March 31, 1925. 1,531,893

D. A. WILCOX

VISIBLE INDEX

Original Filed March 10, 1920

Fig. 1.

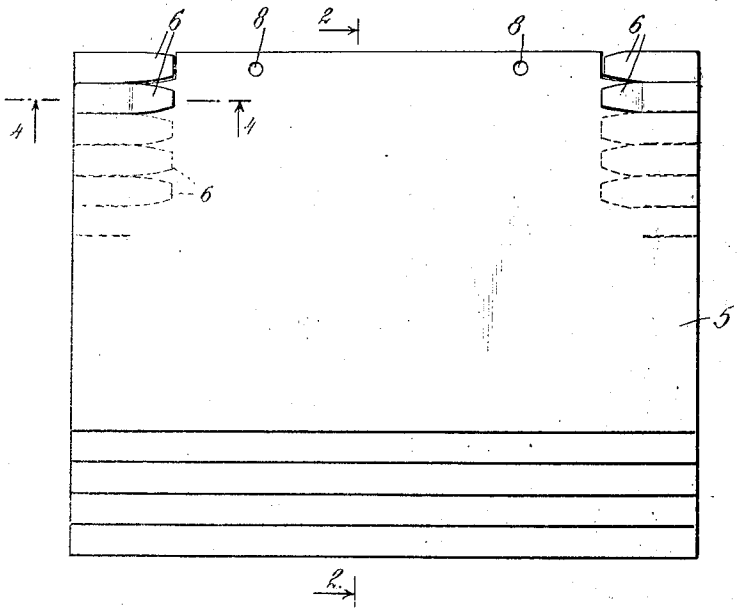


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

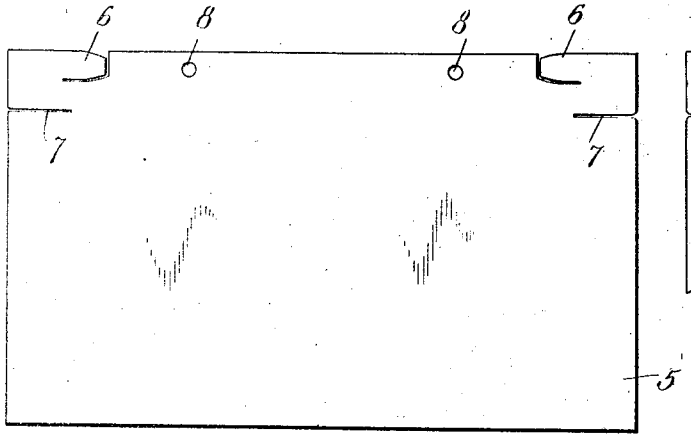


Fig. 5.

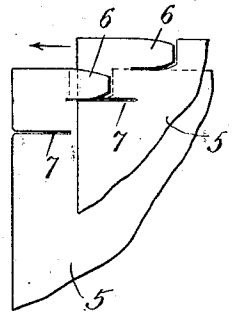


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL A. WILCOX, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, ASSIGNOR TO INDEX VISIBLE, INC., OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

VISIBLE INDEX.

Application filed March 10, 1920, Serial No. 364,701. Renewed July 21, 1922. Serial No. 576,630.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL A. WILCOX, a citizen of the United States, residing at Louisville, in the county of Jefferson, State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Visible Indexes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to a visible index in which a plurality of cards are arranged to expose a portion upon which the identifying characteristic of the card appears.

Heretofore visible indexes have comprised frames in which cards bearing the desired information are arranged, the cards being disposed in overlapping relation with the lower edge exposed. Such frames are expensive and cumbersome and do not lend themselves readily to the requirements of an expanding index. Thus, for example, the number of cards to be inserted under a given division may be estimated, but when this number is exceeded all of the cards must be shifted in the frames which entails considerable labor and accompanying expense. The frames, moreover, support the cards individually and it is not possible, therefore, to remove a group of cards as a unit as is sometimes desirable.

It is the object of the invention to overcome the disadvantages of visible indexes as heretofore known and to provide an inexpensive and satisfactory index consisting of a plurality of articulated cards which may be readily separated from the index singly or in groups and which may be handled in an ordinary type writing machine without separating the cards, if desired, to type information on the exposed lower edges of the cards.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent as it is better understood by reference to the following specification and accompanying drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is an elevation of a group of articulated cards forming a visible index;

Fig. 2 is an edge view thereof;

Fig. 3 is an elevation of a single card;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail in section illustrating the interlocking of the cards; and

Fig. 5 is a detail in elevation illustrating the mode of separating the cards.

In carrying out the invention, the cards are provided with interlocking means such as may be readily formed by slitting so that each card is engaged and securely held by the succeeding card in overlapping relation with their lower edges exposed. Upon the exposed edges the indexed material may be typed, for example, the name and address of a credit customer with the amount of credit to which he is entitled while the remainder of the card is devoted to information bearing upon the customer's rating. Of course the foregoing is merely an example of use to which the index is adapted and it may be used for a variety of corresponding purposes to which any visible index is adapted.

