

Uniterm Indexing :

Uniterm, developed by Mortimer Taube in 1953, is a simple post-coordinate indexing, system. As the name suggests, it creates index entries for each unit term identified by the indexer. In fact, a card is prepared for each term that is considered to be an appropriate index term for a given document. The term is posted on top of the card. The card is divided into ten columns, 0 to 9. The document number (i.e. the accession number or number of the given document being indexed) is written on the card by a technique known as 'terminal digit posting' – the number is written in a column based on the right-most digit in the document number. Figure, illustrates the entries that would be generated by indexing the following two subjects: automation of libraries in India (document number 13) and management of libraries in England (document number 45).

Automation									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			13						

Libraries									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			13		45				

Management									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					45				

India									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			13						

England									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					45				

At the time of searching, a user has to pick up all the cards relating to his/her search request, and has to identify those numbers that appear in all the cards. The job of an indexer, at the input stage, is quite simple in the sense that all he/she has to do is to prepare a card for each term, if it does not already exist, and write the document number by following the principle of terminal digit

posting. However, the job of the searcher is rather difficult, because he/she has to pick up all the cards pertaining to the query and then has to compare each number in a given card with all the numbers in all the other cards. This process of comparing numbers may prove to be quite difficult if each card contains quite a few numbers written on it, which is bound to happen for a large collection of documents.