Newsletter of the **Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.**

Volume 19 • Number 1 • February 2023

Council update

Council's meeting on 6 February 2023 covered a range of administrative matters and plans for the future.

Groups are beginning to meet face-to-face again, with the ACT Group having a members' lunch on 24 November 2022 (7 attendees) and another on 20 February 2023 (6 attendees). A NSW Group meeting is planned for March.

Council acknowledged with thanks Glenda Browne's representation of ANZSI at the International Indexing Conference and ICRIS Triennial Meeting in October 2022 in Berlin. Glenda's reports on the conference and the ICRIS meeting appear in the Newsletter December 2022 issue and this issue, and the minutes of the ICRIS meeting are also included in this issue.

The Education Officer, Mary Coe, has scheduled re-broadcasts of Indexing Society of Canada (ISC/SCI) conference sessions in February and March. Madeleine Davis is arranging an event for National Indexers' Day on 30 March and a notice about that will be circulated separately.

It was decided that the ANZSI Indexing Awards and John Simkin Medal would go ahead this year, and a separate notice is published in this issue.

The Conference Working Group (Madeleine Davis, Karen Gillen, Mary Coe and Sharon Betridge) has held several Zoom meetings, discussing plans for a conference in 2023, looking at possible dates and venues and thinking about the program content; some training workshops are also planned. There will be an update from them in the next Newsletter and before that, news will go out to all members via email. In the meantime, please start thinking about whether you have an interesting indexing topic that you can give a presentation on, or how you might contribute in some way to the proceedings.

Council accepted (reluctantly) Nikki Davis' decision to step down as Membership Secretary at the end of her current term (June this year). Nikki has been an extremely efficient and friendly manager of the membership joining and renewal processes and Council noted its gratitude for her contribution. We are seeking nominations for Membership Secretary, and details will be in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, if anyone is interested in taking on this rewarding but not onerous role, please contact the Secretary (secretary@anzsi.org). A comprehensive induction and hand-over will be available.

As usual, copy is required for the Newsletter. Please send news, comment, technical tips or any items of interest to Elisabeth Thomas, editor@anzsi.org. I'm sure we'd all welcome new names contributing copy.

Sherrey Quinn, Secretary

Call for nominations: ANZSI Indexing Awards and John Simkin Medal 2023

ANZSI invites publishers, booksellers, editors, librarians, indexers and interested persons to provide nominations for the John Simkin Medal 2021. Indexers are encouraged to submit their own work. The Medal award recognises an outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand. 'Highly Commended' certificates may also be awarded to excellent indexes.

ANZSI Indexing Awards were instituted in 1985. The highest award, previously known as the ANZSI Medal, was renamed in 2014 in honour of John Simkin, one of the founding members of the Society. John promoted the ideals of indexes and indexing throughout his 40-year association with the Society, and the Medal acknowledges his contribution to indexing. Many Highly Commended certificates have also been awarded.

Eligibility of published works

To be eligible for the 2023 awards, the book or periodical index must be commercially available and have an imprint date of 2020 or later. The index must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand, although the text to which it refers may have been published elsewhere.

Eligibility of index

To attain the Medal an index must be of the highest calibre. The index must be entirely the indexer's own work. The index should be substantial in size, the subject matter complex, and the language, form and structure should demonstrate the indexer's expertise in serving the primary needs of the text and the reader. There are no restrictions on the subject matter of the book. The book may be in paper or electronic format.

Nomination process

Nominations are confidential and anonymous, in that nominees' names are known only to the Receiving Officer, not to the Judging Panel.

Nomination forms are available at https://www.anzsi.org/about-us/awards/the-john-simkin-medal/. A completed nomination form together with a print copy of the book, or a link to the electronic file of both book and index, is required. Print books will be returned after judging.

Nominations must be received no later than 5pm AEST, Friday 30 June 2023 at GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia or (in the case of digital books) by email to the Receiving Officer at receivingofficer@anzsi.org

Nominators who have posted books must advise the Receiving Officer by email that they have done so. All nominations received will be acknowledged by email to the nominator.

Shirley Campbell, Receiving Officer

Informal ICRIS Meeting minutes, 6 April 2022

Meeting held via Zoom

Attendees
ANZSI: Madeleine Davis, Tracy Harwood
ASAIB: Karin McGuirk, Marlene Burger
ASI: Devon Thomas
CSI: Chunxiang (Sherry)
DNI: Jochen Fassbender
ISC/SCI: Alexandra Peace, Margaret de Boer
NIN: Caroline Diepeveen, Pierke Bosschieter (minute taker), Harry van der Werff
SI: Nicola King, Ann Kingdom (chair)
ICRIS website: Maureen MacGlashan
The Indexer: Mary Coe
Absent: Eileen O'Neill (AFEPI Ireland)

The meeting started with a round-up of news on every society.

ASAIB: ASAIB has 69 members of which 24 are paying members, 2 retirees and 2 new members; the Executive Board has two new members; Zoom meetings will continue as members are dispersed over a large area; workshops are now all online; the ASAIB Conference - Indexing in Service of the Reader - will be held online on 20 May 2022; awards in 2022 will be presented in a separate online event; ASAIB are reviewing their website to make it more user-friendly.