Since the cards are all identical in form, any card or group of cards may be removed and any number of cards may be inserted in place of or between the separated cards at will. No frame is required, thus doing away entirely with an expensive item of visible indexes. The index may be hung upon a wall, or any suitable support may be provided. Groups of cards may be removed as a unit for any purpose without disturbing their relation, and a plurality of cards may be typed while they are connected, thus obviating the necessity of handling individual cards.

Referring to the drawing for a more detailed disclosure of the invention, which, however, is intended to be illustrative without imposing unnecessary limitations as to the exact mode of connecting the cards, 5 indicates a card of proper size to bear the information which it is desired to preserve for reference. The identifying characteristics of the card, such as the name of an individual is typed or otherwise applied to the lower edge of the card. At opposite ends of its upper edge the card is cut to form two tabs 6 and beneath the tabs, at a distance from the upper edge of the card equivalent to twice the width of the tabs, slits 7 are formed. These slits correspond in length to the distance from the bases of the tabs to the lateral edges of the card. Thus the cards may be articulated by slipping the edges of the overlying card beneath the tabs 6 of the underlying card. The tabs

6 of the overlying card are then free to engage another overlying card and the index is built up in this manner until a sufficient number of cards have been connected.

While the cards are firmly articulated in this manner so that they become in effect a unit, the assembly is sufficiently flexible to permit any card to be turned back to expose that portion of the underlying card which is normally covered. The lower edges are normally exposed and consequently the desired card may be quickly selected and the desired data becomes at once available by turning back the overlying card.

When it is desired to remove one or more cards for the purpose of replacing or inserting cards, the desired card is flexed slightly to withdraw it from the tabs of the underlying card and the tabs on the selected card are similarly withdrawn from the overlying card. In this manner, a single card or group of cards may be separated with facility from the index. By reversing the operation the card or cards may be reinserted or additional cards may be interposed without disturbing the relation of the remaining cards forming the index.

The cards may be punched as at 8 to permit hanging on a suitable support and while the tabs will be sufficiently strong to withstand ordinary usage if the cards are made from stock usually employed for such purposes, the tabs may be reinforced to prevent tearing.

From the foregoing it will be understood that the invention provides a visible index which is relatively inexpensive since no frame is required. The index will nevertheless serve all of the purposes of indexes requiring frames and as pointed out it may advantageously replace such indexes since the cards are handled with much greater facility. The invention provides, therefore, a valuable adjunct to business in which visible indexes have been found a most efficient means of maintaining required data in readily available form.

Various changes may be made in the form and arrangement of the index without departing from the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

I claim:

1. A card for use in constructing visible indexes, said card being cut at its upper edge to form a pair of inwardly directed tabs and having slits extending inwardly from its lateral edges in spaced relation with the upper edge of the card.

2. A card for use in constructing visible indexes, having a pair of tabs adjacent the upper edge and a pair of slits spaced from said tabs, said slits being spaced from the upper edge of the card a distance substantially equal to twice the width of the tabs, and the length of said slits corresponding to the spacing of the bases of said tabs from the lateral edges of the cards.

3. A visible index comprising a plurality of articulated cards, each card being cut at its upper edge to form a pair of inwardly directed tabs, and having slits extending inwardly from the lateral edges in spaced relation with the upper edge of the card, the tabs on each card overlying the superposed card to hold the cards in assembled relation with the portions of the underlying card at the bases of the tabs engaging the slits in the superposed card.

4. An index or the like comprising a plurality of cards, said cards being provided with cooperating slits opening through the edges thereof whereby they may be interengaged in overlapping relation with a portion of each card exposed.

5. An index or the like comprising a plurality of cards, each card being provided with a slit opening through the upper edge thereof to provide a tab and a second slit below the first and opening through a lateral edge of the card.

6. A visible index or the like comprising a plurality of cards, each card being provided with a plurality of slits opening through the edges thereof, certain of the slits of one card being adapted to be interengaged with certain of the slits of an adjacent card to hold them in overlapping relation.

7. A visible index comprising a plurality of cards, each card being provided with upper and lower open slits whereby the lower slit of an upper card may be engaged with the upper slit of a lower card to retain the cards in overlapping relation with the lower portion of each thereof exposed.

8. A visible index or the like comprising a plurality of cards, each card being slit to provide tabs, and having other slits opening through the lateral edges of the cards with which the tab slits may be interengaged to retain the cards in overlapping relation with the lower portion of each exposed.

9. An index or the like comprising a plurality of overlapping cards, each card having a slit cut through the upper edge thereof to receive a lateral edge of an adjacent card to secure the two in nested relation.

10. An index or the like comprising a plurality of overlapping cards, each card having a slit cut through the upper edge thereof and a second slit cut through the lateral edge thereof, the laterally opening slit of one card cooperating with the upwardly opening slit of another card to secure the two together in nested relation.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

DANIEL A. WILCOX.