

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
 INFORMATION STUDIES UNIT
 BA HONOURS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2025/26
 LEVEL 5 (SEMESTER II)
 HSU5304 – INDEXING AND ABSTRACTING PRACTICE



DURATION: 3 hours

Date: 26.04.2026

Time: 1.30pm-4.30pm

Instructions:

Answer only five (05) questions.

All questions carry equal marks

1. i. What is the primary use of an 'Index'? Discuss. 02 marks
 ii. What is material indexing and information indexing?
 Explain the difference by giving one example for each. 06 marks
 iii. Name three (03) pioneers who made contributions towards the
 development of indexing approaches, systems and practices, and briefly
 explain their contributions. 12 marks
2. i. What is meant by pre-coordinate indexing and post coordinate indexing?
 Describe supporting examples. 06 marks
 ii. Briefly describe the post-coordinate indexing process, focusing on
 use of Boolean operators in post-coordinate information retrieval. 14 marks
3. i. Name four (04) keyword indexing systems used for providing effective
 subject access to documents. 05 marks
 ii. Explain the features and indexing procedures of any three (03) keyword
 indexing systems mentioned above, using appropriate examples. 15 marks

4.
 - i. Name two (02) multidisciplinary databases and two (02) subject specific databases
04 marks
 - ii. Discuss bibliographic databases, focusing on their meaning, structure and their importance to the knowledge society.
16 marks

5.
 - i. What is meant by 'Citation Index' and 'Citation Analysis'. Explain
04 marks
 - ii. Briefly explain citation indexing process by discussing its purpose, components of a citation index, and its role in evaluating research work and researchers.
16 marks

6.
 - i. Name four (04) indexing products developed by National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka.
04 marks
 - ii. Describe the role of the Sri Lanka National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) as a national-level indexing institution, while discussing any four (04) indexing products compiled by NLDSB.
16 marks

7. 'Subject analysis is the basis for effective information retrieval'. Discuss this statement by explaining importance of subject analysis in indexing, and the relationship between indexing efficiency and search efficiency.
20 marks

8.
 - i. What are the main 2 types of abstracts? Explain briefly.
06 marks
 - ii. Explain how you prepare an abstract for a given article by following the seven (07) steps of abstract preparation process with examples.
14 marks

9. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following topics.
 - i. Derived indexing and assigned indexing
 - ii. Uniterm indexing system
 - iii. Evaluation of indexing systems
 - iv. Information networks in Sri Lanka
 - v. Exhaustivity & specificity
 - vi. Online abstracting services

4x5=20 marks