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A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index, Part 3: Still a Work in Progress

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Nevertheless, presumably because of its usefulness in locating references in the unpublished writings of Ellen White, the index was rekeyed in the 1980s. Some scanning and correcting may also have been part of the process of converting it to an electronic format. This electronic version seemingly fell into disuse with the full-text database created in the 1990s.

However, the full-text database is yet to be available to the general public, and Southwestern students have found the card index quite helpful in a course on Ellen White's writings for which they are required to use her letters and manuscripts. Hence the need for an electronic version that more than one person could use at a time and that would not involve the level of maintenance, and misfiling proneness, of a card index.

Converting the file meant I had to clean out a large amount of computer code gibberish. It meant double checking quite a few of the paper cards in order to correct the electronic record and vice versa. Once a comma-separated format was ready, loading the data to a table to be queried online was easy by comparison. Access to the headings is open to anyone, but it is necessary to be a registered user in order to see the corresponding instances.

Currently being tested in earnest by students, the index has already gotten some use by other patrons. One of them, Pastor Kevin Morgan, co-author of the 2009 book *More Than Words: A Study of Inspiration and Ellen White's Use of Sources in The Desire of Ages*, requested access to the password-protected index as an aid in his current work on two related titles. I recently learned about his experience with it. "I found a very good quotation using the database and just wanted to thank you for having it," he wrote.

Similar deployments of the biographical and addressee indexes are scheduled for the next two summers. As well, continued refinement of the topical index is in order. Beyond cautious review of headings, the long-term goal is to electronically cross-reference these indexes to the letter and manuscript index in order to bring all references to a particular letter or manuscript under one record. All our indexes are easily available at egw.swau.edu.

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A HISTORY OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PERIODICAL INDEX, PART 3: STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS

Daniel Drazen

The first two parts of the history of the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index*[1] are what they claim to be. They're histories, written with scholarship, objectivity and distance. I can claim none of this for my contribution to the history of the *Index* for one simple reason: I still work here. What this paper represents is a memoir rather than a history. It is about what I've been doing for a living for 20 years, longer than any of my predecessors. Whatever

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[1] Marilyn Crane: "A history of the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index: Part 1": http://www.asdal.org/minutes/cranesdapi1.html ; Keith Clouten: "A history of the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index: Part 2": http://www.asdal.org/minutes/cloutensdapi2.html

scholarship I practice will involve me racking my brain for memories as the primary source, rather than relying on documentation prepared and, to a certain extent, forgotten.

1992: A NEW BEGINNING
On my first day as Editor of the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index, I had to leave town.
I wasn't trying to avoid anything; rather, I was informed that my first official act would be to accompany the then-Managing Editor, Harvey Brenneise, to the 1992 ASDAL Conference being held at Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington. My staying in Berrien Springs wouldn't have accomplished much anyway, as the *Index* was still in transit from La Sierra College in Riverside, California. Only when I returned to Michigan did I officially pick up the reins.

The *Index*, at the beginning of my experience of it, consisted of a Gateway computer with 8 megabytes of memory, a laser printer that outweighed the CPU, desktop card files containing information on our clients/subscribers, and one cube-shaped card file, roughly five feet on each side, that when full couldn't be moved even if you ran a truck into it. The *Index*'s first home was a large recently-remodeled room just behind the circulation desk of the James White Library. In the beginning, I had the room all to myself, but this situation wouldn't last as the room was scheduled to be subdivided into smaller offices at some point; as I write this, that space has been subdivided into an office, the work space for the Interlibrary Loan department, and storage space.

It wasn't too much later after the move that free-standing wall dividers were scheduled to be installed. In order to anticipate just what would go where, masking tape was put down on the floor to define the *Index*'s space. Since there was nobody with whom to share the space at first, I tried not to be territorial about the situation and regularly walked through the non-existent walls if I wanted to go somewhere.

One of my first responsibilities was to learn how to deal with Index Time. Index Time is not the same as clock or calendar time. With the Index, we are almost perpetually one year behind the rest of the world, preoccupied with 1999 when the calendar says it's 2000. This has confused some of our clients who wonder why they would receive their 1999 edition of the *Index* in 2000 and why they're not going to receive their 2000 edition for another year. The short answer, of course, is that when it's still 2000 I have to wait for that year's magazines to arrive and be indexed. This is the perennial problem of reference librarians: should the information requested be comprehensive or should it be delivered in a timely manner? I refer to this as the Great Binary: do you want it fast or do you want it complete?

