicates that around five index items per page have been extracted, is presented in four poorly legible columns of six-point type. In the inset I have enlarged a few lines to make them clearer. The introductory note at the top states that location references to whole chapters are given in bold and that numbers followed by the abbreviation 'sq' for '*sequentesque*' mean 'and the following pages'.

These examples are typical of the indexes to many other French books, and it's clear, therefore, that there is a range of practices that are quite contrary to those recommended by the British Standard, which formed the basis for the recently approved second edition of the International Standard, ISO 999, which is currently in press.⁵

Although my command of Italian and Spanish is sparse to non-existent, I have also examined a small sample of indexes in Italian and Spanish books, and found the same characteristics as those in French ones. Multiple indexes in multiple volumes, lists of unanalysed page references extending far beyond the maximum of seven recommended by Knight,⁶ and the use of 'ff.' or 'sq.' abbreviations, are all common fea-

Suppen (Kochlehre)	66
– dicke	301
– gebundene	81
– klare	69
– süße	96
Suppenwürzen	60
Szegediner Gulasch	117
– – (Eintopf)	308

Sch

Schalentiere	296
Schalkartoffeln	417
Schaschlik*	242

Figure 3a Maria Hoffmann and Helmut Lydtin, *Bayerisches Kochbuch*. Munich: Birken-Verlag, 1986. (The asterisk indicates a quick recipe.)

Süß-saure Vanille-Kirschen	237
Süß-saure Würz-Quitten	243

Sch

Schalotten, Rotwein-, süß-sauer	228
Scharfe polnische Gurken	226
<i>Schlehen, allgemein</i>	192
Schlehen-Aufgesetzter	195
Schlehen-Gelee	101
Schlehen-Gin	193
Schlehen-Sirup	135
<i>Schnellkochtopf, Entsaften</i>	127
Schwarze Johannisbeeren, Gelee von	40
Schwarze Johannisbeeren, Likör aus	189
Schwarze Johannisbeer-Marmelade, roh gerührte	41
Schweizer Sahnereis	184

St

Stachelbeer-Chutney	252
Stachelbeer-Gelee mit Minze	21

Figure 3b *Essen und Trinken*-Redaktion, eds., *Einmachen*. Hamburg: Grüner & Jahr, 1986. (The italics indicate general instructions.)

- 603-604, 611, 620, 622-624, 734.
 Astor, David, 407.
 Attlee, Clement, 367, 777.
 Auboynau, Philippe, 494, 503, 618.
 Aubrac, Lucie, 728, 734.
 Aubrac, Raymond, 582, 719, 725, 728, 757, 807.
 Aubry, Henry, 719.
 Auburtin, Jean, 191, 201, 215, 239, 241-243, 248, 250, 252, 260, 263, 269, 273, 292, 301, 306, 326-327, 350.
 Auphan, Gabriel, 461, 614, 809.
 Auriol, Vincent, 735, 759.
 Avinin, Antoine 582.
- Bergeret, Jean, 302, 380-381, 458, 478, 620-621, 623, 625, 634-635, 637, 663, 682, 754.
 Bergery, Gaston, 289, 304.
 Bergson, Henri, 21, 52-55, 143, 152.
 Berle, Adolf, 536, 540.
 Berlon, André, 163, 169.
 Bernanos, Georges, 575.
 Bernstein, Henry, 389, 516, 539
 Berque, Jacques, 751.
 Bertaux, Pierre, 580.
 Bescond, commandant, 311, 317.
 Béthouart, Émile, 36, 40, 392, 599, 768-771, 778-781, 790.

1. Les exigences de la mise en pages nous ont contraints à ne retenir que les principaux noms cités, ceux des personnages du drame, à l'exclusion des historiens et journalistes.

Figure 4 Jean Lacouture, *De Gaulle*, vol. 1: *Le rebelle, 1890-1944*. Paris: Seuil, 1984.

