



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

Volume 19 • Number 6 • December 2023

Making Connections: Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Conference 2023..... 2

Become a Voluntrove 14

ANZSI Library 15

Indexing resources..... 16

People 18

Welcome to new members..... 18

ANZSI Victorian conference attendees lunch..... 18

Vale Michael Ramsden 19

Institute of Professional Editors welcomes new Chair 22

What’s in *The Indexer*? 23

Contact information..... 24



Wishing everyone a happy and safe festive season and new year.

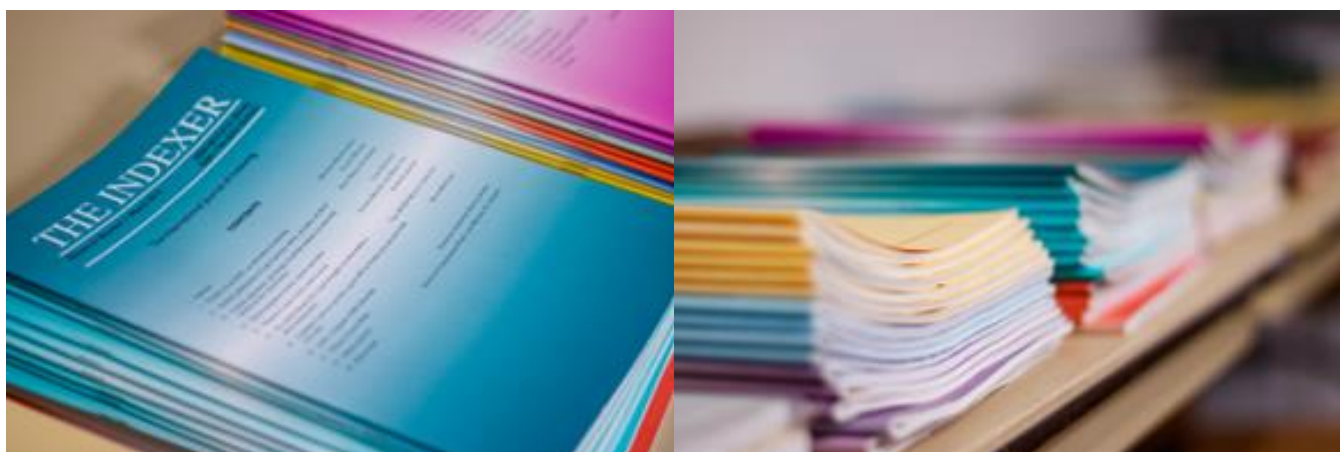
(Photograph: Elisabeth Thomas)

Making Connections: Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Conference 2023

The ANZSI Conference was held at Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus, in the Riverina district of southern New South Wales, from 19 to 20 October 2023 (with a post-conference indexing workshop by Max McMaster on the 21st).

Jon Jermey, Glenda Browne and I made the trip down, from the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, as a family, exploring the sights, like Cowra's Japanese Garden and the National Art Glass Gallery at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, along the way.

Some of us struggled to find the Convention Centre on the huge campus, but we were fortified on arrival with a goodie bag that included treats from June Licorice and Chocolate. Karen Gillen lined up books from the ANZSI Library along the edge of the room for people to peruse and borrow. Lovely morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea dishes were provided each day, and many of us took some of Friday's afternoon tea cookies home.



To Be Continued: The Australian Newspaper Fiction Database

We began with Professor Katherine Bode's recorded keynote presentation on The Australian Newspaper Fiction Database¹, developed by systematically searching [the National Library of Australia] Trove's² archive of Australian newspapers for fiction works. The project began in 2013 on the assumption that searching the words "to be continued" would uncover serialised stories. However, Trove privileges headings, so searches such as "serial", "story", "author", and especially "chapter", proved more fruitful.

The theme of human-technological interaction was relevant throughout the conference - this project uses an application programming interface (API) to sift through thousands of search results. Those that have already been added or rejected are left out. Information is entered on a spreadsheet, with some cells auto-filled by Trove, and some manually filled in by the project team. The Trove community also participates and can be particularly helpful in editing the results of Trove's text recognition software, making records more searchable.