ASI: membership is holding steady and there is an uptake in interest probably due to Dennis Duncan's book being published in the US; there will be a Fall 2022 event on name indexing with international participants; the ASI online conference will be held from April 29-30 2022; further webinars are planned; ASI is afraid people are getting tired of Zoom as interest in online events is less than in previous events.

ISC/SCI: Conference is being held on May 13-14 2022, preceded by a Fireside chat for new indexers on the 12th. Theme: Past Perfect, Future Progressive; membership increased to 128; new webpage on the website with resources for new indexers; we are still doing our national/regional Zoom meetings; we did a rate survey and discussed the outcome in the Zoom meetings; we now also have member initiated Zoom groups; new Co-president Tere Mullin; 3 members won the DReam to Index scholarship.

ANZSI: membership is down to 89, because of retiring members; the members' library will acquire the books of ANZSI index medal winners; if indexers use this service the postage is paid by ANZSI; National Indexing Day (NID) [2022] was targeted at ANZSI members with presentations about 'soft marketing' your indexing business, and about 'Whom we should aim to please with eBook indexes'. All time zones in Australia and New Zealand could join and we had a very good turnout. A face-to-face NID lunch was held in Melbourne for NID.

DNI: stagnation concerning membership, because cancellation of Frankfurt Bookfair in 2020 and 2021.DNI has a new website; research on availability of The Indexer in university libraries. Only 2 have the recent issue, not consultable online. Jochen to send an email about this to several persons and bodies, in the hope that this has a positive effect.

NIN: membership is stable; plenty of work; continuing with our Zoom meetings, but thinking about reinstating our annual in-person meeting; we are organizing support for the newer members through our Groups.io discussion forum; we are stimulating the international context of indexing, that's why Harry van der Werff is now present as an observer and we hope to have a sizeable delegation at the Berlin conference; we promoted the Berlin conference on our website.

CSI: 1600 members, including institutional members, of which only 10% are really active; we celebrated our 30th anniversary; we have two new indexing standards - one for the indexing of theses, the other for indexing local chronicles, which we trying to promote internationally.

SI: membership still around 300; most people join to do the training course, very disappointingly there certainly is no Dennis-Duncan effect in the UK; local groups have started meeting in person again, besides holding the Zoom meetings; we are facing the challenge of doing online tax in the coming year (every three months) and hope to help our members coping with this; we are trying to promote member-initiated Zoom discussion groups for CPD; we did a National Indexing Day Zoom event which was recorded and will be on the website; about 26 people attended; it worked very well, with loads of activity on social media; *The Times* had a little paragraph about it; we held our conference online last winter and are thinking about having a one-day event in person; it's time we did another rates survey; we put our recommended rates up because of inflation.

The Indexer: all back issues of *The Indexer* are now available on the Liverpool University Press website; older articles are open access; for National Indexing Day four newer articles have been made open access for a month; launch of survey into how people find information in *The Indexer*; we probably can report back on the outcome of the survey at the Berlin Conference.

General discussion

ICRIS presented its thanks to Maureen MacGlashan This will be Maureen's last ICRIS meeting. We are sad to see her go, as she has been the corporate memory of ICRIS. She has been very involved in ICRIS and played a really important role.

ICRIS Website Taskforce

• There's no need to change the Indexer website. A sub-domain for ICRIS on the Indexer website would be preferable, which would provide a good URL to point to.
• For marketing purpose we need a separate international website providing a landing page for all the indexing societies, and a blog to keep it dynamic for higher ranking in Google searches.
• Suggestion to use meta keywords in different languages on the site.
• There should be a clear report on what we envisage. That report should be circulated to all societies before Berlin so that they can voice their views beforehand. We can than decide in Berlin how to proceed.
• Madeleine will set up a new task force, to prepare a new paper. She will also liaise with Rebecca Linford (webmaster) to see if we can secure www.indexers.org (cc'd Ann Kingdom)

Triennial Meeting

• International Agreement needs reviewing. We need feedback on this from all societies before the Berlin conference so that we can put proposed changes on the agenda.
• In Berlin we will also discuss where the next Triennial will be held. Reappointment of coordinators, Caroline and Pierke should also go on the agenda.
• The timing of the ICRIS meeting is important because some people will attend via Zoom. The twice-yearly Zoom meetings are a success and they should be included in the International Agreement.

Berlin Conference

• Provisional program is ready and will be posted on the conference website shortly. We're still aiming for a hybrid conference. You will register and pay for online attendance only.
• Speakers include Dennis Duncan and Paula Clarke Bain talking about the translation of the index to Duncan's book.
• The conference venue is the Weiberwirtschaft. The Sunday before the conference the ICRIS meeting will take place in the afternoon.

Purchase of recordings of conference sessions of societies (Madeleine Davis)

Madeleine asked if ANZSI could purchase recordings of individual conference sessions from other societies, which they can then use as a one-time Zoom event. This question arises as ANZSI members have difficulties participating in conferences of other societies because of time differences. Would other societies be willing to do this? There seem to be issues with speaker agreements and other judicial problems. Madeleine will write to every society separately and see what comes of it.

