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

Volume 19 • Number 4 • August 2023

Notice of ANZSI Annual General Meeting 2023

ANZSI

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc. will be held at 4.00 pm AEDT* on Thursday 19 October 2023 at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales and via videoconference. All members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Notices of motion

Any members wishing to propose a resolution at the meeting must give prior notice of motion. A copy of the resolution to be moved, signed by a proposer and seconder, must be received by the Secretary, Sherrey Quinn, no later than Thursday 14 September 2023, 5.00 pm AEST.

Nominations for Council

Nominations are called for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five ordinary Council members. The duties of each role are not onerous, and position descriptions may be found here: **https://www.anzsi.org/member-area/official-documents/**

If you are interested in joining Council, please complete and return the ANZSI Council Nomination Form 2023 which you will find at **https://www.anzsi.org/member-area/official-documents/**

Nominations must be mailed to:

Returning Officer,
ANZSI GPO Box 2069
Canberra ACT 2601

or emailed to: **info@anzsi.org**

to arrive no later than Thursday 14 September 2023, 5.00 pm AEST.

Meeting details

The AGM will be an in-person and Zoom meeting. If you wish to join the meeting, please contact Sherrey Quinn, Secretary, for the login details at email: **secretary@anzsi.org**

Information about the AGM and the relevant forms can be found on the ANZSI website at **https://www.anzsi.org/member-area/official-documents/**

The agenda and papers will be posted there by Thursday 28 September 2023.

Notice of intention to vote by proxy and the choice of the nominated proxy must reach the Secretary by Wednesday 18 October 2023, 4.00 pm AEDT, submitted on the prescribed form.

Sherrey Quinn, ANZSI Secretary **secretary@anzsi.org**

* 19 October 2023 AGM teleconference start times in all time zones:
NZ: 6.00 pm; ACT, NSW, Vic, Tas: 4.00 pm; Qld, 3.00 pm; SA & Broken Hill, NSW: 3.30 pm; NT, 2.30 pm;
WA: 1.00 pm

ANZSI Conference 2023 update

ANZSI Conference 2023 'Making Connections' - Early Bird rates end 8 September 2023

Program   **Registration**   **Sightseeing**   **Accommodation**   **Conference page**

https://www.anzsi.org/anzsi-conference-2023/

Location: Charles Sturt University (CSU) Convention Centre, Wagga Wagga, NSW
Dates: Thursday 19 and Friday 20 October and workshops Saturday 21 October 2023.

Program Update:

We now have confirmed two Keynote Speakers:

To be Continued: The Australian Newspaper Fiction Database – Professor Katherine Bode (Australian National University [ANU] College of Arts and Social Sciences/ARC Future Fellow)
The Australian Newspaper Fiction Database is a major Australian bibliographical and indexing project that has been ongoing since 2013. It offers infrastructure for Australian literary history that is linked to the National Library of Australia's Trove database and includes a crowdsourcing function. Professor Bode's presentation will overview the investigation and indexing of newspaper fiction and some of the literary historical findings this work has enabled.

Connecting with my frenemy: ChatGPT – Emily Halloran (Plain English Foundation)
This presentation highlights why we still need human information professionals in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). It draws on research about editing and AI, but the findings apply to indexers as well.

Workshops:

Registration for workshops, ***Introduction to back-of-book indexing*** and ***Advanced (refresher) indexing***, to be held on Saturday 21 October, are listed separately **here**.

Registration:

Early Bird rates ends Friday 8 September 2023

Remember: ANZSI members who have joined since 1 January 2020 receive a special rate.

Travel subsidy:

Financial ANZSI members who attend the ANZSI Conference will be able to apply for a 50 per cent rebate on travel costs from ANZSI. Reimbursement will take place after the conference with the submission of travel receipts for airfares, train and bus fares or kilometre distances to **treasurer@anzsi.org**. For those travelling by car, reimbursement will be 85 cents per kilometre to and from Wagga Wagga. Train, bus and airfares will be based on travel by economy class. The subsidy is not applicable for travel from beyond Australia or New Zealand and will cover travel from a home address to the conference by the most direct route.

Conference Dinner

The conference dinner will be held at Magpies Nest Restaurant (**https://magpiesnestwagga.com/**) which is a short distance from the CSU campus. The meal includes antipasti to start (house-made breads and a selection of small bites), main meal and dessert. The charge covers a complimentary beverage (additional drinks at own cost). Vegetarian, vegan or special dietary requirements can be catered for.

Cancellation policy

Registration can be cancelled up to three weeks before the start of the conference i.e. the cut-off date for refunds is Wednesday 27 September 2023.

Sharon Betridge, Chair, Conference Committee

Image: Elisabeth Thomas

ANZSI Library

The full list of holdings of both the Australian collection and the Aotearoa 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**   Aotearoa New Zealand: **Carol Dawber**

Karen Gillen, Library Officer (Australia)

ICRIS Meeting 12 April 2023

Minutes from the online ICRIS meeting of 12 April 2023
Attendees

AFEPI – apology from Eileen O'Neill
ANZSI – Madeleine Davis, Sherrey Quinn (Secretary ANZSI)
ASAIB – Karin McGuirk, Karien Hutchison (Secretary ASAIB)
ASI – Devon Thomas
CSI – Chunxiang Xue, Xiaoyuan Chen (CSI Member and Librarian at Fudan University Library)
DNI – Jochen Fassbender, Samuel Arnet (DNI member)
ISC/SCI – Margaret de Boer, Jolanta Komornicka (Co-president)
NIN – Caroline Diepeveen, Madelon Nanninga
SI – Ann Kingdom, Nicola King (Chair)
The Indexer – Mary Coe

Updates from societies/networks

ANZSI

ANZSI membership as at March this year was 84. There are 25 Accredited Indexers and 41 listed on the Indexers Available directory.