Churchill, Winston, 38, 207, 225, 306, 319, 327, 329-330, 332-337, 340-342, 344, 347, 350-352, 358, 364-371, 376, 379, 384, 399-402, 404, 433, 436-443, 447-448, 452-455, 457-458, 462, 465, 468, 471-472, 476-477, 480, 582, 484-488, 491, 495-496, 498, 500-501, 507-508, 514, 516, 518, 520, 523, 535, 541, 548, 550-552, 555-556, 558-561, 563, 565-568, 570, 576, 578, 592, 597, 602, 607-609, 614-616, 619, 626, 628-635, 637-643, 645-650, 657, 658, 660, 669, 672-673, 681, 689, 705-706, 712-714, 726, 737-738, 740-745, 754, 762-776, 782, 799, 814-815, 830.

Figure 5 Jean Lacouture, *De Gaulle*, vol. 1: *Le rebelle, 1890-1944*. Paris: Seuil, 1984.

HUGO (Eugène), frère de Hugo Victor : I, 15, 58, 66, 67, 70, 90, 97, 99, 110, 116, 117, 120, 141, 145, 147, 158, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 172, 178, 179, 181, 183, 186, 191, 192, 194, 196, 209, 216, 222, 225, 226, 227, 228, 232, 233, 236, 237, 247, 248, 254, 255, 256, 259, 260, 261, 269, 270, 271, 273, 274, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 284, 288, 289, 292, 294, 297, 298, 299, 301, 302, 305, 306, 308, 310, 311, 312, 327, 330, 333, 349, 350, 351, 368, 380, 393, 394, 400, 403, 409, 411, 412, 417, 421, 422, 426,

Figure 6 Hubert Juin, *Victor Hugo*. Paris: Flammarion, 1986. 3 vols.

tures. No cross-referencing to related concepts using 'see also' is ever seen, although the user is occasionally pointed to preferred terms or names by a 'see' reference. A combined 'Index of names and subjects' in the fourth volume of an Italian biography of Cavour laudably names the indexers who produced it, but rather oddly states that the index of names was produced by one person and the index of subjects by another, suggesting that the two separate indexes were then simply thrown together.⁷

The Amsterdam en dash

Before going on to *Vorsprung durch Technik*, we can make a brief stop in Amsterdam (Figure 9). I am most grateful to Eric van Broekhuizen of the Amsterdam publishers Rodopi, the only company that responded to inquiries on indexing practices which I also sent to a number of prestigious academic and non-fiction publishers in Paris, Turin, Barcelona, and Madrid.

Rodopi produce between 100 and 120 books per year with indexes, and the examples they sent me show that, like French indexes, they can have quite long page reference sequences and quite liberal use of 'ff.'

GAULLE, Pierre de (1897-1959)

Frère de Charles de Gaulle. Guerre 1914-1918. Entre dans la carrière bancaire (1921). Mobilisé (1939). Directeur de banque à Lyon, participe à la Résistance avec le groupe *Ceux de la Libération*. Arrêté par la Gestapo (mars 1943), déporté en Tchécoslovaquie (sept. 1943). Libéré par les Alliés (1945), reprend sa carrière bancaire. Adhère au R.P.F. (1947). Élu Conseiller général de la Seine et Président du Conseil municipal de Paris (oct. 1947). Élu sénateur R.P.F. (nov. 1948). Président de l'intergroupe R.P.F. au Conseil de la République. Élu député R.P.F. (juin 1951).

248, 309, 311, 312, 326, 349, 350, 354, 371, 372, 475.

Figure 7 Charles de Gaulle, *Lettres, notes et carnets Mai 1945-Juin 1951*, ed. Philippe de Gaulle. Paris: Plon, 1984.

indicators. In this case, a single 'f.' indicates the following page, and the double 'ff.' a series of following pages. Another example (Figure 10) has an interesting use of the en dash, resembling the use of the tilde to repeat the headword in the entries in bilingual dictionaries. The plural, however, is written out in full ('making plans'). As in other continental indexes, page ranges are always given in full here rather than being abbreviated (to '118-38', for example).