Questions on indexing standards (Alex Peace)

• Which ones are there, are there recent ones? There are many International and National ISO standards. They are mostly very expensive. There are three different standards in China of which two are new (see above). There are French and Spanish versions of the ISO standard.
• Is the Berkeley course using the NISO standard? In the US the Chicago Manual of Style is mostly used and publishers are making up their own standards. So the standards are mentioned but not taught as the only rules to follow. The SI course teaches the British Standard (ISO 999).

[These minutes are published in the *ANZSI Newsletter* as they were supplied to the attendees.]

Report (part 2): 2022 International Indexing Conference, Berlin

Part 1 of this report was published in the December 2022 *ANZSI Newsletter*. It covered the conference in general, and the keynote speakers. Here in part 2, I am reporting on the remaining sessions. On reading some other comments on the conference, I realise I should have added Walter Greulich and Katharina Munk to the list of key organisers of the conference in part 1 of my report. Sorry for the earlier omission.

There were contributions from around the world, with named presenters (not all of whom were able to speak on the day) from Australia, Canada, China, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and the US.

Mary Coe, Max McMaster and Ann Kingdom: Indexing *The Indexer*

Mary Coe, Max McMaster and Ann Kingdom have been researching the history and nature of the indexes to *The Indexer*, and, in 2022, launched an online survey to investigate how users search for information in the journal's back issues, and the best ways of making this content findable in the future.

The currently available indexes are for author, title, subjects, categories and centrepieces. (Centrepieces are articles that were published as coloured inserts in the centre of the journal, often on name indexing questions). These indexes were developed using voluntary and paid resources and were based on decisions made over a long period of time.

Issues that have been considered include depth of indexing, number of subheadings, use of an authority list and creation of indexing policies. Over the years there has been strong feeling among indexers about the indexes, leading to some 'vituperative' letters published in *The Indexer*. In *The Indexing Companion* we report on one of these exchanges between AusSI (now ANZSI) member Kingsley Siebel and Geoffrey Dixon, then indexer of *The Indexer*. Dixon believed that the metatopic should be avoided in indexes, while Siebel thought there were times when it was necessary to include it. This discussion led to one of my favourite index entries: '*The Indexer*: indexing "indexing" in'.

Sixty nine people responded to the survey, and free text responses were analysed using NVIVO software. The options being considered are to:

- remove all indexes and rely on Liverpool University Press site search,
- remove the subject index and keep the others,
- improve the subject index – update, or start again from scratch.

All of these options bring their own challenges!

For more information read the series of articles on this topic at
https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/journals/id/8

Liu Lijun: Building China Legal Thesaurus and Chunxiang Xue: A brief introduction to Chinese indexing standards

It is always interesting to hear presentations by Chinese indexers. Most indexing in China is done by organisations working on substantial projects. The development of standards for different types of indexing is an important basis for this arrangement.

Liu Lijun (Joan) spoke on the building of the *China Legal Thesaurus* and noted the increase in legislation and court precedents since the introduction of the rule of law into China in the late 1970s. A Chinese legal thesaurus was developed in 1980, and a new edition of the *Chinese Classified Thesaurus* was published in 2017.

Chunxiang Xue (Sherry) spoke on Chinese indexing standards. There are three: one is general, and the others are guidelines for the indexing of theses/dissertations and local chronicles.

Chinese chronicles are written at regular intervals to record key events in a country, city, profession etc. Their content is similar to that of yearbooks. There are many ancient chronicles, as well as a strong modern tradition.

Some Chinese theses have indexes – currently about 1 to 2 per cent at Peking University, and less than 1 per cent at Fudan University. The key aim is to index the originality of the dissertation (that is, the key novel finding from the work). Bold terms should be used for the innovations.

In the discussion someone commented that in the United States theses must have an index, although this may be institution specific. One US indexer thought about writing a 'quick and dirty guide' for PhD candidates who were indexing their own work. I found the following (not recent) articles when looking for details on this requirement:

https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/10932/is-index-required-for-a-phd-thesis

https://thesiswhisperer.com/2018/04/11/how-to-make-an-index-for-your-book-or-dissertation

Technical presentations

There were technical presentations on embedded indexing with Word, ebook indexing and intelligent information services.

Walter Greulich: Embedded indexing with Word

Walter Greulich presented detailed information on embedded indexing in Word, and advanced methods in using this tool. This practical information included exploration of chronological sorting, exporting indexes, and use of find and replace for page ranges.

Walter has written a book on indexing in Word, but it is currently only available in German.

Glenda Browne, Walter Greulich and Pilar Wyman: Ebook indexing update

Walter was also a presenter of the 'Matrix' update on ebook indexing, along with Pilar Wyman (from the US) and myself. The 'Matrix' presentations have been developed and presented over the years by an international cast including Jan Wright, who unfortunately could not be with us in Berlin.

