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for recorded sound

collections

Arne Jon Arneson and Stuart Milligan: Index to Audio Equipment Reviews 1979. Music Library Association Technical Reports No. 6, Philadelphia, 1979.

The preface to this volume states that the index is based on a proposal submitted by the Music Library Association's Audio-Visual and Microforms Committee. To whom, and for what, the material was submitted is not stated.

The index is an alphabetical list of audio equipment reviews which were published in some audio and record review publications during 1978. The introduction lists the ten periodicals indexed, but does not list the volume numbers or issue dates covered. The list of periodicals appears arbitrary. A German journal, Fonoforum, is included, as is the Gramophone, a journal principally devoted to the review of current records. Several, important English language periodicals devoted to audio equipment are excluded: Audio Amateur, Audiogram, Boston Audio Society Speaker, Sensible Sound, Sound Advice and Stereophile, to name but a few.

Only equipment reviews have been indexed; articles on various aspects of equipment, their design and production are not included. In other words, this is not an index of audio equipment review periodicals. The items listed in the index are not annotated; no attempt is made to include codes that might indicate content or the reviewer's opinion.

The index is uninterestingly typed, two columns to a page, and printed on cheap paper. A catch-all category at the end of labeled OTHER and contains a miscellany that ranges from "subharmonic synthesizer" to "Bib Universal Tape Head Maintenance Kit." Further subdivision of headings would have been desirable.

Rather than order this Technical Report, a postage stamp would be better used in writing to the editor of The Listener's Review Finder in order to encourage the continuation of the production of that journal. Its component review index provides a fine model of what such an index should be, and it forms only a minor part of that fine publication.

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