

Developing a Deep Index Introductory Remarks to Symposium*

By JOHN C. COSTELLO, Jr.**

Jonkers Business Machines, Inc., Gaithersburg, Maryland

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Members of the Program Committee felt that it would be desirable for the Chairman's introductory remarks to include a definition of "deep index," so that each speaker on the program might then have the opportunity to indicate whether or not the Chairman's definition was acceptable, and, if not, how that speaker would modify it.

A deep index, for the purposes of this symposium, is defined as a search device, generally external to and separated from the document file, in which:

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| INFORMATION
DESCRIPTION | 1. Information content of documents is described by words or groups of words which represent unit concepts or unit ideas. |
| DOCUMENT
IDENTIFICATION | 2. Documents are identified by non-significant or relatively non-significant accession numbers. |
| DEPTH OF
DESCRIPTION | 3. The density of description of information is unlimited because of freedom from the traditional pre-combined multi-conceptual subject heading approach. |
| INDEX
ORGANIZATION | 4. System records may be either
a. document records on which have been posted terms or their codes, or
b. term records on which accession numbers have been posted. |
| PHYSICAL FORM
OF INDEX | 5. The index may be constituted so as to provide for searches to be made |

FILE ORGANIZATION

- a. manually by way of typed or hand-posted cards.
 - b. by manual or machine manipulation of either
 - (1) field punched cards, or
 - (2) marginal punched cards
 - c. by computer processing of either
 - (1) tapes,
 - (2) films or
 - (3) discs.
6. The document file is either
(a) the documents themselves arranged in accession number order, or
(b) an intermediate card catalog or list, ordered serially by accession number, which provides to searchers indication of physical location of documents identified by accession number.

RETRIEVAL

7. The operation of locating source numbers is accomplished by correlating, reassociating, rerelating, or recombining unit concept terms in selected logical combination, or simply by one term if material pertinent to only one concept is desired.

PRODUCT OF RETRIEVAL

8. The retrieval operation produces the accession numbers of the documents which contain the information required.

This definition of a deep index as presented above obviously differs only slightly from the widely accepted interpretation of what a coordinate index should be. The title of this symposium might well have been "developing a coordinate index."

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** Information Research Division, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus 1, Ohio.