This talk built on the most recent 'Matrix' presentation from 2018. I am grateful to have had the benefit of Pilar and Walter's up-to-date and detailed technical knowledge of the software options available – this is an ever-changing field! The biggest change since the last presentation is that Kindle is now using EPUB format, rather than its own proprietary format. This is great news for authors, publishers and indexers.

In the discussion there was talk about continuity of software, as we are not sure about the ongoing support status for some programs, including the late Dave Ream's program IXML Embedder.

The presentation is being printed in *Key Words* and will later be submitted for publication in *The Indexer*. The easiest way to follow the detailed content is to look at the algorithms that have been presented, and to use them when publishers come to you with specific requirements. Interested members of any indexing society can also join the Digital Indexing SIG, for US$15 per year.

Johannes and Katharina Munk: Indexing as content enrichment and its potential for intelligent information services

Katharina and Johannes are two of the founders of Klarso GmbH, known to book indexers as the developers of Index Manager. In this session they talked about their semantic network software, Klar:suite, and looked as the use of indexing for semantic enrichment.

Tools such as Klar:suite are used by companies to help manage and aggregate content, and to make relevant information accessible as quickly as possible. Index tags can improve the ranking of search results and can be used as content facets and to build the structure of a taxonomy.

It is becoming increasingly possible to automatically extract index terms, and to extract knowledge that is not explicit in the data. Klar:suite is similar to a program called Mondeca that I have been using with a health statistics website – I prepare the thesaurus and the rules (ontology) and the system creates the index tags.

Use of semantic software such as these programs will lead to big changes in the type of work indexers do, and, in some cases, to how much work we have to do.

Publishers' panel: Tim Kersebohm (Deutscher Apotheker-Verlag), Martin Müller (Springer Nature) and Joed Elich (Brill)

The publishers' panel was varied and informative.

Deutscher Apotheker–Verlag is a pharmaceutical publisher in Germany. Tim said that indexing plays a large and increasing role in the German market, and that it is difficult getting enough indexers to do the work. Artificial intelligence won't replace human indexers in the near future, although it might in 20 years. Fifteen years ago, indexing was included in authors' contracts. They have used text markers and typists. They used to redo indexes for new editions, but now their 'smart indexing' idea is to reuse work from earlier editions; this has lowered costs by 30 to 40 per cent. They also maintain a database for pharmacists.

Brill is a publisher in the Netherlands with a focus on the humanities and social sciences, founded in 1683. Joed said they always have indexes in their books, and they use professional indexers. Their 1950 *Encyclopedia of Islam* is a multilingual, ongoing publication – the index volume is 1,000 pages long! They use a name authority to ensure consistency and accuracy. Their reference books are online. They digitised the index as people didn't know how to search. At Brill, for political reasons, they don't want algorithms to rule their lives.

Springer Nature publishes 2,000 book chapters or journal articles every day on its online platform. Martin said they don't write continuous books, but work at the unit level (eg, chapter). As the amount of knowledge increases, they need more machine support to keep pace. The creation of keywords is automated using an ontology with machine learning and human assessment. Full text search finds terms and synonyms.

Dennis Duncan, Paula Clarke Bain and Chiara Baffa: *Index, a history of the*: translating the index to

Dennis Duncan and Paula Clarke Bain talked about the translation into Italian and German of the index to *Index, a history of the*. Unfortunately, the Italian translator, Chiara Baffa, was not able to be there. Dennis noted that his other books have been academic, and 'this is the first book that is going to have readers'.

Paula had no input into the translation of the index, which was playful as well as serious. The translators tried to copy the 'jokes', but this wasn't always easy.

The book includes two indexes, Paula's, and one created automatically. Dennis said he tried a few software packages as the first one was so bad, for example, indexing 'Hugh of St Cher' as 'Cher'. [The human constructed index in the book is vastly better than the automatically generated one, but the comparison is not quite fair, as the automatic software suggests that you take the result as a starting point and then edit it. Also, to fully compare, it would be useful to know how long the manual index took to make, and how much it cost.]

In the discussion the British (and North American) cataloguing practice of noting 'Includes index' was praised, and Dennis said he would also like to see a note 'Includes glossary'. Five hundred years ago the note 'Cun tabula' (with index) was used in book lists - it would be good to see this revived.

Devon Thomas and Gwen Henson: It takes two to tango: communicating with publishers and editors

Devon (a freelance indexer) and Gwen (executive director of ASI) spoke on effective communication with publishers and editors, using the theme 'it takes two to tango', with images to illustrate. They discussed initiatives taken by ASI, such as the Jobs Hotline, as well as practical approaches for indexers wishing to communicate and work better, with a focus on professionalism, advocacy for indexing, and how to be a resource for industry professionals.

Jochen Fassbender and JoAnne Burek: International indexing dictionary

In a great example of international collaboration, Jochen Fassbender from Bremen, Germany, and JoAnne Burek from Alberta, Canada presented the latest developments in the international indexing dictionary project. The dictionary developed as a team effort after a session on bilingual indexing at the 2021 ISC/SCI conference, starting with Jochen's small collection of terms. Half of the original team was at the Berlin conference.