ANZSI has circulated a Call for Nominations for the ANZSI Indexing Awards and Jon Simkin Medal. Nominations close on 30 June. The awards are open to editors, publishers, booksellers, librarians, and any interested persons who can provide nominations. Indexers are encouraged to submit their own work. The awards take place at two-yearly intervals. For the 2021/22 awards (held over due to COVID-19) we received 11 entries.

ANZSI is finally having a Conference this year – 'Making Connections' – 19-21 October at the Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, NSW. There will be 2 conference days and 1 day of workshops. The conference will not be streamed, but all sessions will be recorded and will be made available to ANZSI members and any members of other societies/networks if they wish. There may be an opportunity to stream or pre-record a couple of international speakers. Now that face-to-face conferences are back, ANZSI will continue the practice of displaying its library books at the conference, for attendees to browse and take home. ANZSI covers all the cost for library books to be sent and returned.

ANZSI had a very low-key National Indexing Day and broadcast the Keynote Speech by Sam Leith (Berlin Conference) on 'Developments in publishing'. A Q&A and quarterly member catch-up discussion was held online afterwards.

Many thanks to ISC/SCI and the coordinators of the Berlin Conference for allowing ANZSI to present several of their conference sessions to our members as part of our ongoing professional development (PD) program. Sessions ANZSI has presented to date include 'Software vendors: Tips and Tricks', 'From Data to Done: insights into managing workflow', Dennis Duncan's session where he talked about his book: *Index, A History of the* and 'In Defense of Marking Up'. ANZSI is hoping to present more sessions from the Berlin Conference in the next couple of months.

It has been absolutely brilliant to be able to offer this to members. ANZSI has had two Zoom catch-ups with our members on 30 October last year and 30 March this year – the latter in conjunction with our National Indexing Day.

ASAIB

ASAIB has 78 listed members, with 26 renewing so far, including 4 new members. Early Bird and standard rates are offered for renewal.

Meetings are held online due to members being in different provinces and they try to meet every six weeks.

ASAIB wants to continue with its online 'coffee chats' which were started in the middle of last year. Even though it is for members, invitations are always posted on the ASAIB open platforms – LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter – in order to connect with people from the publishing industry and some of the sciences. The first workshop for the year on basic indexing principles was held in March, but instead of a full day, it was spread over 3 half days, which seemed to have worked well, with increased attendance. Further workshops are planned, depending on the availability of trainers.

ASAIB has also decided to only host its conferences biannually, so its next conference will be held in 2024. It will be the 30th anniversary of ASAIB and it will incorporate a National Indexing Day with this celebration. It will probably be online, but it may be possible to hold a hybrid conference with a pre-conference workshop.

ASI

ASI membership is holding steady in the high 300s. There is a small demographic shift with the baby boomer generation retiring but younger people becoming more interested. In the US, indexing is very white and female. ASI has been working hard on diversity, equity and inclusion via imagery and language and is looking to outreach to historically black universities and other types of institutions. There has been some interest in forming personal indexing columns and diversity in indexing groups, which may bring up different issues. 'No-one sees you when you index'.

The ASI conference is coming up, from 28-29 April, with Early Bird registration ending on 14 April. A workshop for new indexers will also be held. ASI are offering free attendance for official representatives from other Societies/Networks.

CSI

There has been an increase in membership of 48 since April 2022, mainly from the public and academic libraries, universities and colleges. The CSI conference was held on 26 November last year – Embark on a New Journey for China Index – with 6 keynote presentations and 8 lectures on indexing theory and practice. More than 100 scholars and researchers attended the conference. CSI is still developing an indexing standard for the ancient Chinese books. They will report to ICRIS in due course.

DNI

There have been several articles on the Berlin conference including in *The Indexer* and perhaps more will be forthcoming.

Membership numbers are more or less the same – between 45 and 50.

Next month Jochen will give a full day seminar to the Copy Editors Association of Germany where there are some members who are interested in professional indexing. So, chances are that more indexers may join the Network.

There will probably be another meeting of DNI in May.

At the end of last year, the 7th edition of *Grundlagen der Informationswissenschaft* (*The Fundamentals of Information Science*) was published with a contribution by Jochen on modern indexing. It is quite a tome at 1000 pages! It is a multi-authored work – some 70 plus authors. Is there anyone at this meeting or who knows someone who is fluent in German, who may like to review the book? Christine Shuttleworth (SI)? Pierke Bosschieter **(NIN)?** Perhaps a review could be a future article in *The Indexer*?

Grundlagen der Informationswissenschaft, edited by Rainer Kuhlen, Dirk Lewandowski, Wolfgang Semar and Christa Womser-Hacker, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Saur, 2023
https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110769043/html
Fassbender, Jochen. "B 7 Register/Indexe", pp.219-232
https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110769043-019/html

ISC/SCI

ISC/SCI has approximately 140 active and honorary members currently – about a 9% increase over last year with 78 members listed on the website and new members joining up.

In May, the Society will have a booth at the 2023 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at York University in Toronto. Previously ISC/SCI has only advertised at the Congress. The Congress is the largest academic gathering in Canada and one of the largest in the world, bringing together 67 academic associations from humanities and social sciences covering literature, history, education, music, sociology, social work and more.

ISC/SCI will also have a booth at the Editors Canada conference in May, which will be hosting approximately 150-200 attendees. It is the premier editing association within Canada. Issues to learn about from editors and proofreaders include inclusivity and plain language developments.

The ISC/SCI pilot lending library program is about to be launched. The next step will be looking at digital versions of books to add to the library. Thank you to ANZSI for all its library documentation to help get the library started.