Vorsprung, but not very good Technik

My personal experience in indexing on the Continent is with German publishers, initially as a desk editor managing the indexing of some 30 English-language medical titles per year, and later freelance. I should, incidentally, mention here how indispensable the Society of Indexers' *Indexers available*⁸ publication is to desk editors on the Continent dealing with English-language publications—it can be an absolute life-saver, or at least a job-saver.

We can start by indicating some of the difficulties faced by a British desk editor working on index production for English-language books published by a German company. First of all, you may have to persuade your editorial or production department that each subheading in set-out indexes does not need to be preceded by an en dash, and that indenting it is going to be clear enough. For the first two or three indexes you supply from your freelancers after implementing

C

collection, 327 sq, 507.
Collège de France, 354.
colorant, 487.
Colosseum, 527.
combustion, 369 sq.
Commerçon, Philibert, 326, 329.
communauté scientifique, 94 sq.
354 sq, 364, 452, 482, 501 sq.
communication scientifique, 106.

Cabanis, Pierre Georges, 339, 344.
cadran solaire, 68 sq.
calcul, 32 sq, 39-61, 167 sq.
197-221, 515-515.
calcul différentiel, 146-372
calcul électro
calculatrice
calculatrice
Campanella
Candolle, A
330-333
Cannizzaro,
catastrophie
390 sq.
Carcavi, Pie
291.
cardan, 220
Carnot, Laz
359.
Carnot, Sad
355, 48
Caro, Heinr
carré, 130.
Carthage, 1.
Carré, John
Cassini, 350
Castell, pé
Castelan, abt

chimie, 297-319, 363-385, 447-467.
chimique (industrie), 487 sq.
chimiste (profession), 73, 297-319,
363-385, 452 sq.
Chuquet, Nicolas, 103, 141 sq, 197,
202 sq, 523.
Cicéron, 126, 183.
la Cité de Dieu de saint Augustin,
178.

Figure 8 Michel Serres et al., eds., *Eléments d'histoire des sciences*. Paris: Bordas, 1989.

psychologism 134, 152, 154, 157,
159, 164f.
psychology 8ff., 15, 21, 24f., 37,
40, 53, 55ff., 63, 65f., 68, 77-
92, 96, 98f., 102f., 105f., 108ff.,
113ff., 119f., 122, 125-138,
140ff., 146f., 151f., 155, 158,
164f., 188, 197, 202ff., 206,
211, 219, 221ff., 231f.
psychophysical parallelism 109f.
rationality 7, 10ff., 28, 55f., 170f.,
176f., 179-189, 191ff., 198ff.,
217, 219ff., 224, 227f., 230,
234ff., 244

Figure 9 John R. Wettersten. *The roots of critical rationalism*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1992.

this proposition, production will still be halted with desperate phone calls being made until the publishing company and various typesetters get used to it.

Then comes the problem of run-on lines. Having got used to the idea of indenting, the typesetters are liable to start enjoying it too much and will take it to the extreme when a heading is too long for the column, starting the following line five or six em spaces in, half-way along the line or more even when there is only one level of subheading.

Then comes the problem of page referencing. If you are producing a book in American English, you may want the page references to be abbreviated in *Chicago manual* style (Figure 11a). Assuming that by this time the typesetters have been made compliant to the extent that they won't just automatically set page ranges in full, there is still no way that this system is going to pass a German proofreading department, because the second number in the range varies between one figure and two, depending on whether it is less than one hundred or above or below 109 in multiples of a hundred.

The fourteenth edition of the *Chicago manual* now for the first time offers an alternative system in which the second number in the range only gives the changed part of the first number (Figure 11b). However, in British practice *Hart's rules* makes an exception to this for numbers in the range 10–19 in each hundred ('210–11, 711–18'). Either of these systems, the Chicago no. 2 style or *Hart's rules*, should pass the test of German typesetters and proofreaders without causing a hiccup in the production process during the last-minute stages when indexes are being produced.