The multilingual dictionary includes the most commonly used indexing terms in six languages: English, German, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and French. Terms can be viewed in groups or alphabetically (sorted on the English term, as English is the leading Western indexing language).

The current policy is that a term is only included when it has been translated into all the languages, eg, the term 'forced sort' has not been translated into all of the languages, so is not currently on the website. All languages have issues with synonyms and homonyms, as well as fuzzy definitions. In German and Dutch, the word 'index' can be translated as both 'index' and 'register'.

Jochen presented many examples of the work they had done and the challenges it raised. For example, German has two words for 'keyword': 'Schlagwort' means a controlled keyword and 'Stichwort' means a keyword from text only. It would be useful in English also to be able to distinguish between the various usages of the word 'keyword'. In *The Indexing Companion* we note five different usages of the word.

In Romance languages, the same term (eg, 'indice' in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, and 'index' in French) can be used to refer to both indexes and tables of contents, although unless the context is clear, the word might have to be qualified for indexes, eg, 'índice de materias' (Spanish) or 'indice analitico' (Italian).

The same was true of English in the past. For example, when Shakespeare used the word 'index' he was referring to a table of contents https://www.shakespeareswords.com/Public/GlossaryHeadword.aspx?headwordId=1201)

> Such indexes, although small pricks/to their subsequent volumes
> (*Troilus and Cressida* I.iii.343).

> That … thunders in the index?
> (*Hamlet* III.iv.53)

[ie, is a prelude to what you are about to say.]

This is an impressive piece of work. I recommend reading the article on the project in *The Indexer* (December 2021, https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/10.3828/indexer.2021.39)

Kate Mertes: Developing an indexing plan for unconventional texts

Kate Mertes was not able to speak at the conference as planned, and so presented her session via Zoom a few weeks later. Ann Kingdom introduced her session as a 'reunion' and 'delicious dessert'.

Kate discussed her approach to indexing four 'unconventional' texts. Most Western texts use platonic dialectic, meaning that indexers can follow the logical development of the text. These unconventional texts, on the other hand, were not originally written for the publication together or in this format, being collections of documents with varied initial purposes.

The first thing to do when indexing an unconventional text is to identify the metatopic. It can take the first 50 pages to get the hang of it. One example was *Meditations* by Marcus Aurelius. Kate no longer has the index, which she thinks was not very good. If she did it again, she would use a list of Stoic tenets to guide her indexing.

Another example was indexing collected documents relating to Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormonism). This is a 15-volume set, with two books being published each year. This publication includes letters bills, accounts,

licences and recordings which are being used to tell the story of Joseph Smith, although none of them were intended for this purpose. One of Kate's solutions to the complexity was to gather like items and follow the thread through the collection. For example, she would index all of one person's letters, and then another's. Someone asked how she managed to keep track of the bits in this nonsequential indexing. She replied that she prints the table of contents and any other lists she has, and ticks off each part as she indexes it.

Kate finished question time with a shout-out to the Australians who made it to the talk at that time of day/night.

Glenda Browne

Zur Letzen Instanz restaurant, Berlin

Cravat Day in Zagreb

(Photographs courtesy of Glenda Browne)

ANZSI Library

The full list of holdings of both the Australian collection and the New Zealand collection can be **viewed or downloaded** from the members area on the ANZSI website.

If you wish to borrow any items from the library, or have any queries about loan conditions for either collection, please contact the relevant library officer:

(Photograph: Karen Gillen)

Australia: **Karen Gillen**   New Zealand: **Carol Dawber**

Karen Gillen, Library Officer (Australia)

2022 Triennial Meeting of International Committee of Representatives of Indexing Societies (ICRIS)

16 October 2022, 14:00 – 18:00
Weiberwirtschaft, Berlin

Representatives
American Society for Indexing (ASI): Devon Thomas
Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI): Glenda Browne
Association of South African Indexers and Bibliographers (ASAIB): Karin McGuirk
China Society of Indexers (CSI): Guanghui Yang
Deutsches Netzwerk der Indexer (DNI): Jochen Fassbender
Indexing Society of Canada/Societé canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI): Margaret de Boer
Nederlands Indexers Network (NIN): Pierke Bosschieter
Society of Indexers (SI): Ann Kingdom
The Indexer: Mary Coe
ICRIS International Co-coordinator and Chair: Caroline Diepeveen

1. Welcome

Caroline welcomes the attendees and notes that there are several observers present, which indicates an interest in and enthusiasm for ICRIS. (see end of report)