Other matters include the annual letters to publishers and the conference from 9-10 June in St John's, Newfoundland. An email re official representatives from other societies has been circulated.

The year-long community engagement research project with students from the Kings University in Alberta is coming to a close. It covers midlife career conditions – researching business literature, sociology, and psychology. The students are putting together material to help ISC/SCI as a society, for people in transitions in their careers – Where does indexing come in? How do you network within your field? How do you find a sense of community? How do you mentor people as they come into a new career later in life? Resources material from the project will be added to the ISC/SCI website.

NIN

There is a stable membership of around 10. It is a small but active group. A large delegation participated in the Berlin Conference which was very stimulating. NIN still meet once every 3 months online.

NIN is currently working on a marketing plan via social media, aiming to get indexing and indexers better known in the Netherlands. The Discord platform was chosen as being most convenient for working together, user friendliness and being free.

NIN has been looking at what different societies do for National Indexing Day, especially SI, and would like to do something next year for Dutch publishers.

NIN is hopeful that there may be a Dutch edition of the Dennis Duncan book, *Index, A History of the*. There is lots of indexing work available with members circulating [them to] each other if they cannot undertake a job.

SI

At the end of 2021/22 there were 298 members. Renewals since then indicate a loss of 45 members, many of whom are now retiring from indexing. However about 12 new indexers have joined since the beginning of the year, so current membership is in the 260s. The Directory lists about 120 professionally qualified members. SI would like to recruit more members so there will be more publicity later this year to encourage more people to undertake its indexing course and who want to become indexers. To this end SI has been enhancing its blog and trying to increase its presence on social media – issues with Twitter could be a problem, but better use of LinkedIn, which is more professional, might be more beneficial in the long term.

In addition to activity on social media, the SI event for National indexing Day (NID) was two hours online with six short presentations: the case for indexing and human indexers, finding a professional indexer, briefing the indexer, reviewing the index once it is received by an editor, indexing new and updated editions of books, and some further resources and workshops. The link to the Wakelet coverage of NID is at https://wakelet.com/wake/588GuWKDsTzlXzDNOJAdW

Paula Clarke Bain published a cryptic crossword with many indexing clues to coincide with NID – free for anybody to try. Paula's crossword: https://www.mycrossword.co.uk/cryptic/1077

There was good feedback on the event and plenty of online coverage of the day itself which was picked up by Lev Parikian on Twitter (19,000 followers). You can see his tweets on the NID Wakelet url above. Hopefully many more people will have seen information about indexing. His newsletter (on Substack) is at https://substack.com/@levparikian SI is happy to provide the slides that were used for the NID event if other societies would like to use them for their own events.

There have been personal SI presentations by Rachel Gee (training director) – to AFEPI; to the Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading (CIEP) and to Edinburgh University Press. SI has also been trying to encourage indexers to attend book launches (NB Nicola is going to Buckingham Place for the launch of a book she indexed about dressing Georgian Kings and Queens to be held together with an exhibition).

There will be a one-day conference later this year.

Monthly sessions – regular Zoom 'coffee mornings' are being run for about an hour on different, wide ranging themes each time and for members to exchange information about what they are indexing etc. SI local groups are meeting face-to-face or online and some are having outings to places of interest. Dennis Duncan was made an honorary life member of SI in 2021 and will be presenting at the Biographers Club in London together with Tanya Izard (marketing director). Hazel Bell is giving a paper in Oxford about work that she did on T E Lawrence. Her paper will be published in a future edition of *The Indexer*.

The Indexer

As a reminder, each Society is entitled to one free advertisement in each issue re conferences etc. Subscriptions to *The Indexer* for indexing society members are still handled by the SI Office. Mary Coe is the contact for updates re contact details, logos etc, on the inside back cover of *The Indexer* and on the ICRIS website. Last year, Liverpool University Press (LUP), migrated their journals, including *The Indexer*, to a new online platform. On the distribution front, as soon as there is a digital version, details are posted on the ICRIS list to share with society members. 'Naked' mailing has been trialled for the March issue i.e. no packaging, envelopes or plastic covers on issues. There has been mixed feedback. LUP has an agreement with Oxford University Press to distribute print copies in North America, so hopefully the wait time will be reduced (starting in 2024). Feedback would be appreciated. SI has signed a new contract with LUP to start in 2024. Further details about the new contract will be given at the next online ICRIS meeting in September. The 2021/22 report from LUP on the journal indicates that the most downloaded article last year was by Jochen Fassbender on the *Multilingual Dictionary of Indexing Terms*. Ann Kingdom has been appointed Assistant Editor of *The Indexer*. Articles on the Berlin Conference are being gathered for the September issue.

International Indexing Website

An extract from the Triennial ICRIS meeting held on 16 October in Berlin concerning the general agreement reached on the development of an international indexing website had been circulated earlier. The main decisions were summarised. ASI and SI have held discussions and are also happy with the 'landing page', simple website outline which makes it easy to update. Additional pages would need to be considered in light of the aim of the website i.e. which other/related organisations should have links etc. Further suggestions included a page for international standards e.g. NISO, a link to the *Multilingual Dictionary of Indexing Terms,* a link to ICRIS and translations into major languages – Dutch, French, German, Spanish.

A title for the website and a domain name still needs to be agreed. A distinctive domain name may be useful to differentiate it from the other indexing society urls. A link to the China Society of Indexers from the front page may not impinge on possible Chinese restrictions on participation in international websites, however CSI will be consulted.

Madeleine will go through the list of suggested domain names circulated at the previous meeting and determine which are still available and develop a template for the front page for the next meeting in September.

