



# Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers ASAIB

## NEWSLETTER

### “EXCELLENCE FROM A TO Z” 2015—an award-filled year!

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### Indexing Award Winners

Unisa Press hosted an awards ceremony of the *Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers* (ASAIB) on 24 June 2015.

The awards are for excellence in indexing, 2014, and were presented by ASAIB Chairperson Marlene Burger to two indexers who regularly index for Unisa Press: Elsabe Nell (winner) and Dawie Malan (runner-up). They are also librarians at the Unisa Muckleneuk Campus.

The award-winning indexes were for the following two titles:

*The Road to Democracy* Vol 5 Part 2 (abridged edition; SADET), indexed by Elsabe Nell; and *Karretjiemense van die Groot Karoo* by Michael de Jongh, indexed by Dawie Malan.

The occasion was also attended by Unisa staff members from the Library and the Department of Information Science.



Elsabe Nell



Dawie Malan

### Congratulations Dr Anria van Vuuren with your SI accreditation!

Anria wrote: “My name is Anria van Vuuren, born in Johannesburg, but after almost 24 years on the Bluff probably now a Durbanite. I qualified as Social Worker at the then RAU, worked as social worker in Johannesburg before obtaining my D Litt et Phil in Sociology and teaching Sociology.

In 2001 I started making beaded art jewellery that I sell through local galleries. We are keen to leave the city for a little place in the bush and to travel more. With this in mind I wanted to find a source of income I could work at from anywhere in the world and do until I'm too old to put finger to key. I discovered the profession of indexing and found the British Society of Indexers' (SI) website very informative. I enrolled in their distance learning course in

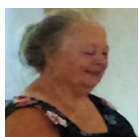
indexing and found it a very difficult but also very thorough course setting a very high standard for their students and the profession. The disastrous exchange rate makes it a very expensive course but I consider it money well spent – by the time one finishes the course one really knows how to index and work at a high professional standard. Knowing from personal experience as a researcher and reader how much value a good index adds to a text and how frustrating a poor index is, it is important to me that I produce a high quality index.

I have found the SI office very supportive and professional in their service. Also, after qualifying early in 2015 I joined their emailing list for newly qualified indexers starting out in their indexing career. All the members on this list, both new and

very experienced, are supportive and generous with their advice on how to deal with the various issues that crop up unexpectedly to stump a newby indexer.

I love doing various handcrafts and am a passionate birder. I do a lot of volunteer work for various environmental organizations, comment on environmental impact assessments for a number of NGOs and am a keen “citizen scientist” for the Animal Demography Unit's Virtual Museums and South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2). I enjoy indexing texts in Sociology and the Environmental Sciences but am also willing to index other subjects aimed at a general readership. After successfully completing a course in Light Steel Frame Building earlier this year (part of the bigger plan for that little place in the bush) I am currently indexing a text on LSF.”

## Annual Conference 2015: 21-22 May



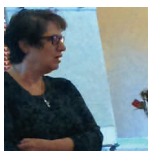
Toy Scheepers



Tebogo Moselakgomo



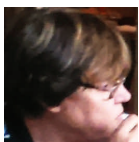
Hester Marais



Nicoline Wessels



Jenny de Wet



Marlene Burger



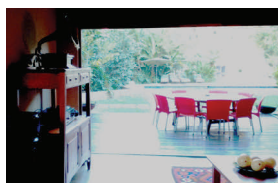
Peter Duncan

The theme for the ASAIB Annual Conference 2015, was 'Indexing for All: *Providing Opportunities through Indexing and Bibliography*' and took place at the Wil-lows Country Lodge.

The topics addressed over the two days proved to be stimulating: What is available for indexers and bibliographers in South Africa (Marlene Burger); Who are you indexing for? The information literate of the 21st century (Nicoline Wessels); Printed African vernacular literature before and round 1960: Information retrieval and other things (Peter Duncan); E-information (David Bate); One muddle too far: revisionist art theory and the classification of images (Nic Coetzee); Access to figurines (Adri Humphreys); and Astronomy and satellite tracking (Samantha Bennett). Day two started with The young African mind in indexing (Tebogo Moselakgomo) - this was followed by a panel discussion on

the issue of African languages; The indexing landscape of South African school textbooks (Hannalie Knoetze); INIS: an international information system for nuclear energy (Toy Scheepers); Connecting with publishers (Jenny de Wet); and Relevance of authority files in name indexing (Hester Marais).

The last day closed with an open discussion on indexing issues, chaired by Marlene Burger.



A lovely dining experience.



David Bate



Adri Humphreys



Nic Coetzee



Samantha Bennett



Hannalie Knoetze



Antoinette Kotzé

### Parallel conference workshops

The conference included parallel workshops taking place over the two days.

The workshops were well attended and covered the following topics: SEO (search engine optimisation) (hosted by Jenny de Wet); Bibliographic critters (hosted by Marlene Burger); Thesauri > taxonomies, folksonomies (hosted by Madely du Preez); and Getting easy with the data structure for periodicals indexing on ISAP (index to South African Periodicals) (hosted by Antoinette Kotzé).



Workshop attendees sharing their experiences.

