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[illegible]

ATTEST.

INVENTOR.

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Fig. 2.

By

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INDEX.

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Application filed April 23, 1891. Serial No. 390,184. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES THORNE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Oregon City, in the county of Clackamas and State of Oregon, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indexes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a duplex index adapted for general use for deed or other record books, and for the proper rapid distribution of names in the compilation of directories.

The primary object of my invention is to economize time and labor by providing an index for an index, so arranged as to enable a person to find a desired name without the labor and annoyance of scrutinizing long lists of names. I accomplish this object by the combinations of letters and figures hereinafter fully described, in connection with the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a view illustrating a page with J as the initial letter, and Fig. 2 is a view illustrating a page with T the initial letter, coalescing consonants forming a portion of the leading letters.

I can best describe my improvement by comparison with the common index ordinarily used in municipal and other record offices, in which names are divided only by their initial letters or by their initial letters and the first vowels after the initial letters.

I first arrange combinations or abbreviations under each letter of the alphabet including all coalescing combinations. I have selected the letter "J" to illustrate the index. In the column marked 1, in the drawings, are arranged the various combinations of letters with the letter J, arranged alphabetically and also with relation to the frequency of use of these several combinations as determined by experience in the handling and examination of index books. On the first line of the column 1, are the combinations "Jaa," "Jab," "Jac," and "Jad." In the second line are the combinations "Jae" to "Jal," and so on throughout the alphabet. Inasmuch as the combinations "Jaf," "Jag," "Jah," &c., up to "Jal," are infrequently found, I have grouped the combinations from "Jae" to "Jal." It will be clear that the combinations of initials and second, or second and third

letters, are to be made solely with reference to the frequency of use of the combinations in the names recorded in the main index, and my invention is not limited to any special combinations of such letters as the combinations will vary indefinitely with different initial letters, and even with the same initial in different localities.

The column of initials and leading abbreviations shown at 1, in the drawings merely illustrates the general plan of the index, and they may be printed by "indentation," "hanging indentation," or in any other form or arrangement of printing, so as to show the letters in bold relief, and thus enable them to be readily caught by the eye.

In the column 2 in front of column 1, I arrange what may be termed "leading letters" to guide the eye in finding the combinations sought; for example, the vowels and leading consonants that coalesce are used, varying with reference to their frequency of use with different initials. The margin tab gives the first letter.

I assign in the general index (to which my index is a supplemental index) a predetermined number of pages, the number for each combination of abbreviations being estimated by the general run of names recorded, and a greater number of general index pages being assigned for combinations occurring most frequently, than for those that are seldom found. For illustration, I assign in the sheet shown in the drawings, pages 1, and 2, of the general index for names which begin with "Jaa," "Jab," "Jac," and "Jad." To the names beginning with "Jae" to "Jal" I assign one page, (3), of the general index, and so on for all of the combinations, care being taken to allow an ample number of pages for each combination. The page numbers are set opposite the combinations as shown by the column 3.

While experience will enable the proper distribution of general index pages to be made for each combination, in the first instance, it may be that the pages assigned to any one combination or set of combinations, may become filled up. To allow for this contingency, I append to the combination column 1, the word "Extra," and to the page number column 3 a number of extra numbers

designating or referring to the extra pages in the volume at the back of each letter. When the pages for any combination are full, as for example, page 17 for "Ju," I appropriate the first extra page 18, to continue the "Ju" names, erase 18 from the "Extra" line and write 18 after 17 opposite "Ju." Thus it will be apparent that the necessity which often arises in the ordinary index for writing "Carried to page 100" or similar reference or suggestion at the bottom of a filled page, and the consequent necessity of turning to the named supplemental page are avoided. I also provide the pages with margin tabs x , and with a cut-margin z , for convenience in turning the pages.

The utility of my invention will be appreciated from the following explanation: Suppose the name "Jamison" is being looked for. With the old index it is necessary to run down the column of "J's" until the name is found. It is obvious that in doing this the eye of the examiner must of necessity scrutinize all of the names under the letter "J." Now, to find the name with my index, it is only necessary to let the eye catch the combination "Jam," and then follow the line under the page number 4 appears. The examiner then turns to page 4 without the tedious work of searching through all of the names under the initial letter "J." If a name embraces a combination found on two or more pages, as for example: "Jon" to "Jog," he at once sees that only three pages "13, 14, and 15" of the general index need be examined. In brief, my improved index arranges the recorded names in series, and culls out from the whole

list under each initial, such names as are similar in their first, second and third letters, and thus materially lessens the work of examining.

An important feature of my invention is the "Extra" line and its extra page numbers, as I thus fully provide against any miscalculation in the original index pages, and a ready and convenient means for supplementing the filled pages under any combination or set of combinations.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An index having a column, 1, containing letter combinations having a common initial; a column, 2, containing leading letters indicating the letter first following the initial letter, and a column, 3, containing page numbers corresponding to the letter combinations, as and for the purposes specified.

2. An index having a column, 1 containing letter combinations having a common initial; a column, 2, containing leading letters indicating the letter first following the initial letter; a column, 3, containing page numbers corresponding to the letter combinations, and a series of extra page numbers arranged at the bottom of the column 3, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand in the presence of two attesting witnesses.

JAMES THORNE.

Attest:

F. O. MCCLEARY,
S. A. TERRY.