The project aims to create a 360 degree model for cultural data, wherein the National Library of Australia reintegrates the information gathered. The project has doubled the amount of

Australian colonial fiction we are aware of and has shown it was more multicultural than assumed (a quarter coming from outside of Australia or Britain). The 20th century was once thought to mark the rise of cheap paperbacks and subsequent decline of newspaper fiction. However, the project team uncovered more newspaper fiction of the 20th century than the 19th century. The project has sparked a “To be continued ... ” podcast³, and, in 2020, a collaborative digital editing platform was developed to allow remixing of the records and development of e-books.

Making Connections Via Linked Data

Pru Mitchell discussed the challenge of indexing within the semantic web. Within web 3.0 / the semantic web, datasets are linked across sites. Indexing large amounts of data connected to multiple sites requires the ease and speed of automation, the detail-orientation and expertise of professionals, and the usability that comes from social tagging or folksonomies. Ontologies are helpful in capturing human knowledge in a machine-usable way, and standards based on these can make information findable and interoperable.

Wikipedia⁴ can be viewed as the ultimate folksonomy, although one with an aim for neutrality and control in the form of consensus on terminology and disambiguation of concepts. Titles are chosen by consensus, based on the goals of consistency, concision, precision, recognisability and naturalness (what someone would normally search for). Wikipedia article names can therefore be a helpful source of controlled vocabulary for indexing.



Wikidata⁵ is the multilingual index of Wikipedia. It is structured to be machine-readable, and most contributions are made in bulk via an API. Automation also comes in the form of bots that flag suspicious editing for humans to check. While many of the foundational elements of Wikipedia have already been created, there is a lot of room to contribute on Wikidata.

At a previous conference, Pru presented with Phillip Hider on work that was done mapping education ontologies of different professional groups, ensuring concepts were not duplicated on Wikidata. Automation comes in the form of Mix n Match, that creates term matches for a human to then accept or reject. This decision can depend on the size of the dataset. For instance, school nurses and school nursing may be divided if there is substantial information on the profession and the individuals.

Pru now leads the Australian Education Index team in using machines with human oversight to index books, articles and conference papers. Like the 360 degree model for cultural data in the To Be Continued project, they aim for “roundtripping”, with community contributions being reintegrated into their thesaurus.

Automated text generation and summarisation raise the question of how to position, market and cost work by humans. Many communities are left out of artificial intelligence (AI), and there is a push against its Eurocentrism. For the branches of automation, professional expertise and social tagging to flourish, conventions and standards must take root.

Indexers Who Are Also Editors: Pros and Cons

In this panel session, Karen Gillen, Tracy Harwood, Juliet Richters and Kerryn Burgess discussed their experiences as indexers who are also editors (or editors who are also indexers?) They find many people conflate editors and indexers, and it is helpful to say you are an editor when you do not want to explain your job.

They discussed how they got their start in each field. Kerryn Burgess started indexing as an editor at Lonely Planet, where editors index their own books. Juliet Richters edited her father's PhD at age 10, and later indexed colleague's books. Tracy Harwood was a research assistant at the Australian National University (ANU), where the work involved editing. She took Max McMaster's course on book indexing and was hooked. Early jobs involved



indexing and editing for her research group at ANU. Karen also took part in editing as a research assistant. She indexed her then-husband's first book and joined Max McMaster's course. Editing and indexing together became a full-time career doable from home.

They found similarities between the tasks. Kerryn sees indexing and editing as dehydrating the text - highlighting significant features to see the underlying structure. Juliet finds the imaginative element of seeing the text from the reader's perspective is common to both. Karen mentioned that finalising an index involves copy editing and structural editing.

In terms of the pros and cons of doing both, Juliet finds the intersecting networks of both fields can expand the available job opportunities; and editing and indexing the same book saves the publisher time and money. However, Karen finds some clients think you can do both simultaneously - and pay less accordingly. She also finds workflow issues come up, as it is easier to commit to, and reorganise, small chunks of time - if you are editing and indexing a text that is delayed, then payment for both is delayed. The index often highlights mistakes in the book, although editing skills can make it difficult to focus on indexing a book that has been poorly edited. Similarly, it can be stressful to edit a book that will not be indexed. Though editing and indexing each require a read-through, it does mean you have a sense of the whole work before starting to index.

.....

In terms of marketing each skill, Tracy uses visual cues like the ANZSI logo in email while Kerryn lists her titles online. Karen finds people are more impressed by examples of indexes to books of famous or prestigious authors than they are by qualifications.