Indexing in the new era of Artificial Intelligence: an outsider's view

Chunxiang welcomed Xiaoyuan Chen from CSI and a librarian at Fudan University Library who gave the presentation.

The new trends and cases in indexing

1. ByteDance's efforts to index one of the greatest encyclopedias in ancient Chinese history. The Yongle Dadian 'Great statutes of the Yongle reign' is a large encyclopedia compiled on the imperial order of the Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yongle_Encyclopedia) Originally vast, less than 4% has survived.

ByteDance (the parent company of TikTok) is working with the National Library to try and record the whole encyclopedia. When you visit the free website (in Chinese) you can see the original image of each page and when you search you can see all the relevant original text. Any publisher, or anyone, no longer has to go to the National Library to find this information but can now browse the pages online. Currently it is not being indexed in a traditional indexing way, rather they are using AI to learn all the text as a natural language. Only ten percent has been covered so far. The encyclopedia is not the only book which ByteDance is working on. They are also working on every available Asian/Chinese rare book to be found in the National Library.

https://yongle.shidianguji.com/introduction?page_from=yongle_home_page

2. Paintings from the Song Dynasty

All the ancient paintings have been uploaded onto an online bilingual database. The materials are indexed in a very visual format leveraging on the Unity cross-platform game engine. It is not traditional indexing but shows the possibility of reviewing the paintings, books and written materials in a different format. It is very entertaining and interactive.

https://news.cgtn.com/event/2022/The-Song-Painted/index.html?lang=en

3. SenseTime – recreating the Summer Palace in its Metaverse

SenseTime is probably the largest AI company in China but unknown to the Western World because of the language barrier. They have just launched the Chinese version of ChatGPT. For the Summer Palace project they were working with the National Museum, National Gallery and National Library. They use AI and AR (Augmented Reality) technology.

https://www.sensetime.com/en/case-detail?categoryId=1621

Members thanked Xiaoyuan for the presentation and agreed that there were definitely relevant connections with indexing in the above visual and interactive formats. Even though much day-to-day indexing work is with print materials, many indexers are fascinated with these kinds of outer edge forms of information access. In China, the possibility of training with and funding from these new kinds of startups might bring about new definitions of indexing. As a thought, Xiaoyuan may be interested in connecting with the Digital Trends Group of ASI and people working in the metadata or database indexing fields – Heather Hedden or John Magee, Director of Metadata Services at Cengage Gale who works with huge data sets (forthcoming speaker at ASI conference on new generation of information tools – 'New A.I. Tools and Indexing: Do We Welcome Our New Robot Overlords').

Indexing as a career in the era of disruptive innovations

Xiaoyuan asked if someone working in coding or computers, as in the above three cases, can be categorised as indexers? If you only have strict definitions then that limits other possibilities. With AI technology, showing the contents from a book in a different format can redefine how to index information and publications. Coders in big companies like ByteDance, SenseTime and Tik Tok can contribute by revealing how they index their information on the internet – being an indexer in the future.

All businesses struggle with their collective information and how they access it. How do you maintain institutional memory? How to index large government databases? The use of the Alt text tag in place of an image on a webpage if the image fails to load on a user's screen. We may see more changes for what is considered indexing. A Venn diagram with overlapping fields may now better illustrate the overall picture of what is indexing.

Should indexers working with other media than just print material call themselves metadata specialists? Depends on the audience. Is it tech savvy or book indexing savvy? i.e. if interacting with new tech publishers it may be useful to throw in some tech buzzwords. The forthcoming ASI conference will feature taxonomist Jennifer Parrucci from the *New York Times* who will talk about metadata and accessing vast datasets for content classification from a legacy of print data – 'Metadata at the New York Times: Organizing and Leveraging News Content from 1851-Today'.

How will AI language models like ChatGPT4.0 change the landscape of indexing ?

Attempts to use ChatGPT to index material online (by Madeleine) gave poor results. Nevertheless, AI potential should not be underestimated e.g. the Chinese strategy game of Go or Weiqi (Wei-Chi) was the only traditional game not mastered by computers or AI until 2016 and it was a big shock when an AI program defeated the Go professionals. Maybe book indexing is more complicated than playing Go and more of a challenge to AI? We may laugh at the poor ChatGPT result, but we may not laugh tomorrow. In the last 6 months or so AI seems to have made huge advances in understanding and learning text e.g. in the *NY Times* contest on which essays were written by ChatGPT and which by young students, it was definitely difficult to decide. On the other hand, there are serious limitations in that ChatGPT currently has limited knowledge of the world and events after 2021 and it occasionally supplies false information. If the user does not have the ability to interrogate the content, it can get dangerous quickly.

As supplied by Madeleine Davis, President and ICRIS representative

Image: Elisabeth Thomas

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

The ISC/SCI conference 'See also Newfoundland' was held in St Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, from 9 to 10 June 2023 with meetings and two boat tours held before the conference, and a workshop held after the conference.

The first tour took us to the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve, where we saw many puffins, kittiwakes (gulls) and murres. On the second tour we enjoyed traditional music and saw the striking coastline but were disappointed not to see any icebergs. Some of us were 'screeched in' – that is, made honorary Newfoundlanders wearing a sou-wester and downing a glass of screech (rum).

Thursday 8 June

On the day before the conference, ISC/SCI held their Executive Committee Meeting in the morning and hosted the informal International Committee of Representatives of Indexing Societies (ICRIS) meeting in the afternoon. We discussed the proposed ICRIS website and various issues to do with society management. A 'fireside chat' was held for new indexers. We finished the night with an informal dinner at the St John's Fish Exchange.

