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writing. A compiler is a program which equips the particular computer to accept programs in a problem-oriented language and to transform these into machine language instructions. Again, the panel and the lecturer represent no unified opinion on this matter, and no synthesis is presented. With the widespread international use of the computer for language processing, such programs should be made available widely. The book under review here represents an advance in that it is based on international cooperation; it is disappointing in that it yields so little evidence of a realization of this fact on the part of the participants. The nonprofessional user of the computer will find little comfort in the professional's attitude towards him as revealed in the pages of the symposium report.—James W. Marchand, Vanderbilt University.


Permuted indexes are falling upon us in profusion, but the two under review here are the first extensive ones to appear in the field of librarianship. Although IBM calls its process "Key Word in Context" (which shortens into the happy designation KWIC) whereas General Electric says "significant word in context," the two efforts use essentially the same devices for controlling the same body of literature. Large libraries will want both of these bibliographies even though they are very similar in subject and scope.

The General Electric bibliography lists alphabetically by main entry 1550 books and journal articles in the broad area of information storage and retrieval, including such tangential but related subjects as mechanical translation, character and pattern recognition, speech analysis and synthesis, self-organizing systems, and artificial intelligence. Almost all references are to writings since 1949, although a few significant earlier works are included. The General Electric bibliography has an index to secondary authors and an index to source journals. (This latter index, for example, shows that nine items are listed that had been published in College and Research Libraries. As would be expected, American Documentation furnished more items than any other journal with 329). This is followed by a chronological index, and the book closes with the permuted word index. Approximately 7,250 entries in this index indicate a ratio of not quite five per item.

The IBM bibliography contains about twice as many main entries, again with each entry indexed under an average of five terms permuted from its title. There is an author index but no source nor chronological indexes. An interesting sophistication is a list of words not used in developing the permuted index. Among this homogeneous but useless lot of discarded terms are Don, Force, Poughkeepsie, September, and Versus. Although more comprehensive than the General Electric list, the IBM compilation is printed at a reduction in size giving it a somewhat handier format.

These are good practical examples of what the permuted index can do. It will be interesting and indicative to observe how much we use them.—D.K.

Statistics


One of the problems which was never adequately solved by the hardworking, deadline-pushed ACRL Statistics Committee (now LAD LOMS Statistics Committee for College and University Libraries) was that of providing for academic librarians a useful or significant analysis of the raw data supplied in the tables formerly published in this journal each January. When the collection and publication of statistics was turned over to the USOE Library Services Branch in 1959, it was with the understanding that the data processing machinery of that agency would provide a more detailed statistical analysis as Part 2 of its yearly publication of