Evaluating Your Own Index

As the Accreditation Committee chair, Sherrey Quinn is experienced in evaluating indexes, and spoke to us about how to self-evaluate and improve upon our own indexing. Indexes should be evaluated on their organisation of information and linking of related concepts to create a readable and usable finding aid.

In identifying and analysing concepts, common mistakes include focussing on words or details while neglecting bigger concepts; not gathering similar concepts; including long strings of locators without subheadings; using circular or redundant cross-referencing; referencing non-existent headings; inconsistent double-posting; or choosing terminology poorly.

The SLAM method (scan, look, ask yourself, mentally compose) is the Library of Congress' technique for cataloguing, but has relevance here. Scan the title, indexing brief, contents, introduction, conclusion and bibliography to analyse the main subjects of the text. Look for key terms, abstract concepts and names. The introduction summarises the text and defines key terms so is a useful checklist at the end of indexing. Ask yourself what the metatopics are, and how they are related. Mentally compose or mind-map the topics as you read through the book.

Specifically, terminology of the text and audience-appropriate terminology should form the preferred terms in the index. Some of the strongest conventions are to make headings nouns or noun phrases (generally plural) and not to use a lone adjective as a heading. Language should be concise, consistent and neutral. Generally main headings with more than six locators should be subdivided, although there is not always a meaningful subheading for each locator. Ambiguity should be reduced, for instance, through qualifiers and prepositions. Names can be disambiguated using life dates, relations or professions.

Doing a visual and software-based check for completeness, accuracy and the correct structure is helpful. Ordering the index chronologically can also highlight outliers. ANZSI accreditation and medal criteria are based on standards (e.g. indexing standards of ANSI/NISO⁶ and ISO⁷), that are published in style guides such as *The Chicago Manual of Style*⁸ and explained in texts such as *Ten Characteristics of Quality Indexes*⁹ and *The Indexing Companion*¹⁰. All can help with reflecting on practice and improving your indexing.

Mondeca for Thesaurus, Ontology and Auto-Tagging Management

Glenda Browne discussed her work using Mondeca¹¹ while working as a semantic knowledge analyst for HealthStats NSW¹². This government website was required to allow the public to search for population health topics with precision as well as discover and explore further information. This required software along with an ontology (a thesaurus expanded with rules, categories, and relationships relevant to its use) in order to maintain consistency and manage synonyms, acronyms and hidden labels.

.....

In creating an ontology, the team looked at MeSH¹³ but found it was not suited to an Australian audience or population health content. The Australian Health Thesaurus¹⁴ had limited terminology related to population health but was adapted to suit HealthStats' needs (population and public health requires concepts such as determinants of health, interventions, methods, service providers, settings and target populations). The thesaurus was imported with the URLs retained so that the origins of the ontology are recorded. Triples, in the pattern of “domain...predicate...range”, are used to describe relationships. For instance, “physical activity...is a risk or protective factor...for stroke”. These are important in moving people up the health continuum.

For the software component, MultiTes, PoolParty and Synaptica¹⁵ were researched, with Mondeca eventually being chosen. It is a system of autotagging - in conjunction with human review - that provides speed, consistency and quality control. The positioning of terms on a page influences the ordering of results for different searches. If a term is in the label, for instance, its score is boosted.

In gathering related terms, hidden text is used to ensure that commonly misspelt searches will return the correctly spelt results. Some slang terms are also mapped to technical terms, although this can be difficult with the ambiguity of terms like “vitamin K” when used as slang for ketamine.

GATE¹⁶ is an open-source Java suite that can be used with Mondeca to enhance autotagging processes. It can control lemmatisation (grouping of inflected versions of the same term). Generally these terms should be grouped but the tool can be set to distinguish, for instance, birth (childbirth), and births (birth rate) rather than treating them as synonyms.

In order to check that autotagging is working, the team can view the back end, the tagging results, and the user interface. Solutions involve changing the thesaurus or changing the text. For example, deleting intervening words in a phrase to maintain the consistent tagging of that phrase. Future possibilities include the site providing search suggestions and data visualisations.

Indexing Conundrums

Max McMaster presented us with some indexing conundrums to discuss and puzzle over. One example: if a book mentions someone by name, then references them indirectly a few pages later, which pages do you index? Many of us believed catering for the reader by including the extra pages was important.

