

To Index or Not To Index?
Linda F. Radke, Five Star Publications, Inc.

If you're debating whether or not to put an index in your book, err on the side of caution. A book is more usable, and thus more marketable, if it is indexed.

However, indexing is a specialized skill. If you are looking for an indexer, you can either ask your editor for a reference or talk to your local library and to see if they can offer a referral in your area. A list of indexers is also available in *The Literary Market Place*, although it is always better to find an indexer through a referral.

Before signing a contract, agree on a price and then test your indexer's skill by having that person do a sample run. Remember that the index is usually the last thing to be done in the publishing process because the indexer will need actual page proofs in order to specify page locations in the index.