This contributed to the *Index*'s functioning at a different pace from the rest of the university. Aside from the major breaks for the major holidays, nothing about the *Index*'s way of doing business was in sync with the rhythm of the academic year: when classes started, when Fall and Spring breaks happened, when Weeks of Prayer took place. Since the *Index* was ultimately the property of the Association of SDA Librarians rather than the University library or even the University as a whole, it contributed to the sense I had from those early days that the *Index* was "in the library but not of it."

I had gotten a taste of this during my first library job after graduate school. I was hired in mid-1976 as a part-time temporary assistant at the Editorial Library of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* office in Chicago. They were in the midst of a major English literature cataloging project and needed someone who could help take up the slack in the Library until the project was completed at year's end. Although I had hoped to go into academic librarianship when I graduated, the job market in the mid-1970s was abysmal. It was even worse for seminary and theological libraries where I had desired to work; with many of them having to pool their resources and join consortia, there was effectively a negative job market in the field. But working at *Britannica* proved to be an invaluable experience in special librarianship. It was the kind of in-the-trenches librarianship that I came to enjoy and for which I was trained at Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois (now Dominican University).

One of the more fascinating features of working at *EB* was the fact that the Yearbook offices were just down the hall from the Editorial Library. Around November, the process of putting the Yearbook to bed began in earnest. This only intensified if someone famous passed away or if there was a major development of some kind before the end of the year (since the year in question was 1976, the presidential election was already in the budget, as it were). One example of a development that literally hit close to home was the sudden death of Chicago's long-time and iconic

Mayor, Richard J. Daley on the 20th of December. This gave me my first exposure to the realities of working on a deadline.

With the *Index*, we have to wait for some publications to get to the office before we could even think about putting the Index to bed. There was an understandable delay in some publications getting to us, especially from overseas. There were also, however, some problems with a handful of domestic titles which gained a reputation for tardiness. Perhaps the worst in this respect was *Origins*, published by the Geoscience Research Institute and issued on an increasingly irregular schedule. Some years there were two issues, some years only one, some years they didn't even bother, creating a *lacuna* in coverage. It was understandable given the nature of the publication: it is a scholarly journal dealing with biology, earth sciences, and other fields dealing with the creation/evolution debate. This is not to say that the more prosaic publications didn't experience delays as well, but many of those delays had nothing to do with the periodical's production schedule. I remember one issue of *Insight* which arrived in an apologetic polybag supplied by the US Postal Service because the magazine had been damaged while in handling. Actually, "damaged" may be too kind; I remember thinking that the issue looked as if someone had fed it through a carburetor.

The raw material for the *Index* is magazines, sent to us by publishers from around the world. My job as editor settled into a well-defined one: to index each issue of each periodical as it arrives and to enter it into a database. Back in the day, the year's information was kept on the desktop computer and organized using Pro-Cite indexing software, a dependable program which I use when doing "outside" indexing.[2]

We had a subscription list consisting of 54 periodicals which received the print *Index* on a *quid pro quo* basis; in exchange for indexing their publications, they would receive a free copy of the annual print edition of the *Index*. It was a straightforward arrangement, and we liked to say that it was a way to help promote the publications we indexed. Once it was reasonably established that we'd gotten most if not all of the year's periodicals in-house and on the computer's hard drive, the *Index* would be generated, proofread, and then taken to a local printer to be run off and bound. The hard copies were then mailed off to each of the 163 subscribers then listed.

As the turn of the century approached, however, I noticed that one or two periodical titles stopped coming, then the number of absentee titles increased. It wasn't hard to figure out why: publications needed to trim their unpaid subscription rolls and the *Index* copies were clearly expendable. This development was an important step in bringing the *Index* into the orbit of what is now known as the Center for Adventist Research within the James White Library but what was then referred to as the Adventist Heritage Center. We thus began indexing the periodicals received by the James White Library and then returning them to be archived, a practice which continues as of this writing.

Being the Editor of the *Index* also involved a low level of banking: I was responsible for maintaining an account at the University, invoicing those clients who needed to be invoiced and not invoicing those who received their copies on a complimentary basis (church officers, editors of indexed periodicals, etc). While I regularly reported to the Managing Editor on the status of the accounts and invoices, it was left to the Managing Editor to deal with the subsidizing schools.