“Entities” like awards were generally considered to be inalterable. For instance, while “Dr Sydney Plowman” would file under “P”, most felt the “Dr Sidney Plowman Study and Travel Award” should be filed as written.

Standards can help with some queries, although often standards contradict each other. For instance, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and *The Chicago Manual of Style* have different rules for filing capital letters and punctuation. CMS treats \$ as a symbol while ISO ignores it, so a brand like Farm\$mart would be indexed differently in each. And sometimes user-friendliness requires a third approach - some decided they would index it as

“FarmSmart” given that readers are likely to visualise it as such.

Max has come across complications in indexing *Camping Around Australia*¹⁷, that requires place names be double posted, with and without “the” inversion. Given the place names can be very long, he chose to position “the” based on aesthetics and readability. For instance, “Pine camping area, The (northern section) NSW 72 B4, MAP 15 C3, 77”. We discussed the different ways “the” is treated depending on what is following it. Within place names, it is generally considered integral.

We also discussed stop words (prepositions, articles and conjunctions). Each software package ignores certain stop words in subheadings by default, but not the same ones. Indexes with long lists of subheadings, such as cumulative journal indexes, may be more readable when all stop words are ignored, so that the user can more easily orient themselves toward their particular topic of interest.

We also learnt how to index equations - by complexity and increasing exponents. Some doubted that this tip would make indexing mathematical textbooks as easy as claimed.



The Thirsty Crow

The day ended with the Annual General Meeting, followed by pizza and chips at the Thirsty Crow. We took part in their trivia night, with one team of indexers winning the wooden spoon (that was, technically, a bag of crisps).

[Rumour has it that the other team of indexers may have won 😊. Ed.]



Connecting with My Frenemy: ChatGPT

The second day began with a recorded keynote on ChatGPT¹⁸ from Emily Halloran of the Plain English Foundation¹⁹. She discussed that ChatGPT tries to use some standards of plain English, such as short paragraphs, and it tends to be better at answering questions when asked in plain language.

.....

ChatGPT should be told the genre, audience, and goal of the text you ask it to create. It helps to give an example of the tone and limit for the amount of text. Prompt sentences should be about 20 words and can be in bullet points. If jargon is used, it should be defined. Prompts should start with the shortest version of a verb (e.g. “list” rather than “write a list”) and the active voice is preferable. If results are not ideal, you can rephrase the prompt, and you should make sure to fact-check and edit the results. Requesting multiple perspectives can help avoid bias. Importantly, you should avoid giving private information as it remains in the system for 30 days even if privacy settings are on.

ChatGPT can help make social media posts and advertisements. It can also update your CV and draft cover letters or client proposals. It can act as a job interviewer as well, providing questions and giving feedback on your answers.

ChatGPT cannot make an index. It struggles with understanding nuance and context, being consistent and thorough, summarising and organising information, and requires proofreading. It also follows the material it is trained on, even when this may not be ideal. For instance, Emily suggests that a report should begin with its recommendations and findings, as decision makers need to easily access these. Headings that summarise each section are also useful. However, ChatGPT produced the standard report structure, with recommendations at the end, and could not make the headings more information rich. Emily suggests that, despite its flaws, ChatGPT can save time with administration so we can do imaginative work.

Some shared their experiments in asking ChatGPT to create indexes - it seems that at best it would create a concordance, at worst it would make a bulleted list including non-existent references and page numbers. It was mentioned that ChatGPT is unlikely to be a threat to indexing per se - when publishers index via automated software, they use applications like Textract and Leximancer²⁰ instead. Interestingly, I later received an indexing contract that specifically disallowed use of ChatGPT.

Silk Purse or Sow’s Ear: Can Publishers Create Quality Indexes from Indexer-Supplied Lists of Terms?

Sherrey Quinn discussed her experience of creating a list of terms (without locators) for a book. After advising the author that a full index was the better option and learning the production editor insisted on the word list, Sherrey agreed to take on the job.