2. Society reports on recent key developments.

• Devon Thomas from ASI notes that ASI is planning a winter learning event, which will be recorded for viewing later.
• Glenda Browne from ANZSI notes that member rates have dropped and that there are now only 25 accredited indexers in Australia. ANZSI hopes to organize a hybrid indexing conference in 2023.
• Karin McGuirk from ASAIB notes that ASAIB board has gained two new members. The previous secretary is replaced by Karien Hutchison, and Deon Schutte has replaced Marlene Burger as Chair. Their online meetings are now on MS Teams, which works well. They have a non-profit license and are able to store their documents centrally and collaborate. Furthermore, they are redesigning their logo. They announced that they will organize conference biannually instead of annually from now on; will be organizing online coffee meetings for non-indexers; and will organize more training workshops.
• Yang Guanghui from CSI notes that CSI has 1,806 members and 120 corporate members. The Guideline for Establishment of Indexes of Thesis GB/T 41210−2021 was published on December 31, 2021 and was implemented from July 1, 2022. In order to implement this standard, they have held four Academic Dissertation Index Compilation Competitions and established institute projects to promote the implementation of the standard. On September 15, 2022, the revision of the Guideline for Establishment of Indexes (General) passed the expert review meeting. Furthermore, the index compilation project of Shanghai Prefectural Old Local Chronicles Series is currently in the final stage. In 2020 and 2021 respectively, 12 and 11 projects aimed at providing young scholars with a good research environment and adequate support have been approved by the Society. Additionally, the Society applied for the National Social Science Fund of China, which was approved in 2022. Lastly, the 10th

collected volumes of China Index have been delivered to the publishing house and are expected to be published by the end of 2022.

• Jochen Fassbender from DNI notes that their website has been renewed. They have annual online meetings. There have been some publications from some DNI members, especially written articles in *The Indexer*, but Jochen will also wrote a chapter on indexing for a German-language handbook on information science, soon to be published.

• Margaret de Boer from ISC/SCI notes that Alexandra Peace will retire from the presidency. She is followed by Jolanta Komornicka, who will be joined by another co-president. ISC/SCI's membership numbers have increased by 8.9% in the past year. They will organize a conference in Newfoundland in June 2023. Their bursary aimed at inclusion, diversity, and equity has now been granted, and the award has probably helped to increase their membership numbers. They are thinking about a book lending program, however shipping in Canada is expensive. ISC/SCI has a very active membership with Member-Initiated-Groups (MIGs) that can access the society's Zoom account.

• Pierke Bosschieter from NIN notes that they have a new website. Pierke has realized that the name NIN has not been great for exposure in the Netherlands, since the most commonly used word in Dutch for 'indexer' is 'registermaker'. Therefore, they have purchased a new web domain that can redirect people Googling 'registermakers' to the NIN website, which has had a makeover as well. While researching indexers in the Netherlands, Pierke was able to find some colleagues who wanted to join the NIN. There are now 11 members. The NIN is thinking about developing Dutch resources on indexing.

• Ann Kingdom from SI notes that SI only has a small group of active members and that they have a slight decline in membership. They have a reinvigorated marketing committee with Tanya Izzard, which will contribute to SI's exposure. SI had to move the society's training course to a new platform. SI's local groups are beginning to meet more often, and there's been lively and interesting discussions on their online forums. They have to have an in-person conference next year. The executive board is still too small, as they don't have a conference director yet.

3. Review of the International Agreement

Proposed amendments to the Agreement were reviewed and discussed. The final Agreement will be posted on *The Indexer* website (**https://www.theindexer.org/international/agreement/**) once it has been ratified by all societies.

There was further discussion on decision-making procedures under the Agreement:
• It might be better that the Agreement can be changed more often than just at the triennials.
• Online meetings can be more frequent than once every three years.
• If the Agreement is not changed, initiatives such as the website could be implemented before the Agreement reflects that.
• Attendance at online ICRIS meetings is high and every society is always present; therefore, more frequent decision making could be feasible.
• ICRIS representatives should not be expected to attend yearly in-person meetings.
• Making changes takes a lot of time, as everyone has to prepare and discuss the proposals with their boards.

• So far, the Agreement has always been updated after the fact. In that sense, they can be seen as more of a historical record than an actual Agreement. What is the Agreement's value if it's always out of date? It is suggested that in the current state, the Agreement is failing to do what it is meant to do.

• It might be useful to create a provisional document in between Agreements that reflects ICRIS' current practice. The triennial revision will stay but plans for the near future could be included in the working document.

The ICRIS representatives will reach out to their boards to discuss building more flexibility into the International Agreement decision-making procedures. Since it's so easy to consult everyone online, it could be possible to make changes every one or two-year cycle. At the next informal ICRIS Zoom meeting, when the boards have responded, this will be discussed.

4. Review of the ICRIS Terms of Reference

Proposed amendments to the T of R were reviewed and discussed. The final T of R will be posted on The Indexer website https://www.theindexer.org/international/terms-of-reference/ once it has been ratified by all societies.

5. International Indexers website

• For marketing purposes, it is suggested a second international webpage/landing page is created for the societies, with an optional blog.

• ANZSI offers to pay for the costs of getting the website started and to pay for its maintenance. They expect it will not be a big cost.

• The website can be created by someone within one of the societies.

• The current idea is different from Max McMaster's proposal for a website in 2018, which proved to be too difficult to achieve.

• SI has some points of critique about the website proposal. Ann will circulate the document among the ICRIS representatives. SI has concerns about the registration of the domain name; having a directory of indexers; SEO; dynamic aspect of the website; repeating blogs from societies' pages; reliance on volunteers.

• ASI is concerned about the website's maintenance and cost as well.

• Having a landing page might be a good idea.