STAFF
When asked how many people worked on the *Index*, my stock answer was that I worked with a staff of three: Me, Myself, and I. Having come on board the *Index* in the shadow of the financial crisis of 1992 that precipitated the move to Andrews University[3], I found myself in the beginning doing pretty much everything in the office. But eventually, for a period of a little over a year, I was to have a staff of one: Gina Boyd.

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[2] In addition to generating the *Index* itself, we also supply two semi-annual indexes to the *Adventist Review*, one to *Ministry*, and we compile the end-of-volume index that appears in the Summer issue of the *Journal of Adventist Education*.

[3] Clouten *op. cit.*

Gina was the spouse of a seminarian. She worked at the *Index* from October of 1992 through December of 1993. I did what I could to delegate some of the non-professional duties to her. In the end, she resigned when her husband graduated and received a call to Palau.[4]

With Gina's departure at a time when the budget for the Index was so tight there was some concern as to whether it would even survive[5], I was once again left with sole responsibility for running the *Index*. This created a problem of governance. I had no problem with the nature of the work; I felt, and still feel, comfortable doing solitary indexing work. It did mean, however, that any kind of consistent authority work had to take a back seat to getting articles indexed and entered into the computer in a timely fashion. Global updates of authority information when, for instance, an author passed away was taken care of on the fly, as was general proofreading.

A more subtle, and unfortunate, side-effect was that I was no longer qualified to attend *Index* Board meetings. In the past it was different; I was free to attend simply by virtue of my being Editor. When I lost Gina, and in accordance with General Conference Working Policy, I was reduced at a stroke from Management to Labor, and Labor simply did not have a seat at the table when the Board would meet. I don't know to what extent this rule was a holdover from the church's stand on trade unionism. The rule was partially amended later on to stipulate that the Board could (note the subjunctive mood) invite the Editor to sit in on Board meetings but it would still be without the right to vote on policy. And given the tight finances that the *Index* was living with, my requesting such an invitation seemed like an act of presumption if not of fiscal irresponsibility. It was possible to attend Index Board meetings if Andrews was hosting the ASDAL Conference that year, but it seemed pointless when the authority to attend was lacking. I resigned myself to reading the Minutes of the meetings when they were published.

As a result, I have had to trust in my Managing Editor to report on conditions on the ground to the Board at its semi-annual meetings[6], and to the credit of the Managing Editors I have had, they have done just that. I submit two Editor's Reports a year just prior to each Board meeting, and I have come to count on the presence of the Managing Editor in presenting news of the Index in my place and acting as an advocate to the Board. Still, there are times when the exclusion of the Editor from the workings of the Board feels like an unavoidable yet gratuitous insult. The *Index* moved from one room of the James White Library to another on an average of once every three years as circumstances within the library changed. This demanded a certain amount of flexibility on my part. Yet as the years went on, I felt as if my ability to be flexible was being taxed to the limit.

It was during the year 1999 that I began to realize that while I was keeping up with the indexing work, I had no real idea what my job was supposed to be. With nobody to supervise and all of the work of indexing on my shoulders, I accepted this as my primary responsibility. At the same time, I began to feel as if the banking and the tracking of invoices, the polling of subscribers and proofreading and my clumsy stabs at marketing, were slipping through my fingers.

I was used to improvisation. This job was not something I learned about when I was getting my Master's Degree in Library Science. Then again, a lot had changed since I was in graduate school. Back then in the mid-1970s, library automation was one course, database searching of files on Lockheed DIALOG and SBC was only one class of that course, and nobody knew about the Internet. Yet I had primarily been doing computer searches from 1977 to 1990 for a couple of small businesses in Chicago, before going on to a short stint of one-person special librarianship, after which I was hired as *Index* editor. It was the database searching that best prepared me to work for the *Index*, though if anybody had told me that at the time I'd have said they were crazy.

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[4] Something like three student workers came to the *Index*, but none lasted for long enough to make an impact on operations. In the case of one student worker, he was effectively poached by another department.

[5] *ASDAL Action*: 1994, Winter, 10

[6] The Winter meetings of the *Index* Board have since been replaced with conference calls. The Summer meetings continue to be held in conjunction with the annual ASDAL Conference.