But we're still not out of the woods (Figure 12). If you follow standard indexing recommendations to distinguish between detailed and continuous treatment of a topic (using a page range) and individual passing references (using a series of page numbers), you are still going to find production grinding to a halt in a continental publishing company until the inconsistency between the two is clarified. I did once attempt to explain this distinction to a member of a German journals production department, but to judge by the expression of disbelief on his face, he quite obviously thought I had just invented the idea on the spot as an excuse for editorial carelessness. This again was a case of culture shock.

The conclusive solution to all these difficulties, of course, is to produce a house style specification for English-language indexes and submit it to typesetters and proofreaders with each index, or as a standing specification. But this conclusion can only be reached once one has learned from experience that everyone else is working on a completely different set of presuppositions.

This is where we come to the *Vorsprung*. There's an excellent little book, more or less the German equivalent of *Hart's rules*, published by Duden in the

- plan 21, 23, 44, 47, 52, 67, 84, 89–93, 97, 100, 106, 111, 118–138, 143, 148, 149, 153, 154, 166, 167, 179, 181, 185, 194, 196
- author of – 122, 181, 196
- critic of – 122, 181, 196
- counselling – 124
- external – 124
- internal – 124
- making plans 5, 40, 77, 97, 100, 118, 120, 135, 141
- policy – 124
- pre-existent – 131, 133
- reconstruction of a – 132
- rephrasal of a – 121, 123, 127, 128, 130, 137, 142, 205
- planning
 - interactive – 77, 84, 109, 110

Figure 10 Tom Koole and Jan D. ten Thije. *The construction of intercultural discourse*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1992.

- location references, 3–10, 71–72, 107–8, 210–11, 321–25, 505–6, 609–17, 711–18, 1002–6, 1536–38

Figure 11a *The Chicago manual of style*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 14th ed., 1993. Number abbreviation style no. 1 (paragraph 8.69).

- location references, 3–10, 71–2, 107–8, 210–1, 321–5, 505–6, 609–17, 711–8, 1002–6, 1536–8

Figure 11b *The Chicago manual of style*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 14th ed., 1993. Number abbreviation style no. 2 (paragraph 8.70).

- location references, 3–10, 71–2, 107–8, 210–11, 321–5, 505–6, 609–17, 711–18, 1002–6, 1536–8

Figure 11c *Hart's rules*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 39th ed., 1983, p. 19.

German city of Mannheim—the authority equivalent in Germany to Oxford University Press in Britain and the University of Chicago Press in the USA. Six of the book's 274 pages are devoted to indexing, and we may quote the introduction to the section at length:

A book is only complete when it has an index. The optimum value and practical usefulness of a specialist text, a non-fiction book, and particularly of scholarly and scientific works, are only established when an index of names and subjects sums up the materials in the text. The table of contents alone is not an adequate guide. The lack of an index is a severe restriction to the study of a work and to its capacity for being cited and referred to. The user cannot be expected to read the whole of a book through in order to locate a specific text or quotation.

Publishers are well aware that the sales of their books may be reduced substantially by the lack of an index. Why, then, do specialist texts and scholarly and scientific books continue to appear without indexes? Usually the authors, the publisher, or the editors are more reluctant to carry out the apparently unpleasant task of indexing than they are afraid of the costs involved. In addition, there is a lack of qualified staff capable of producing a carefully prepared index on a rational plan.⁹

There is a challenge to potential indexers in that last sentence that has still, many years after the book was first published, not been met as it ideally might have been by the emergence of an army of German freelance indexers. I have by chance met a couple of indexers of German books over the years, one of whom was still working with paper slips (not index cards) and after 20 years of medical indexing felt seriously under-appreciated both by publishers and by authors. Both she, and another indexer I have spoken to who was employed on the indexing of a daily newspaper, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, seemed completely baffled by the idea that there might be an organization abroad in which indexers were able to meet to exchange ideas and experience; and they found the idea of an entire scholarly journal being devoted to the subject precisely as strange as the average man in the *Strasse* does. So there is probably a vicious circle operating, in which under-appreciation from publishers and authors produces under-appreciation of indexers' own work—which I think it's right to say is widely seen in German publishing as being a kind of menial or secretarial task, although certainly an important one, associated with book publishing.