• ISC/SCI is excited about the proposal and offers to pay and work on creating the website as well. They would like to have access to the website to make small changes to their own society's information. Alexandra Peace adds that, in terms of SEO, we will direct customers to the landing page ourselves, for example via social media. If someone asks 'where can I find an indexer?' we can direct to this landing page.

• Deon Schutte asks who would own the website and decide what actually appears on it. Glenda replies that ANZSI would be happy to own the website and contribute financially to it without asking other societies for contributions. They want to share and work together among the different societies as much as they can.

• Deon also wonders if the societies should not focus on their own websites first. •Glenda acknowledges that volunteer effort is limited. They have roughly under 1.000 Australian dollars to spare to pay someone to build the website.

• Alexandra replies that the idea is that the money would come from the societies who have money to spare. Having a central landing page would be a more equitable way of directing

people who need indexers to directories, as all the societies will be represented. A central list makes everybody stronger.

• ANZSI would be delighted for something to happen and would also be happy with just a landing page at this point. Glenda points out that further thought can be given to a directory, but Caroline remarks that, since every society has different rules for their directories, a directory could not appear on the landing page.

• Guanghui Yang points out that Chinese internet services are a problem, and that it's not possible to share the Chinese website with the internet. For them, it will not be possible to participate in this website.

• Jochen summarizes that we will start with a very simple landing page that contains links to the individual societies and networks, and perhaps the languages in which indexers are working. In the beginning there would be no maintenance. After two or three years, we could discuss if we want to expand it. We could at least have something simple, that could be the common denominator for us all. It has almost no maintenance and almost no cost.

• ISC/SCI; SI; NIN; ASAIB have pointed out that they would be happy with static landing page.

• Margaret lets Glenda know that ANZSI has the honors of creating the website.

• Caroline remarks that, even though the NIN has no money to contribute, they do have a very good web designer who created the NIN's new website.

• Glenda says that if it's just a simple static landing page, then ANZSI would keep it going forever. Other societies would not have access to making changes to the website, so if they want small changes, they would need to contact ANZSI.

The ICRIS representatives will discuss this with their boards. The subject can be further discussed at the next online ICRIS meeting.

6. The Indexer – News

• Since the last meeting, The Indexer has been published by Liverpool University Press (LUP) with a new format and design, and all the back issues are now available from the LUP website. Collaboration with the team at LUP is very good.

• Each society is entitled to one advertisement in each issue.

• LUP has arranged for print copies of the journal to be distributed in the US and Canada more quickly in future.

• There will be trials with 'naked' mailing of copies with the next issue. These will not be in plastic, as *The Indexer* is going green.

• LUP is going to be migrating their journals to a new platform in November.

• Ann Kingdom has agreed to become an official Assistant-Editor, working with Mary Coe as Editor.

• There has been considerable thought about how material from the back issues of The Indexer is accessed via indexes and search, and a survey of readers was undertaken earlier this year.

• The Society of Indexers' first five-year contract with LUP comes to an end next year and a new contract is being negotiated.

• Costs have increased, the subscriber base has shrunk, and it is difficult to get academic institutions to subscribe, so financially, it is difficult time for the journal. In order to combat that, there will probably be more focus on digital issues in future. The editor's honorarium may also be decreased as a cost-cutting measure (at the suggestion of the editor).

Observers at ICRIS meeting Berlin

ASAIB: Deon Schutte
CSI: Yang Xueke
DNI: Walter Greulich, Katharina Munk, Samuel Arnet (DNI member from Switzerland)
ISC: Alex Peace, Jolanta Komornicka
NIN: Harry van der Werff
SI: Kim Birchall
DGI: Marlies Ockenfeld, Monica Hagedorn-Saupe, Axel Ermert

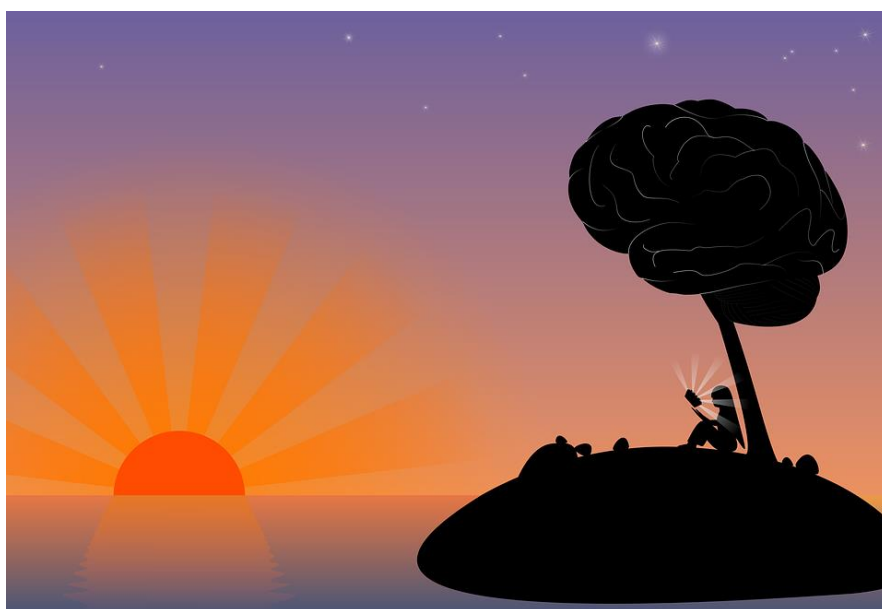[These minutes are published in the *ANZSI Newsletter* as they were supplied to the attendees.]