Still, nothing had prepared me for what I was actually doing. I finally realized that I needed to do something that I should have done earlier: talk to other periodical index editors. So I made some phone calls and arranged a couple of interviews.

PEER REVIEW

On July 16, 1999, I visited the office of the *RELIGION INDEX: ONE* (RIO) in downtown Evanston, Illinois, to get some idea of how other periodical indexes that cover the same turf as the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index* do things. I had also discovered that the office of the editor of the *CATHOLIC PERIODICAL AND LITERATURE INDEX* (CPLI) was literally a block away from RIO's office, so a visit to CPLI's editor was also arranged. I met with Carolyn Coats, who is then Editor of RIO. As editor, her primary responsibilities consisted of authority work, editing, and proofreading. The actual indexing was handled by specialists among the staff of 10 people who produced RIO and the other religion indexes published by the American Theological Library Association. RIO was, and is, a part of ATLA with a (1999) budget of $2.7 million excluding income from grants.

As periodicals came in, the indexers selected the titles and indexed them based on their interests and expertise; ability to read a foreign language was one factor, since 25% of the 600 periodicals indexed by RIO in 1999 were not in English (while being multilingual was not a factor in editing the *Index* at that time, it would play a role in the future). They then indexed the publication using a controlled vocabulary of terms produced by RIO. Because the publications were primarily scholarly, a "very efficient" indexer could average 40-50 articles indexed in a day, whereas new indexers tended to get through about only 20 articles per day. Only after the issues are indexed were they checked in.

The indexing at the time was being performed using an in-house software package called AIDE, but RIO was then in the process of switching over to using STAR by Cuadra Associates. Once the citations had been entered, the information was FTPed to the Information Services Department within ATLA. RIO was also implementing Magic periodicals check-in software to phase out the then-current manual system. They were also phasing out the Nextdata search engine used on the CD-ROM version of RIO and switching to a Dataware product. They then sent the CD-ROM out to MEDITECH for duplication.

Carolyn admitted that good indexers are hard to find. Before 1985, when the ATLA office relocated to Evanston from the campus of the University of Chicago, the indexing was done by a few full-time indexers but mostly by graduate students working part-time. Even after the move, a core of University of Chicago graduates were at the heart of the indexing operation. In filling job openings, I was told that they look for someone with a graduate degree and some information services experience. Indexers averaged about seven years on the job. Some worked at indexing "for now" until something opened up in teaching or in another field. For the most part "the indexers pretty well run themselves," according to Carolyn. Marketing, customer relations and billing were handled by the Finance and Member Services Departments within ATLA, and not by the editor or indexers.

In contrast to the offices of RIO, the CPLI office consisted of one large room with a cubicle subdivision for the Editor, Barry Hopkins. The CD-ROM version of the CPLI, which covered three newspapers among its 150 publications, was being co-produced by the ATLA, whereas the print index is physically produced out of state. Hopkins admitted that when he came to the job in 1996 CPLI was "in serious disarray." This resulted in a backlog of publications that went unindexed, though when we spoke he said that they were "just about caught up." Hopkins agreed with the productivity rate of 40-50 per day when concentrating on scholarly publications; when indexing newspaper articles, it was possible to index up to 150 articles per day[7]. CPLI used index terms based largely on the Library of Congress Subject Headings, with annual Catholic directories used to verify proper names and insure the quality of authority work. As with RIO, matters of finance, marketing and customer service were handled by the parent organization, the Catholic Library Association.

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[7] I've found this to be consistent with the rate at which I index periodicals for the SDAPI. Whereas articles from general publications (e.g., Conference magazines such as the *Columbia Union Visitor* or the *Adventist Review* itself) can be indexed at the rate of about 20 citations in an hour, the rate is half that for scholarly publications such as *Andrews University Seminary Studies* and the *Journal of Asia Adventist Seminary*. When it comes to retrospective indexing of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* with its plethora of short news items, it is indeed possible to index close to 150 articles per day.

The indexing situation at CPLI was not what it should have been, according to Hopkins. He depended on satellite indexing, with a staff of five indexers (two in Pennsylvania, two in Illinois and one in the District of Columbia). The Pennsylvania indexers seemed to be particularly vexing, as they were something of a legacy and in the Editor's view they frankly didn't know how to index properly – Mr. Hopkins resorted to the word "incompetence" several times when discussing them. The data entry had been done out of the Pennsylvania facility, but at that time the materials were sent to the Evanston office for data entry once index terms had been assigned. This was how authority control was maintained. The CPLI Advisory Board met twice a year to establish policy and direct the course of the Index.

