



Facing the Text:

Content and Structure in Book Indexing

by **Do Mi Stauber**

Winner of the 2007 H.W. Wilson Award for Excellence in Indexing

Facing the Text is an in-depth guide to real indexing practice. Based on Do Mi Stauber's popular and empowering workshop, the book discusses such topics as subheadings, cross references and indexability, in the context of particular texts and indexes. Hundreds of examples illustrate the many practical strategies that Do Mi has drawn from her own practice in social sciences and humanities indexing.

The book goes beyond abstract rules to confront the unique needs of each text and index, and provides guidelines to help novice and experienced indexers alike make common-sense, flexible, and reader-centered decisions.

Do Mi...has undertaken the awesome task of truly describing the book indexing process and succeeded magnificently. This book is the most substantive treatment ever attempted to lay bare the thinking process that creates a book index. I have no doubt that *Facing the Text* will be a wild success and is a classic in the making.

—**Nancy Mulvany**, author of *Indexing Books*
(University of Chicago Press)

This is a book that every serious indexer or serious student of indexing will want to have.

—**Jean Mann**
Freelance indexer and indexing instructor

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You will learn such strategies as:

- Addressing the main topic of the book in your index structure
- Pinning down the elusive main argument of a scholarly book
- Using local main topics to understand the structure of the text
- Deciding which topics should be indexed
- Understanding subheadings with a new typology created by Do Mi Stauber and Nancy Mulvany
- Choosing subheadings for long spans and locator strings
- Deciding when to use the author's wording, when to modify it, and when to create a new wording
- Connecting topics in the index through double-posting and cross-references
- Distinguishing among indexing strategies for scholarly books, textbooks and reference books

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