Sherrey could not include subheadings or cross-references, as the publisher was planning to search for each term and add locators themselves. She avoided abstract terms that would not be found and avoided using place names as many passing mentions would be picked up. She included synonyms and related terms that could otherwise be gathered and cross-referenced. She could not index ideas worded in various ways, like “tradespeople in Australia” (even via “Australia”, that would have produced 151 occurrences). Many terms had long strings of locators. She explained to the author why metatopics were not included, and noted variant word forms that might complicate the publisher’s “indexing” process.

*The Columbia Guide to Digital Publishing*²¹ describes a good index as an intellectual view of the content, unavailable by other means, that documents interrelationships between concepts and highlights the most relevant and important topics and subtopics. Sherrey did not

feel that a list met this standard. However, the author was happy, the process was faster (although creating notes for the author used up the time saved), and her curiosity was satisfied.

E-book Indexes: More than Meets the Eye

Indexes came about with the move to books, or codices, from scrolls and tablets. With the move to PDFs, and now to reflowable text (autofitted to your device), it is worth considering how indexes should change to suit this format. Mary Coe spoke about active indexes that use hyperlinked locators, and options for their improvement. Different e-books tend to link locators to different sections of the text (the page, or paragraph, or word). Without consistent page numbers, some active indexes use a term like “here” or “there” as a linked locator, but this can be hard to keep track of when viewing multiple pages.

Mary’s research involved asking participants to look for answers to certain questions in a text, then discuss their process. Their eye movements were also tracked during their searching process. Though they rarely checked the page number after clicking the hyperlinked locator, participants appreciated page numbers as locators for giving an idea of the extent of the topic and its positioning in the text. If they have previously read the text, they might be more likely to remember that something interesting was on page 72 than that “it was the third locator under this heading”. On arrival at a page, participants generally scan the whole page for the keyword (even when linked to a paragraph) rather than reading for understanding.

Some participants used search first, and sometimes it took them straight to the index through cross-referencing a synonym that was not in the text. One participant said she searches for a keyword and if it does not appear, she looks for another text. Ergo, an e-book index can be a value-add even for those who prefer search. Many appreciate that search highlights the targeted word, so active indexes could integrate a similar feature. Most people tend to go back and forth between tools and like having a table of contents (especially hyperlinked). Many started with the table of contents, to get an overview and to access the index. Having an index icon in the toolbar could cut out one step for them, but there is also the opportunity to further integrate the index and the table of contents.

Mary is a member of the W3C Virtual Locators Taskforce, that suggests retaining the concept of the page in EPUB-formatted ebooks as it provides consistency, ease of access and ease of indexing. She mentioned other possibilities, such as integrating hidden text misspellings into the index (as done in HealthStats NSW), so readers are directed to the right place even if they spell the terminology wrong. Letters and headings could also be expandable, so that the reader can focus on the specific topic of interest.



Indexes Compiled by Scholarly Authors

Over Zoom, Lisa Fedorak discussed her research into the indexing of academic books and research: whether academics sought out an indexer or indexed their work themselves. Lisa looked into why authors index their own work, the quality of their indexes, and if there are commonalities among the proficient author-indexers. She identified authors who indexed their own scholarly work via social media and interviewed them via phone or Zoom call. It was difficult to get the full picture as those who mentioned hating the indexing process on social media did not respond to the interview request.

Authors decided against hiring indexers due to a lack of funds, or a wish to maintain control over the text. Some believed indexers would not understand the textual concepts, or the importance of details. One thought indexing was integral to writing the book. Others started the process of gaining funding for an indexer too late.

Most did not discuss the index with their editor. Those who did found the guidelines generally made sense, though one commented “they don’t care as much as they say they do”. No one mentioned editor feedback on their indexes.

Some authors enjoyed the problem-solving aspects of indexing. Most said they would do it again, as they enjoyed the sense of control or new way of looking at their work. Space constraints proved painful for some. One said indexing was the final straw of unpaid labour that made them get out of academia. Some authors had interesting methodologies, with one alphabetising each heading individually. Another commented on being “halfway through the index, having finished the M”.

Past studies suggest indexers use more modifiers, more glosses, and more often use a line-by-line style in comparison to authors who index their works. Lisa compared professional indexes, found via indexing societies, with author-created indexes. She found professional indexers created longer indexes with more modified subheadings and more cross-references. They rarely included strings of more than seven undifferentiated locators. No author indexers had headnotes and they contained a few errors, such as inconsistent cross-references. Indexes were not reviewed in conjunction with the corresponding books, but those authors who cited liking control and detail had more professional-appearing indexes.

