
Two major bibliographic resources are available to scholars interested in voluntary action and non-profit organisation, though neither of these sources is widely known or available. The purpose of this review essay is to familiarise readers of this journal with these sources, and to assess their utility for the practising research scholar in the field.

The size of the literature uncovered by these sources is awesome, manifesting the exploding dimensions of published work in philanthropy, non-profit management, voluntarism, fund-raising and charitable giving. The Foundation Center series (henceforth to be identified as The Literature), presents a cumulative total of 9,380 items in its first four volumes, while the Indiana index (henceforth to be identified as The Index), presents approximately 2,500 items annually.

Physically, the two sources are dissimilar. The Literature is a glossy full-page annual publication whose typical edition runs over 200 pages in length. The Index is cast in journal form, and its biannual issues, each of which typically contains fewer than 100 pages, are printed on recycled paper rather rough to the feel.

The contents of the sources are also distinctive. The Literature provides abstracts for almost every one of its citations; The Index offers only the citation. The Literature arrays its citations, numbered consecutively, in twelve chapters, much as it did in the earlier bibliography it published by Daphne Layton (1987), which used twenty chapters, and remains an invaluable resource. (The Foundation Center has developed its system of headings and subheadings, in an effort to fit the special needs of third sector researchers by following closely the structure of the Taxonomy of Tax-exempt Organizations developed at Independent Sector.) The Index, on the other hand, lists its citations under the myriad of heading topics provided by the Library of Congress system. (Its editors take deserved pride in linking our field to systems employed by researchers in the more established walks of scholarly study.)

To test these resources for scholarly use, this reviewer took into consideration a number of topics on which he is presently engaged in research, and set out to see what the resources would provide. Five general areas were explored: fund-raising costs, the political use of non-profit organisations, the question of advocacy versus service
as an outcome of non-profit organisation, theory in the third sector, and democracy's role in voluntarism. For The Literature, the subject index was consulted. For The Index, the appropriate subject headings were explored.

The Literature provided manageable sets of references for two of the five topics, but blanks were drawn on the other three, despite a search of related headings. (By manageable, I mean fewer than 25 unelaborated references, an unelaborated reference, in this case, simply being a number of another item.)

Thus, in The Literature, one finds under the topic 'Fundraising costs' 21 references (each in the form of a number of an entry elsewhere in the volume). And while nothing appears under 'the political use of non-profits', subsequent investigation of subheadings under 'non-profit organisations' yielded 'ethics', 'investigations', and (especially useful) 'political activity'.

Nothing was found, however, under either 'advocacy' or 'service', nor under 'social change'. 'Social services' yielded the instruction to see 'social welfare', but that category contained an unwieldy 90 references. Similarly, 'theory of the Third Sector' drew a blank, and the subsequent search of 'voluntarism' yielded a cumbersome 150 references. Finally, 'democracy' was empty, as was governance, and the subsequent exploration of 'non-profit administration' yielded an unusable list of 150 numbers that might have been combed through for useful references.

Seeking references for the same five subjects in The Index yielded eight citations from the first three issues on 'fund-raising costs'. Looking for help on the political use of non-profits yielded eight sources on the path that began with 'corporations, non-profit' subhead 'political activity' provided an additional four references.

The search for sources on 'advocacy versus services' yielded 19 references under 'social action', eight under 'social change', one under 'social justice', three under 'social movements', three under 'social policy', and five under 'social problems'. 'Theory of the third sector' was not productive, but three references were uncovered by the path 'corporations, non-profits' subhead, 'philosophy'. 'Democracy' yielded one reference per issue, for a total of three.

By this first test, The Index proved more consistent, providing a steadier flow of a more manageable number of references more closely related to the researcher's interest than did the search of The Literature's subject index.

A second, and even more critical, comparative test was then performed: the search of references to a particular author's work. Naturally this reviewer chose himself as the subject of this demanding test, consulting all available number of each source. The Index yielded three