But what sort of index is it that the Duden guidelines are proposing (Figure 13)? Since this example from the book shows separate name and subject indexes, it's not as clear as the introduction just quoted may have suggested that the principle of 'one book, one index' is being applied. There are no ex-

location references, 34–6, 37, 38, 39, 192–6, 197, 198, 199

Figure 12 Page ranges. *Chicago manual*, paragraph 17.9; British Standard 3700, paragraph 5.4.3.

PLICIT restrictions on the number of location references that can follow a heading, and under 'Bernstein' here there are twelve. The guidelines disapprove of the 'imprecise' use of the abbreviation 'ff.' as a locator for a succeeding sequence of pages, but they do approve the use of the single 'f.' to indicate the immediately following page. Bold type in the location references is used to indicate principal references to a person or subject, but the guidelines only indicate this in their instructions on typesetting, not in the instructions to the indexer on how to prepare the index physically—so that it seems to be expected that the bold may only need to be added at proof stage.

All in all, though, we can see that, as far as indexing goes, Germany clearly has the *Vorsprung* over other continental countries. However, half-way down the right-hand column in Figure 13 we can see what I shall call the Mannheim en dash—which is where it has the not very good *Technik*.

The Mannheim en dash

You may be wondering why there are three dashes under *Allgemeiner Deutscher Arbeiterverein*, and not just one, since the subheading is only at one conceptual level below it. The reason is, of course, that in this style the dash, like the Amsterdam en dash we saw earlier, works like the tilde in a bilingual dictionary and refers only to a single word, not to the whole heading as a single concept. The first dash is for *Allgemeiner*, the second for *Deutscher*, and the third for *Arbeiterverein*. This is the standard style for the subordination of subheadings used in German indexes.

In Figure 14, therefore, a German and an Anglo-Saxon index user are going to read the index entry in two completely different ways, and they are going to be mutually unaware that it's happening. An Anglo-Saxon is likely to read the subheading sequence here as meaning 'opening of the aortic hiatus', 'sinus of the aortic hiatus', and 'valve of the aortic hiatus', and everything that we know about indexes from a lifetime of reading books and using the indexes in them tells us to read it that way. However, all of those expressions are anatomically meaningless. What the dash actually refers to is only the single first word of the main heading, and what the subheadings say is actually 'aortic opening', 'aortic sinus', and 'aortic valve'.

We can look at a few examples of this system at work, both from indexes prepared by medical authors. In Figure 15a, it becomes clear that there is no syste-

*Beispiele:***Namenverzeichnis**

Abendroth, Wolfgang 279, 297
 Adler, Viktor 17, 240, 252, 258,
 276, 278, 297
 Adoratski, Wladimir 11, 18, 22
 Allard, Helmut 22
 Allen, Amelia 68 f.
 Angerer, Leopold 264
 Auer, Ignaz 20, 147, 161, 167, 187,
 192, 197, 226, 257, 283
 Aveling, Eduard 207, 210, 249
 Aveling-Marx, Eleanor 20, 207,
 210, 249, 252, 261
 Axelrod, Paul B. 99, 297

Bebel, August 147, 192
Becker, Johann Philipp 20, 50,
 52–54, 85, 93, 99, 133, 220
Beier, Gerhard 297
Bernbeck, Gerhard 279
Bernstein, Eduard 17, 20, 112,
 159, 186, 201 f., 205, 212, 233,
 249, 254–260, 276
Biskamp, Elard 71 f., 76
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Arbeiterverein 79–85, 90–92,
 101, 112, 114, 121 f., 190
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Gewerkschaftsverband 218
Arbeiterbörsen 244
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Figure 13 *Duden Satz- und Korrekturanweisungen. Richtlinien für die Texterfassung. Mit ausführlicher Beispielsammlung*, ed. Dudenredaktion. Mannheim: Dudenverlag, 5th ed., 1986, p. 31.