The productivity for the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index* falls somewhere between the 40-50 articles indexed per day for scholarly publications covered by RIO and the 150 per day for newspaper articles as cited by Barry Hopkins of CPLI. At present, I have been indexing between 375 and 400 articles per week. General news articles that appear in Conference publications (stories about church openings, dedications, anniversaries, etc.) do indeed take less time to index than pieces that have to be read carefully in order to get the full gist of the article, whether that article is scholarly (*Andrews University Seminary Studies*), written for the informed layperson (*Liberty*, *Journal of Adventist Education)*, or a narrative (*Adventist Review*, *Guide*).

Perhaps it was because I saw both Ms. Coates and Mr. Hopkins on a Friday, but both offices and their employees were fairly casual in appearance. Because of the generally solitary and nonpublic nature of indexing, I expect that this was not unusual for the rest of the workweek. While I have observed the library's dress code, especially since the *Index* came into the orbit of the Center for Adventist Research, Fridays at the *Index* are decidedly casual.

AN INAPPROPRIATE BUSINESS MODEL
I also came away from my interviews with the impression that not only had I talked with kindred spirits, but that it requires a certain personality in addition to specific training to engage in periodical indexing. This is particularly true in the case of CPLI where Mr. Hopkins frequently has to re-do the work of his Pennsylvania staffers.
Most important was the realization that both RIO and CPLI depend on their parent organizations to handle those matters which were, quite frankly, beyond the scope of indexers, myself included. I had always felt out of place when dealing with the marketing and financial record-keeping of the SDAPI, though I have done my best to track payments and invoices through a complicated system involving subsidies paid by the schools, direct billing, and billing through the General Conference. I realized that the Association of SDA Librarians does not have a full-time Finance or Members Services office, but I believed that one of the matters that ASDAL and the *Index* Board needed to look into was the transferring of non indexing-related tasks such as marketing and bookkeeping away from Editorial and toward some entity/entities better equipped to do the work. RIO and CPLI were each part of a larger whole, and within those parent organizations there were offices and departments that handled things that the editors didn't have to worry about: invoicing, accounting, subscriber relations. The editors were doing what they'd been trained to do and they were focused on their professional duties.

I, however, was spreading myself across areas of responsibility for which I was ill-equipped and which were siphoning off time and energy that would have been better devoted to indexing. I had become something of a small-town shopkeeper: stocking the shelves, making the sales, keeping the books and sweeping the floor before locking up for the night. The editorial model I had inherited was an entrepreneurial model rather than a professional one.
I wrote up a report on my visit to the RIO and CPLI offices and submitted it to the Managing Editor, hoping that he would take the hint. Hint taken. Since then, the billing and accounting was handled by the University's Purchasing Department. I supplied Purchasing with a list of billable clients and they did their job.

I farmed out the non-professional responsibilities of the job in other ways. Since I produced the inserts for the CD-ROM version of the *Index*, I entrusted the printing to Lithotech, the printing and reproduction department within Andrews University. And the ordering of supplies for the *Index*, such as CD cases and mailing envelopes, I left to the administrative assistant at the Center for Adventist Research.

Still, the Index functions under what I consider to be an eccentric corporate structure. The day-to-day operations of the Index still rest on the shoulders of one individual, though there is some spreading out of the responsibilities in practice. Above the Editor is the Managing Editor, who has other responsibilities as Associate Director of CAR.

The Managing Editor is also a designated member of the Publication Board along with other officers who convene twice a year to deal with the business of the *Index*. The administrative structure of the *Index* thus takes on the shape of an inverted pyramid. At the risk of sounding politically incorrect, it is a situation where something like eight part-time chiefs direct the goals and actions of one full-time Indian.

The *Index* has endured numerous financial threats and has changed with circumstance, time and technology. Not all changes, however, have worked out well.

THE ACCESS EXPERIMENT
In 1993, the James White Library underwent a sea change when the online public access catalog, JeWeL, began operation.[8] This led, three years later, to the *Index* abandoning the annual print format and becoming an online database itself.

This was a welcome change. Putting the entire database on one CD-ROM replaced consulting one annual paper copy of the *Index* after another. It felt like the old days of performing DIALOG searches across not only a number of databases but across a number of years. But because the *Index* database was Innovative-based, as was the rest of JeWeL, we were affected when the cost of connecting to Innovative went up. This led to what I call the Access Experiment.