There were about 40 attendees so it was a friendly conference at which we had the chance to talk to most people, including some we had met last year in Berlin. We also enjoyed some light recreation, with two jigsaws for attendees to complete, plus a photo opportunity for Knit in Public Day. Conference catch-ups are often very brief, so it was a great pleasure to meet up with two friends for longer chats later when we were in Toronto.

We have attempted here to give a taste of the conference contributions. Many of them will also be published in *The Indexer*.

Friday 9 June

After an 8.30 am welcome, we started with a talk by Philip Getz, a senior editor at Palgrave Macmillan.

Philip Getz - Indexing and scholarly publishing

It is always useful to get insight into the publishing process from the other side. Palgrave Macmillan is a scholarly publisher. Most of their sales are ebook packages for libraries, where the unit of consumption has moved from individual books to chapters of books. Abstracts are written for every chapter, and all front and back matter (including the index) is provided with every chapter. With this model, successes can offset losses, and each title adds some value, making the collection more marketable.

The indexing role has been passed to authors and is part of their contractual arrangement. The author or indexer can provide the production vendor with a list of keywords (from which the vendor will extract an index) or a properly structured index for which the vendor will replace the page numbers at the final proofing stage. There seems to be little or no use of embedded indexing. (In question time, Paula Clarke Bain from the UK said that she had analysed the outcome of vendor-provided page numbers for the UK Society of Indexers journal SI*delights* and found that it provided every page number that could match the index

entry terms, not just the key ones that the indexer had selected. Production vendors find the 'list of terms index' easier.

Paula Clarke Bain - A musical interlude

Paula Clarke Bain discussed scholarly and trade books about music that she had indexed, giving examples from classical music through to modern pop/rock. We discovered an art-rock indexing advocate in Australian musician Nick Cave, who pushed for his recent publication to include an index. Paula also played a few short extracts on her tulipwood soprano (*see* descant) recorder including one of the sea shanties we sang on our boat tour.

Some language differences show up in the terms used for different notes: whole note/semibreve; eighth note/quaver. While the 'whole note' system is much more sensible, the 'quaver' option I grew up with just feels right!

Paula often places works at the end of the composer's main entry, possibly divided by type, e.g. concertos. If there is lots of detail she will index at the name of the work. The initial articles 'a' and 'the' are taken into account when filing indexes of the first lines of songs, but they are ignored in the titles of the songs.

Paula gave examples from the Lexicon of musical invective which has entries such as Abolition of rhythm: Debussy and Agony: Liszt.

Mercedes Brian with Mary Newberry and Gillian Watts - You had to be there

ISC/SCI has been serving Canadian indexers since the 1970s. Newer indexer Mercedes Brian interviewed long-time members Mary Newberry (in place of Ruth Pincoe, who could not attend) and Gillian Watts about ISC and their personal involvement.

Both mentioned the importance of the society in their indexing lives, and of mentors and teachers within the society, including Rosemary Shipperton and Don Bastian. Don was also a great keeper of archives from 1977.

Gillian's advice was realistic: aim to produce as much as you can, on budget and on time, and make it as good as possible.

Connections through ICRIS were mentioned as being important, with examples being the new Canadian library (inspired by ANZSI's library) and the proposed ICRIS website. The ability to run online meetings has been a beneficial change.

Glenda Browne - Content management with auto-tagging

I spoke about a project I am working on with the NSW Ministry of Health, using Mondeca software to manage a thesaurus and ontology, and to use these for automatic tagging for search and content management. I will be presenting an updated talk on this topic at the ANZSI conference in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales in October 2023.

Stephen Ullstrom - Writing book indexing: a step-by-step guide

Stephen Ullstrom spoke on writing and self-publishing his new book, *Book Indexing: a step-by-step guide*. The book's audience is authors, editors and newer indexers. Stephen also has a free email course 'Indexing Decoded' that offers to teach you, in seven days, how to index a book (https://www.stephenullstrom.com/).

Stephen spoke about his plans for different book formats – print (using Draft2Digital, which will send the book to Amazon, AppleBooks, Kobo) and ebook (using Draft2Digital, and also sending it direct to Amazon, AppleBooks and Kobo). He is marketing using his own blog and newsletter. He has spent CAN$4661.54 so far on editing, copyediting and embedded indexing, and aims to sell about 500 copies. He hopes for it to be an evergreen income stream.

Awards Banquet

In the evening we enjoyed the awards banquet and celebrated the achievements of the winners of the Ewart-Daveluy Award, Tamarack Award and Certificates of Recognition.

Saturday 10 June

Ronnie Seagren - The Tamil Epic and linked indexes: a case study

Ronnie Seagren spoke about a self-published project that became a two-year saga. She was asked to index and edit an out-of-print, medieval Tamil epic story that had been transcribed and published by an anthropologist, as only short versions then existed in print. The audience was Tamil speakers, scholars and the general public.

The index was to be exhaustive and scannable. Characters, places, events and symbols would be indexed, and people should be able to find their favourite stories. The index included glosses and diacritics. When the diacritics were not available, she used the percentage (%) sign and replaced it later. Flashbacks and imagery ('woman as creeping vine') were indexed, and people from different generations had to be distinguishable. The book's translator found that some of the index groupings inspired further research.

Vanity and normal publishing are taking on characteristics of each other. In 2022, 42 per cent of books were self-published, often selling less than 200, or even 5, copies. It is important to understand how some self-publishing service providers work. They make profit from the process (whereas the companies Stephen Ullstrom used for his book on indexing make profit from sales). Ronnie had problems with access to files, limited opportunities to fix things, missing Unicode options and no chance to make a linked index.

Sergey Lobachev - Project management with MS Office

Sergey Lobachev provided practical information on project management for indexers. He trialled some dedicated project management options but ended up using tools available in MS Office. Project management is important for tracking simultaneous projects and connecting emails to projects.