matic limitation on the number of dashes that can be entered; the depth reached on this page is four, and the user has to follow the sequence backwards through every single line of two whole columns to identify what the final entry on the page is referring to. In Figure 15b, the same author has entered 'Musculus abductor magnus' on the first occasion with two dashes; followed it by 'Musculus abductor magnus' with one dash; and finally after an intervening 'Musculus abductor longis', with two dashes and incorrect Latin, there's another 'Musculus abductor magnus' with two dashes. Indexing software or database programs ought to make it impossible for authors to do that, one might think; and one might also think that editorial departments might employ someone capable of three minutes' thought to prevent such things from going into print. However, as A. E. Housman once said, 'Thought is irksome, and three minutes is a long time.'¹⁰

The second example (Figure 16) is from an English-language index also produced by an author, in this case a Belgian, using the German system. The subordinating dashes go down to a depth of six here, implying a total of seven subheading levels, and every single entry on the page refers to the main heading 'artery' at the top left, which is repeated from the previous page. The subheading for 'thrombosis, acute' at the bottom right, when traced back, implies a full entry reading 'artery, iliac, stenosis, angioplasty, percutaneous, thrombosis, acute'. For each entry on the page a user, and a fast one at that, is going to need up to a minute and a half to trace back what it refers to, even before actually looking up the page references. The heading carried over from the previous recto page, 'artery, coronary, stent, flexible, balloon expandable, experimental', may seem at first sight to make no conceptual sense—even to those with a minimum of medical knowledge—until a few minutes are invested to turn it into the implied entry, 'experimental balloon-expandable flexible stent for the coronary artery'. I have seen German indexes with ten levels of dashes and main entries running over three or four three-column pages.

A slightly better example of the style is seen in an index to a botany textbook (Figure 17). Here there is only one level of subheading with a dash, and the lengthy introductory note states that italic numbers refer to illustrations, with these illustration locators 'usually' implying a simultaneous text reference to the same subject on the same page. The page references in bold type indicate definitions of a term, or in the case of plant names the place where 'the taxon within the system is described'. Oddly, though, a comma is used here to separate the dash from the subheading term, and again we can see that there is no restriction on the number of location references that follow a heading (*Acer* has fifteen).

Aortic hiatus

– opening

– sinus

– valve

Figure 14 The Mannheim en dash.

Switching from the sciences to the humanities, finally

- **sternohyoideus und sternothyroideus** 9ff.
- M(usculus) abductor brevis** 221, 225
- – **magnus** 195, 221
- **abductor magnus** 183ff., 193ff., 223, 227
- – **longis** 185, 193ff., 207, 225ff.
- – **magnus** 185, 197ff., 219, 223ff.

Figure 15b German medical index.

(although there's no distinction in German between these two concepts, which are both *Wissenschaft*), we can look at the index to a German translation of a French philosophy book (Figure 18). At first sight it looks formally slightly more like an English-style index. The dash here is not being used in the Mannheim style, but simply as a visual indication of the start of a subheading, since the words '*Intentionalität*' and '*Philosophie*', for example, are repeated in the subheading texts. However, there are long strings of location references again, use of 'f.' and 'ff.' in addition to explicit page ranges, and again the book contains separate indexes of subjects and names instead of a single index. However, as can be seen from the enlarged inset, it does have one feature that's unique in the German indexes I have examined: its use of the abbreviation 'vgl.' for '*vergleiche*', 'compare'—the equivalent of our 'cf.' abbreviation—to point the user to related terms.

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 Ampulla ductus deferentis 187ff., 209ff., 213ff.
 Antrum 131
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Figure 15a German medical index.

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Figure 16 Belgian-produced German-style English-language medical index.

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Figure 17 E. Strasburger *et al.*, *Lehrbuch der Botanik für Hochschulen*, ed. P. Sittte *et al.* Stuttgart: Fischer, 1991.