In order to avoid the costs involved with Innovative, the *Index* was put directly on the James White Library's in-house computer system, JeWeL, rather than simply using JeWeL as the means to access Innovative. The database was configured in such a way that the data elements for each citation were entered as cells in the Microsoft Access program.

The logic for using Access was that this was the system that was being used to enter obituary information, so it should have been compatible with using it for more detailed journal citations as well.

The limitations of Access in this case were apparent almost immediately. When entering obituary information, after all, there is a consistency to the number and nature of fields being used per record (name of the deceased, source of the obituary, date of birth, date of death).

Journal citations, however, are more complex than obituary records. There might or might not be an author, the journal citation information is separated into distinct fields, one for the periodical title. There could be any number of descriptor fields, or even none at all in the case of poetry.

The most unforgivable feature of the Access Experiment was that when I entered a citation into the database, it did NOT automatically appear in the *Index*. It was held in reserve, as it were, until the Systems Librarian at Andrews University uploaded the information to the *Index*. This did not happen immediately, as the Systems Librarian had other responsibilities. This led to delays in updating, some of them unforgivably long. At one point, there was a three month lag between uploads. This created a real hardship for users who found no new information when they executed a search, with no way of knowing when the next upload would occur.

There were other drawbacks. Due to the sheer size of the number of records, records were split so that an entire citation could not be viewed without creating a proper form. Also, subheadings tended to be divorced from their main headings. Finally, it was proving impossible to import Access citations for outside indexing purposes, leading me to duplicate my work in creating those files for Pro-Cite manually. Clearly, the Access Experiment was not working out.[9]

The Board eventually voted, in view of the limitations of the Access Experiment, to return the *Index* to Innovative. I didn't attend the 2001 Index Board meeting, which coincided with the ASDAL Conference at Pacific Union

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[8] Harvey Brenneise, "And The Walls Came Tumbling Down," *ASDAL Action*: 1993, Spr, 5.

[9] Report of the Editor, July 10, 2000, 2.

College, but I was told that when the Managing Editor announced to the assembled librarians that the Index would go back to Innovative, the news was greeted with a standing ovation.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD
In 2002, two articles appeared in the April issue of the *Atlantic Union Gleaner*. One had to do with a ministry to married couples, and the other with disaster relief by ADRA as a result of floods in Indonesia. What set these articles apart was the new section in which they appeared: "Que Esta Pasando?" Both articles were in Spanish. Facility in languages other than English was not one of the initial requirements for the Editor's job, though the fact that a quarter of the periodicals indexed by RIO were not in English should have been a sign of things to come. More and more Conference periodicals began publishing Spanish-language articles. The *Lake Union Herald* began the column "Conexiones en Espanol" in 2005, *Southern Tidings* began running "Noticias" in 2004, "Accion" appeared in the *North Pacific Union Gleaner* in 2000, and the *Southwestern Union Record* initiated "Vision Hispana" in 2010.

I had taken a year of Spanish in high school. It wasn't enough to make me conversant, but it was a start. Rather than decide that this wasn't my responsibility, I armed myself with a Spanish-English dictionary, bookmarked language translation sites on the Web, and went to work. In some cases, parallel bilingual articles appeared, as in several issues of *Guide* magazine and in the "Profiles in Caring" section of the *Columbia Union Visitor*. In other cases, a Spanish-language article would acknowledge that it was a translation of an English-language article appearing either in the same publication, in a different publication, or online.

To date, there hasn't been a large amount of French publications, though they have appeared in the "Quoi de Neuf?" section of the *Atlantic Union Gleaner*. In the case of one scholarly journal, *Spes Christiana*, the appearance of French- or German-language articles is a moot point as I rely on the English-language abstract accompanying the article when I do my indexing. It's still clear, though, that non-English language material is here to stay in North American Adventist publications. And that means that the *Index* will have to deal with them.

"AS SCIENCE GOES SELF-SUPERCEDING ON"[10]
The latest change to the Index has effectively changed the way it does business. It was as thorough-going as it was unanticipated.

The annual generating of the CD-ROM Index master had been assigned to the Systems Librarian. It was he who maintained the computer on which the data could be formatted and enhanced by a Rocket search engine (formerly known as Folio). Producing the Index became an annual melodrama: would the computer hold together long enough to format one more annual CD-ROM, which could then easily be duplicated?