With MS Outlook you can use Inbox folders for individual projects, create tasks, and link emails to relevant tasks. Using Excel, you can 'create all kinds of stuff' including Gantt charts and pivot tables. You can generate smaller graphs and charts on data of interest, e.g. pages indexed per month, or sales by region. YouTube has good videos on this.

While Gmail has task options, it is not as sophisticated.

Noubar Kara-Yakoubian - Caring for your eyes

Noubar Kara-Yakoubian was asked to present on eye health, a topic pertinent to the indexer demographic (i.e. an ageing audience). He covered dry eyes, eyelid inflammation, eyestrain,

lenses (including computer lenses, which are good for reading in the intermediate zone, so are good for indexers), frames (wide frames give each section more area) and more. He mentioned warm compresses, hot compresses and the Bruder mask, the 'Cadillac' of eye masks. He recommended taking a 20 second break every 20 minutes, looking 20 feet away. Interestingly, he said there is a lack of high-quality evidence showing a relationship between blue light, sleep and eye strain.

(But don't follow this layperson's summary – take his advice, and get your eyes checked by a professional!)

It Depends: no time to dither!

Lisa Fedorak coordinated this session on indexing conundrums in place of Pierke Bosschieter who was unable to attend. We discussed our reasoning for following or eschewing common practices. Topics discussed (with sample answers) included:

Do you index illustrations? – yes, if there is no list of illustrations.

Indexing changes of name – cross references are crucial.

Indexing anecdotes – these are sometimes the remembered 'shiny object' next to the thing a user is trying to recall.

The – ignoring and inverting of. Most of the room would keep 'The' at the front of the entry and sort on the next word (even though *Chicago Manual of Style* says to invert). The United States National Information Standards Organization (NISO) standard uses natural order and forced sorting to ignore 'The'.

Do you repeat a word from the main entry in the subheading - -

```
e.g.    retirement
           early retirement
           late retirement
```

Answers depended on the type of book (e.g. technical books might have terser subheadings) and the type of index (they would be more likely to be repeated in a run-in index). One person said she would index early retirement elsewhere (i.e. not as a subheading) as it is a different term. This is also the rule I (usually) follow, with subheadings being reserved for aspects of a topic, examples of a topic, and parts of a topic.

In this session there was also a follow-up discussion of Philip Getz's talk on Palgrave Macmillan Indexing practices.

Jolanta Komornicka - William Lost-His-Pants and more fun with medieval names

Jolanta Komornicka introduced us to medieval naming practices, specifically the many by-names used for those outside the nobility. These were often the precursors of surnames, and include names based on the person's location, their characteristics, their occupation or status, and nicknames – the fun names!

One reason by-names were so important is the limited number of forenames in use. For example, in Italy in the 14th century, 38 per cent of women were named Maria[1].

Jolanta gave many examples of names. Not all were literal, e.g. Little John from the Robin Hood tales; word order was not fixed, so Little John could also be known as John Little. Women's by-names could change based on the most relevant man in their life (father, spouse, son). Few women in the later Middle Ages and early modern era took their husband's surname.

For indexers, the main rule is 'Do no harm'. For names prior to 1600, do not assume they are surnames – look up a reliable source. Double post if there is space; explain your approach in a headnote and consult with the author.

Mary Newberry - Tips of the trade, from a fast start to a slow finish

In a practically oriented session, Mary presented tips for indexers taken from her own experiences, sometimes in collaborative projects. Her career path was unusual: she went to university in her forties, following an earlier career as a dancer.

Mary discussed compelling or 'trigger' words, which encourage deeper exploration and introduced the concept of 'significant insignificant details' – a useful concept to consider when deciding what is worth indexing.

She gave examples of indexing projects, including:

Harbord Village History, oral history, 2013 Collaborative project. The main heading level was tightly controlled, level 2 had some flexibility, and level 3 was flexible, often taken directly from the work **https://harbordvillagehistory.ca/hvhistory_oralhistory_detailedindex.html**

Truth and Reconciliation report of Residential Schools – the different indexers approached each other to standardise terminology. See the index at **https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/History_Part_1_Index_FINAL.pdf**

Sunday 11 June

Stephen Ullstrom - Live indexing workshop

On the day after the main conference, Stephen Ullstrom presented an interactive workshop in which he wrote an index for a new-to-him scholarly article, from rough draft to final edit, thinking aloud as he worked. (We cannot elaborate as we did not attend this session.).

1. Maria is still a common name in places like the Philippines, where it can cause filing problems because of the use, or not, of the abbreviation 'Ma.' **https://www.webindexing.com.au/ignobel-prize-for-literature-2007/**

Glenda Browne and Jenny Browne

Conference attendees (Glenda and Jenny second row from front, at right) Image: ISC/SCI

The Rooms cultural centre above St John's. Some of the audience and Glenda at her presentation.
Images: Glenda and Jenny Browne

People

Welcome to new members

Sonia Rawlings in Queensland and Matt Smith in Victoria.

New Membership Secretary

Hello members and readers, I would like to introduce myself as the new membership secretary, having taken over from Nikki Davis at the beginning of August 2023.

A quick introduction: I have been an indexer and an ANZSI member since I studied indexing as an elective within the postgraduate Diploma of Information Management at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in 1988. Since then, I have worked as a freelance indexer and medical librarian. My many roles within ANZSI have included newsletter editor, international representative and president, but the 'memsec' role is a new one for me.

Thanks to Nikki Davis, the previous membership secretary, for a smooth handover. As I was in Canada attending the ISC/SCI conference at the key time for renewals this year, Nikki managed the bulk of the renewal process, thus making my initiation into the role fairly easy. Her clear organisation of documents has also set me on a good path.

