

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND REPORTS IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

The general and permanent rules of Federal agencies are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations under functional titles which represent broad subject areas. This orderly arrangement is somewhat self-indexing. At the beginning of each book there is a contents listing which gives the user an overall view of the subject coverage, and within each book there are listings of the headings of the various sections included. As an additional retrieval aid, a general subject guide called the CFR Index is published separately and revised each year.

The CFR Index, however, is not a detailed analysis of the provisions in the Code. Rather, it serves as a general guide to regulatory areas. While this may be adequate for much of the Code, some individual volumes appear to need analytical subject indexes because of the nature of the material covered. The administering agency may be the only source of the technical program knowledge needed to prepare an in-depth analysis by subject matter.

Some agencies prepare subject indexes to their own regulations for in-office convenience and for separate publication. These might be adapted for use in the Code with little change. One example is already available. Title 35 of the Code of Federal Regulations contains a detailed subject index to the Canal Zone Regulations which was prepared by the agency and now is carried in the CFR under arrangement with the Office of the Federal Register.

All agencies covered by 5 U.S.C 552 should evaluate their regulations as published in the CFR to determine whether desirable assistance can be given to the public by the inclusion in the CFR of a comprehensive subject index to any given book. When such index appears warranted, the agency should prepare it for transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication as part of the book involved.