I suppose I could have tried to bring myself up to speed technically, despite the drain on my time represented by indexing. But libraries are, like most bureaucracies, subject to territorial squabbles. In putting together outside indexes, I would use Innovative to build a list of the citations I needed. These were then taken by the Systems Librarian and changed into the comma-delimited format that would enable them to be imported into Pro-Cite. Then, in 2012, the annual attempt to create a master CD-ROM crashed and burned in an unanticipated fashion. The indexing software had managed to run on older 16-bit machines running with Windows 6, Windows XP or Windows Millennium. But when the Systems Librarian tried running the test CD-ROM on a 32-bit machine using Windows 7, it wouldn't work. With Microsoft in the brink of ending support for Windows 6 and other operating systems for older machines, the Index saw the market for its annual CD-ROM melting like April snow.
An attempt was made, through the CAR's administrative assistant, to poll subscribers to see if there would still be a demand for the Index on disc. If there was response from the subscribers I never heard a word about it. There may have been a reason to issue the Index on disc at one time: Internet access was not universal back in the day, especially in developing countries, and academy librarians may have felt that the Index on disc was a way to avoid accessing the wilds of the Internet all together.

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[10] Robert Frost, "A Sequel to Job," in Hone, Ralph E., ed. *The Voice Out of the Whirlwind : the Book of Job*. San Francisco : Chandler, 1960, p259-273.

Most important of all, our subscription base was dwindling steadily. From 163 subscribers in 1992, the number of Index subscribers had shrunk to 124 two decades later. And half of the CD-ROMs we sent out were complimentary copies sent to periodical editors and church officers. The implications were obvious. Quietly, without ceremony, the SDA Periodical Index pulled the plug on its CD-ROM product in order to concentrate on the online database.

GROWN-UP OR MATURE?

Clouten[11] expressed the history of the *Index* as being comparable to the human lifespan, from infancy to maturity. This is not a completely useful analogy. It might be better to say that the *Index* has, at this point, matured. It has not only weathered a number of storms, it has also arrived at a consciousness of its purpose for being and has learned and adapted itself in fulfilling that purpose.

It hasn't always been easy, and there have been less-than-successful attempts along the way, but overall, the *Index* has fulfilled its purpose: to enable scholars and non-scholars alike to access the periodical literature of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It may not have succeeded to the extent that it has had not the *Index* put away childish things, or at the very least jettisoned an inappropriate model for operating. Of all the years that I have been Editor, 1999 can be said to be one of two pivotal years because that was the year the *Index* stopped making it up as we went along and became professional. That professionalism, based on the experience of other periodical index editors and not on guesswork, is what will guide the *Index* as it moves forward. As it turned out, that future will not include the annual issuance of an adjunct copy either on paper or on CD-ROM.

What do I see for the future? That's unanswerable, but I can state what I'd *like* to see. I'd like to see the current Editor's position split off into two. At the present, my job is divided between inputting information from articles, and doing the true editorial work of proofreading and authority work. In an ideal situation, there would be one person to handle the indexing and another to do the editing.

One strategy that did *not* work was the use of student labor. It proved too ephemeral as students moved on, demanded more time in quality control (c.f. the experience of the *CPLI*), and having the Editor assign index terms and break down citations into bibliographic bits of information to be keyed in is sheer redundancy. Both the Indexer and the Editor would need solid professional backgrounds, the former in cataloging and the latter in more general librarianship.

The Indexer position would, in a sense, be the harder of the two to fill. That is because the job demands not only the professional skills of someone with a Master's in library science but also a personality which is comfortable with the solitary and repetitive nature of the work. The experience at RIO has been that indexers coming from other disciplines, such as teaching, last about seven years. As I write this, I have logged over 20 years at the *Index*. In discussing the nature of my work, I admit that aspects of the job can, to the more gregarious, sound as interesting as watching paint dry. But it suits me, and I can't ask for more than that.

I'm still a number of years away from retirement, from passing on the work I've done to other hands. With a clear idea of what the *Index* needs to do and how it needs to do it, seeing the *Index* continue on is something about which I can feel good. And so long as the users can access the information they need in a timely and comprehensive manner, they can feel good about it, too.

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[11] Op. cit.