Thanks also to past membership secretaries and current (and past) Council members for the work they do to make the membership process effective and responsive.

Please contact me at **members@anzsi.org** if you have any questions about your ANZSI membership.

Best wishes,

Glenda Browne, Membership Secretary

Member's bouquet

Earlier this year I was involved in an indexing project that was a big undertaking. It was an in-depth family history, from the 1700s to the present day, in 2 volumes. Each volume comprises over 300 pages, with probably a few hundred names, many of which were very similar. The history had been compiled by a historian commissioned by the family. As I worked through it, I became very familiar with the myriad members of the different generations.

By volume 2, it became apparent (through the knowledge gained from Volume 1 and consulting the family tree included in the book) that some names were incorrect in the text (e.g. Anna Maria should be Maria Anna; Maud was Bill's wife not Reg's - his wife should be Mabel etc.). As well as appearances by the usual typos (e.g. Archduke Frank Ferdinand rather than Archduke Franz Ferdinand), I decided these were too important to the text to be left incorrect, so I sent a list of about 15 important corrections with the completed index. Yes, I know this isn't really an indexer's job but, in reality, the index and the books would not work well if they were left as they were. Often it is only us who get this in-depth knowledge because names must be correct and consistent in the index. A week or so later, I received a very appreciative email from the historian/author, saying in part:

I just wanted to thank you for finding the typos and errors in Volume II. I am sure Sally has also thanked you, but I want you to know how incredibly grateful I am for your thoroughness and professionalism … Your index was fabulous but bringing these items to my attention has been profoundly important. As you can imagine, I would have hated them to remain - we all read it over and over but, as happens, these were missed. I look forward to working with you on my next book!

This reinforced the fact that, as indexers, we are members of a team who work together to produce a book which is accessible to the reader. Details like this often really matter, even if they aren't officially part of our role.

Shelley Campbell

Tourist tip

Letter to the editor

Hello Elisabeth,

Thanks for your "Newsletter content request" email.

It reminded me to send a greeting as I continue to be an otherwise-absorbed member who enjoys the ANZSI newsletters and noted the upcoming conference with interest.

My husband and I have just returned from a road trip from Adelaide to NSW and the ACT to visit family and a few library/history related sights.

Other ANZSI members may be interested in visiting the Penrith Museum of Printing (**https://www.printingmuseum.org.au/**), as we did - the exhibits and demonstrations were fascinating from both a literature lover's and technology lover's point of view. The Museum's president gave us an expert's enthusiastic tour and had several machines in operation.

An article in the media earlier this year about this Museum alerted me to its existence and it tied in with my recent reading of Pip Williams' book *The dictionary of lost words*. People can read the article here: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-06/letterpress-printing-methods-alive-in-digital-age/102302626

Judy Richter

IPEd Janet Mackenzie Medal 2024: call for nominations

Nominations are open for the Janet Mackenzie Medal (the Mackenzie).

IPEd awards the Mackenzie to an outstanding professional editor who has lifted the standard of the editing profession and/or given exemplary service to IPEd.

The award honours Janet Mackenzie DE (1947–2018). Janet was an Honorary Life Member (and founding member) of Editors Victoria, and served IPEd in many capacities over many years, including being on the first Standards Working Group, 1998–2001, and most recently on the *Style Manual* 7th Edition Steering Group, from which she resigned only weeks before her death.
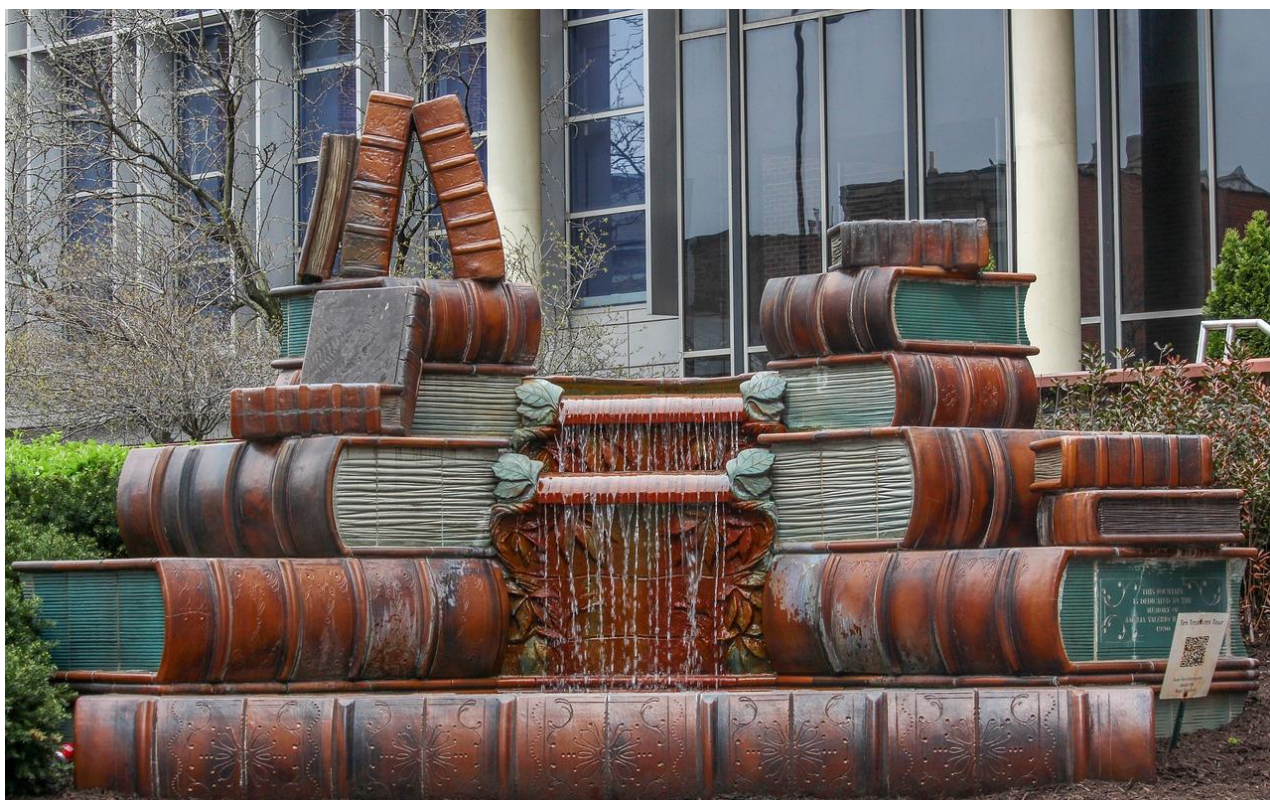
The award consists of a medal, an electronic rendering of the medal to be used by the recipient and Honorary Life Membership of IPEd (if the recipient is not already an HLM).