People

New members

Welcome to David Faraker and Angela Terrill, both in the ACT, who have joined the Society.

Nikki Davis, Membership Secretary

What's in *The Indexer*?

The December issue of *The Indexer* is available.

Did you know that the electronic version of *The Indexer* is available to subscribers in the last week of the month <u>before</u> the month of publication? Get ahead with your reading by subscribing.

More info at https://www.theindexer.org

The Indexer
The International Journal of Indexing

Volume 40.4
(December 2022)

Editorial
Mary Coe

Articles

Metatopic musings, Part 1. UK and US practices compared
Melanie Gee

Indexing the Joseph Smith Papers: a story of client–indexer collaboration
Kate Mertes

Indexing The Indexer, Part 3. A first look at the survey results
Max McMaster and Ann Kingdom

Indexing with Excel, Part 2. Checking indexing data
Walter Greulich

Conference Reports

'Past Perfect, Future Progressive': Indexing Society of Canada/Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI) 2022 conference
Ann Kingdom | Mary Coe

Indexes Reviewed
Christine Shuttleworth

Book Review
How Words Get Good: The Story of Making a Book by Rebecca Lee
Reviewed by John Silvester

The Indexer
The International Journal of Indexing
Vol. 40, No. 4, December 2022

Print ISSN 0019-4131
Online ISSN 1756-0632

Did you know that the indexes to the journal are available on *The Indexer* website?

Search for content by category or using the author, title, and subject indexes.

Visit www.theindexer.org/indexes/

You can also search for content in the journal via the LUP website or through Scopus.

---

www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/journal/index

LIVERPOOL
UNIVERSITY PRESS

@LivUniPress   liverpooluniversitypress   @LivUniPress

ANZSI events

For full details, follow a link (if included) or go directly to the Events webpage.

ANZSI Council meeting

6 February 2023

5.00 – 7.00 pm (AEDT), Zoom videoconference

Professional development: Dennis Duncan, talks about his book – *Index, A History of The*.

16 February 2023

5.30 – 7.00 pm (AEDT), Zoom videoconference

A replay, for ANZSI members, of the session from the 2022 Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI) conference.

Professional development: Software vendors : tips and tricks

4 March 2023

3.00 – 5.00 pm (AEDT), Zoom videoconference

A replay, for ANZSI members, of the session from the 2022 Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI) conference.

ANZSI Council meeting

20 March 2023

5.00 – 7.00 pm (AEDT), Zoom videoconference

ANZSI Council meeting

1 May 2023

5.00 – 7.00 pm (AEST), Zoom videoconference

Other events

American Society for Indexing (ASI) Annual Conference 2023

28–29 April 2023, online

https://www.asindexing.org/conference/2023-presentation-proposals/

ALIA Information Online 2023

17-18 May 2023, online

'Shaping the future world'

https://www.alia.org.au/EventDetail?EventKey=IO23

Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI) Conference 2023 : Congrès 2023

9-10 June 2023, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

'See also Newfoundland'

https://conference.indexers.ca/

21st International Conference on Books, Publishing and Libraries 2023

30 June 2023, Paris, France and online

https://informationmediumsociety.com/2023-conference

St John's   Paris

Contact information

General email: info@anzsi.org

ANZSocietyIndexers

@ANZSI_indexers

ANZSI Council 2022-23

President: Madeleine Davis

Vice-president: Shirley Campbell
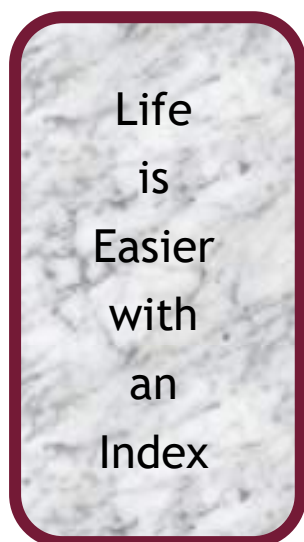
Secretary: Sherrey Quinn

Treasurer: Michael Wyatt

Council members: Elisabeth Thomas, Marnie Hannagan and Sharon Betridge.

Group and regional contacts

Please consult the ANZSI website for details of regional and interest groups, and contacts.

Life
is
Easier
with
an
Index

ANZSI newsletter

Newsletter

Submissions may be edited for clarity, space and uniformity of style. Selection of content is at the discretion of the Editor / ANZSI Council.

Open the PDF with Adobe Acrobat Reader for best reading/printing view.

Schedule

The *ANZSI Newsletter* is published six times a year - in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Contribution deadline: second Friday of the month of publication.

Please email contributions to the editor, Elisabeth Thomas, at editor@anzsi.org.

Advertising rates

Please visit our website.