

THE FIRST TEN YEARS — AN INDEX

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. . . *an editorial*

In response to many requests and some polite demands for an index to the *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*, a decision was made to produce one covering the contents of our first 10 years of publication. While BPR 10-21 contains articles and the regular features, the major portion of this issue consists of a cumulative index to the literature in the first twenty issues of the *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*.

The index, computer-produced using computer programs developed by Dr. Theodore C. Hines at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York City, contains approximately 6000 discrete entries which with multiple listing brings the index to a total of more than 9000 entries. The obvious difference in type face is due to the direct photocopying of this section from computer generated print.

The construction of the index is based upon the concept of using natural language terminology. As an example, in a search for information on internal prostheses one would look under the term "internal prosthesis" instead of "prosthesis, internal." As a logical extension of this concept, the main subject entries are usually comprised of multi-term references such as "above elbow amputee with short stump." In addition, references are provided extensive modifiers which individuate each reference from any other under the same heading.

The index is composed of six major entry categories: 1. titles of articles, 2. authors, 3. subject matter, 4. contractor reports, 5. patents, and 6. notes and news items of interest to personnel in the field. If an article has two or more authors, each is referenced. Contractor reports are indexed under the name of the contracting institution and the subject matter treated. Patents are similarly indexed by patent title and by the name of the inventor (s); again, if there is more than one inventor, each inventor is referenced. Notes and news items are referenced either by the individual or organization referred to or by the subject matter. Proper names, in addition to authors, trade names, and

acronyms, also serve as entry points to the index; therefore, AMBRL, ADL, CPRD, and VAPC are found as entries in the index.

In addition to the six main subject categories, two important sections of the *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*, VAPC Research and Publications of Interest, have been indexed as separate categories. Apart from the obvious importance of these sections, it was felt that maintaining a cumulative index of entries over the past 10 years would provide a historical setting in which one could trace the development of concepts, material, terminology, and literature in the field of prosthetics, orthotics, and sensory aids.

All entries cumulate in a single index arranged alphabetically. In this way the index makes possible a convenient and systematic search for an item, based on either its title, author, or subject matter.

Now that the task of indexing the first ten years of the Bulletin has been completed, hopefully there will be a yearly index with a cumulated index every five years.