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We give a uniform construction of the higher indices of elliptic operators associated to Alexander-Spanier cocycles of either parity in terms of a pairing between the K-theory and the cyclic cohomology of the algebra of complete symbols of pseudodifferential operators. This construction allows us to get a new insights into some classical results on traces of pseudodifferential operators and obtain a number of new results. (Received September 15, 2019)