"Owing to the efficient planning of the ASAIB executive committee, the conference and AGM in Pretoria were a huge success. The speakers at the conference spoke about various interesting topics that dealt with issues such as the information literate of the 21st century, and astronomy and satellite tracking. The workshops were informative and enlightening. The venue was pleasant and delicious food was offered. All in all a successful and uplifting experience." *Karen Garbers*

## AGM 2015

The AGM took place at the end of day one of the conference, and was chaired by Marlene Burger. The ASAIB Awards for Best Indexer and Bibliographer 2014 were announced by Antoinette Kotzé (see front page).

After the formalities, attendees had an opportunity for some 'chatworking', using the opportunity to network with other delegates while enjoying delightful finger food and juice.



AGM 'chatworking'

## Workshops 20-24 July 2015, Pretoria

The July indexing workshops in Pretoria were fully booked. Some of the delegates at the indexing workshop, hosted in Pretoria at Unisa during July 2015, are pictured in the photo to the right.

One of the presenters, Jenny de Wet, joined the group for the photo.



## Mentoring programme

The ASAIB mentoring programme for new indexers is going well. There are currently seven participants. We wish them well in their efforts.

## Book review

*The Accidental Indexer* by Nan Badgett. Published by Information Today 2015.

*The Accidental Indexer* is the 12th book in the "Accidental..." series published by Information Today. Nan Badgett has written a substantive guide to the many facets of an indexing career. Potential and newer indexers, curious onlookers, and even seasoned pros will find in the book much to enlighten and delight them. Potential indexers will find

specific guidance on whether or not indexing is a good career for them, where to get training, what types of indexing projects are available, what equipment and resources are needed, and how to market and deal with clients. Long-time indexers will find new ways of dealing with some of the challenges, gain reassurance that they are not totally alone despite the inherent isolation, and recognize their colleagues in the illustrative anecdotes.

Each of the book's ten chapters addresses questions that are often posed to indexers: "what exactly is indexing?" and "What does an indexer do?"

Nan Badgett hope that the book will inform the curious and answer their questions; amuse the experienced and provide some coping skills; and inspire the aspiring by pointing them in the right direction.

*Reviewer: Hannalie Knoetze*



Anna Cunningham

## Obituary

**Anna Cunningham**, born on 24 March 1927, passed away on 18 June 2015 after a long illness. She was instrumental in building the Historical Research Archive at Wits which earned an international reputation as a research centre and an important resource for historians and other scholars. Cunningham personally compiled guides to several of the archives collections, including

the holdings of the papers of Jan Smuts, Jan Hendrick Hofmeyr and records of organisations such as the South African Institute of Race Relations, the Black Sash, the Anglican Church, the South African Council of Churches and various trade union organisations including COSATU. Her interest in the publication of archival material continued after her retirement in 1993. Her last publication was *Strubens and Gold*

(1987). Part of Cunningham's legacy is the flourishing state of the archive today. Born in Scotland, she was very proud of her Scottish heritage. [From the report by Wits News]

Anna was one of ASAIB's most staunch supporters and will be remembered with gratitude.

## November/December 2015 Workshop Alert

The dates for the last round of workshops in 2015 are:

**30 November to 04 December 2015.**

A five day indexing skills workshop will be presented in the ELC, Unisa Library, on the Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria.

Aspects covered are:

- thesaurus construction, basic indexing (books)
- intermediate indexing

(continuing resources, editing, language issues, freelancing)

- advanced indexing (bibliographies, footnotes, endnotes, illustrations, tables, glossed indexes and special materials such as music, maps, photographs, objects)
- specialised indexing (SEO, e-pub indexing, etc.)

For the full programme and registration form, contact Marlene Burger (ASAIB Chairperson) at:

marlene@burger.nom.za

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## 2016 Conference Alert



**Book this date!**

**22 April 2016** is the date for our next ASAIB

Annual Conference. Further details will be made available in due time.



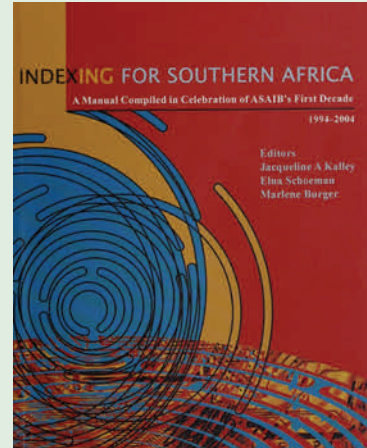
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[www.asaib.org.za](http://www.asaib.org.za)

We are proud to announce that our book *Indexing for Southern Africa: a manual compiled in celebration of ASAIB's first decade 1994-2004, 2005* (edited by Kalley, JA, Schoeman, E and Burger, M), is now included in the Unisa Press 140 Heritage Collection. This collection forms part of the Unisa Institutional Repository - <http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/19161>



## Rose Calendar 2016

The Otterley Roses Calendar—2016 is now available for orders from Otterley Press at [www.otterley.com](http://www.otterley.com)

The cost is R80.00

The 2016 Roses calendar focuses on Old Roses (bred before 1900).