Award selection is based on a written nominator statement from an IPEd member, three written referee letters of support and the nominee's three-page CV.

Only IPEd Professional Members are eligible for this award. Current members of the IPEd Board, IPEd employees, award judges and administrators of the award are not eligible for nomination.

For more information on eligibility and how to nominate, refer to the guidelines in the 2024 Nomination Instructions. Contact the IPEd Secretariat at secretary@iped-editors.org with any questions.

Details at https://www.iped-editors.org/about-iped/awards/

What's in *The Indexer*?

The June 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.

<u>See the image below for the publishing changes coming in 2024</u>.

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

The Indexer
The International Journal of Indexing

Volume 41.2
(June 2023)

Editorial
Mary Coe

Obituary
John Vickers, 1927–2023

Articles
Ebooks in EPUB format can (and should) include indexes
Bill Kasdorf

Indexing images in ebooks to make visual content accessible and discoverable to everyone
Caroline Desrosiers

Metatopic musings, Part 2. Metatopic conceptualisation and indexing strategies
Melanie Gee

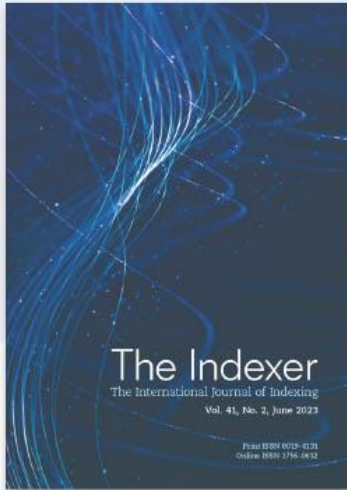*Structuring book indexes to meet the needs of users*
Judi Gibbs

Indexing with Excel, Part 3. Conversions 1
Walter Greulich

The Index of Forbidden Books: is it an index?
Jolanta N. Komornicka

Letter to The Editor
Letter to the editor
Jolanta N. Komornicka

Indexes Reviewed
Christine Shuttleworth

Book Reviews
Heather Hedden | Jan Wright

The Indexer
The International Journal of Indexing
Vol. 41, No. 2, June 2023

Print ISSN 0019-4131
Online ISSN 1756-0632

NOTICE: *The Indexer will be moving to a new distribution model in 2024.*

Quarterly issues of the journal will now be published in an electronic version on the regular schedule. In addition to access to individual articles on the LUP website, the complete electronic issue will be available as a PDF. A printed volume containing all four issues for the year will be distributed in December.

The combined volume will be mailed to subscribers in suitable packaging. It will also be available as a PDF document from the Liverpool University Press website. The new distribution model will enable us to lessen the environmental impact by reducing print runs and paper usage, mitigate the effects of increases in production and distribution costs, and enable subscribers around the world to have convenient and timely access to each issue.

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 Conference 2023

19 – 21 October 2023, Charles Sturt University (CSU) Conference Centre, Wagga Wagga, NSW

"Making Connections"

ANZSI Annual General Meeting 2023

19 October 2023, Charles Sturt University (CSU) Conference Centre, Wagga Wagga, NSW

To be held following the day's conference sessions, in person and online

ANZSI Council meeting

30 October 2023

5.00 – 7.00 pm (AEDT), Zoom videoconference

Other events

Society of Indexers (UK) Annual Conference 2023

26 September 2023, The Terrace, Wellington Street, Leeds, England

'Bringing the outside in: expand your indexing horizons'.

https://www.indexers.org.uk/conference-2023/

Contact information

General email: info@anzsi.org

☐ ANZSocietyIndexers

☐ @ANZSI_indexers

ANZSI Council 2022-23
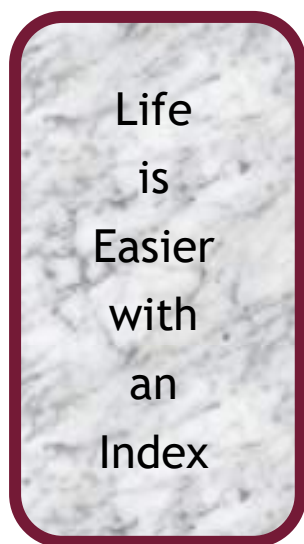
President: Madeleine Davis

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

Editor: Elisabeth Thomas

Assistance from Jenny Browne

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.

Opinions and statements expressed in the Newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.

All photographs and images, unless otherwise stated, are Creative Commons CC0 'no copyright reserved'.

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.