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 lismus

Figure 18 Emmanuel Lévinas, *Die Spur des Anderen*, tr. W. N. Krewani. Freiburg: Alber, 1983.

Ilmenauerstraße
 Invalidenstraße

Figure 19a An 'i' with a curve on it.



Figure 19b More of the German card file system.

Culture shock 2: the final frontier

This has been a fairly brisk stroll through a variety of examples of what is understood by the word 'indexing' in continental Europe. It should be clear from the above that—even when the new International Standard on indexing is published and in use on the Continent, and even when we eventually have the improved contacts with professional indexers there for which Hazel Bell appealed in an editorial in *The Indexer* in 1991¹¹—it is quite likely that continental indexers working even to the same standard requirements will be found to produce indexes based in addition on other silent, and to us unexpected and often inexplicable, presuppositions.

The reader may be relieved to learn in the conclusion here that the Duden publishing guidelines mentioned above, the source of the 'Mannheim en dash', do actually advise against separating out words beginning with 'Sch' and 'St' in alphabetical lists—perhaps the Continent is not so strange after all, one may think. But on the very same page, Duden adds the statement that the letters 'I and J . . . should be alphabetized separately, as they are different letters of the alphabet'.¹² To us that sounds absurdly obvious; but what has to be remembered is that, while the two letters became distinct from one another in the English-speaking world three centuries ago, the use of Gothic-style handwriting and type, in which the distinction is not so clear, was only abandoned in Germany within living memory. Those who have visited Germany may have been puzzled by street name signs such as those in Figure 19a, where *Ilmenauerstrasse* and *Invalidenstrasse* have, apparently by mistake, been given an initial 'J'. If one consults an educated native German informant, however, one is told that this is not a 'J', but an 'I' with a curve on the bottom. I live in a row of houses in Augsburg numbered from 25a to 25k, and in which the terraced house next to 25i is 25k, with no intervening 'j'. In fact, for Germans, the boundary between the letters I and J is simply not as clear as it is to us. The reason, therefore, that Duden *needs* to state explicitly that they are different letters of the alphabet is that the distinction is quite often opaque to many people.

To close, then, we can return to the German card file system (Figure 19b). As can be seen, I and J are classed together. But of course, *nobody* would dream of alphabetizing a file of cards for a book index like that, would they (Figure 19c)?

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Holunder-Weintrauben-Marmelade 75
 Honig-Pflaumen in Armagnac 170

I-J

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 Johannisbeer-Aprikosen-Marmelade 30
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Figure 19c *Essen und Trinken*-Redaktion, eds., *Einnachen*.
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Kajman, review of *Correspondance de Sigmund Freud et Sandor Ferenczi*, ed. Eva Brabant et al., *Guardian Weekly/Le Monde*, 7 June 1992.

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Nice index if you can find it

The following note, which indexers everywhere will find rather sad, appeared in the editorial of the *Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society*, new series volume 1, 1993:

... Another traditional feature has been abandoned, namely the concurrent subject index, which in recent years has sometimes contributed to the delay in the publication of the *Transactions*. In order to do justice to the increasing volume of material now being published, a considerably enlarged and more fully differentiated index than has appeared in previous years would be required. Moreover, enquiries have revealed that more extensive use is now being made by members of the cumulative index compiled by J. A. E. Robinson, which has recently been extended to embrace author, subject, year and illustrations by category.

Presumably the cumulative index which is attracting use by members is kept on cards (or such) at the Society's headquarters, and it is at least heartening to know that more use is being made of it. However, the decision not to print annual indexes remains a sad one, because not everyone who receives the *Transactions* will live in, or near, Halifax; quite a few subscribers to journals of this kind are expatriates living overseas, or are in the American universities whose subscriptions prop up so many of our homely journals. They cannot pop into the library to use the card index. The new format of the Halifax is a great improvement over its old one and it seems a great pity to have to reduce its scholarly uses by restricting access to the information it publishes.

C. L.