Authors cannot look at the work as readers will, and some may not have the skills to index. They may also be fatigued by finishing their work, and too involved in it to create an objective index. While the indexer can be hampered by lack of subject knowledge.

Lisa recommends that scholarly indexers educate potential clients about securing funding for an indexer early and let them know that they may be too tired to index their work by the time it is finished. Authors can produce good indexes if they maintain their energy and remove themselves to view the work neutrally.

Roundtables

Two software discussion roundtables were held over lunch, enabling attendees to seek answers to their software queries. Sherrey Quinn hosted one on SKY Index²² and Frances Lennie answered questions on Cindex.²³

Collaborative Think Tanks: Indexing and Sharing

Glenda Browne hosted a collaborative discussion around indexing a short text surrounding gun ownership in Australia. Participants had been provided with the text beforehand and split into groups to discuss indexing approaches that were then shared with all attendees.

Topics that came up included indexing of graphs and citations - generally, indexers would ask the editor about including these. Some indexed graphs as part of the text, some used italic locators for them, and others found that a letter (for instance, “f” for figure) after the locator was more legible. We discussed whether terms such as “illegal gun ownership”, “illicit gun ownership” and



“unregistered gun ownership” are synonymous, and how they should be cross-referenced. We also discussed division of the metatopic. Certain phrases were considered compound words that should not be divided - for instance, “gun lobby” and “gun amnesty” as headings were generally preferred to reworking “lobby” or “amnesty” as subheadings under “guns” or “gun ownership”.

Wikithon: Updating Wikipedia

Then it was time for the Wikithon. We learnt the ground rules of editing Wikipedia from Mary Coe and Pru Mitchell. If you create an account, you are credited for your edits and you can access more features, but you need to declare possible conflicts of interest on your profile. Organisation members are not meant to edit the pages of their own organisation, but they can put suggestions on the Talk page that a neutral editor can add. Similarly, citing other indexing societies’ or journals’ information about ANZSI is more likely to be accepted than citing the anzs.org site.

We looked at the Wikipedia pages for “Index (publishing)”²⁴ and “Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers”²⁵, which was started by Glenda Browne, under her username CalRhiannon, in 2009. We came up with some ideas for changes, including updating broken and out-of-date links. Editing Wikipedia can help publicise indexing and advocate for ANZSI.

Closing Address and Magpie’s Nest

After Sharon Betridge gave the conference closing address, we headed to the Magpie’s Nest Restaurant for the conference dinner: a three-course meal including beautiful desserts.

.....

It was an enjoyable end to a conference that presented a variety of interesting endeavours and future possibilities in indexing and related fields, while offering practical skills-building and hands-on collaboration.

Jenny Browne

Conference photographs: Emma Coe

(Note: the conference schedule was reordered somewhat to accommodate for technical difficulties, so the order of the report does not match the program.)

References

- 1) <https://readallaboutit.com.au/>
- 2) <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- 3) <https://www.greataustralianpods.com/to-be-continued/>
- 4) <https://www.wikipedia.org/>
- 5) https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main_Page
- 6) ANSI/NISO Z39.4-2021 *Criteria for Indexes*, <https://www.niso.org/publications/z394-2021-indexes>
- 7) ISO 999:1996(en) *Information and documentation - Guidelines for the content, organization and presentation of indexes*, <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:999:ed-2:v1:en>
- 8) *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2017. Subscriber access, with limited free content, online at <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
- 9) Towery, Margie, *Ten Characteristics of Quality Indexes: Confessions of an Award-Winning Indexer*. Medford, New Jersey: Information Today Inc, 2016
- 10) Browne, Glenda and Jerney, Jon, *The Indexing Companion*. Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 2007
- 11) <https://mondeca.com/home/>
- 12) <https://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/#/page/about>
- 13) <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>
- 14) <https://about.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-thesaurus>
- 15) <http://multites.net/> ; <https://www.poolparty.biz/> ; <https://www.synaptica.com/>
- 16) <https://gate.ac.uk/>
- 17) Hardie Grant Explore, *Camping Around Australia*, 5th edn. Melbourne: Hardie Grant Books, 2023.
- 18) <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt>
- 19) <https://www.plainenglishfoundation.com/>

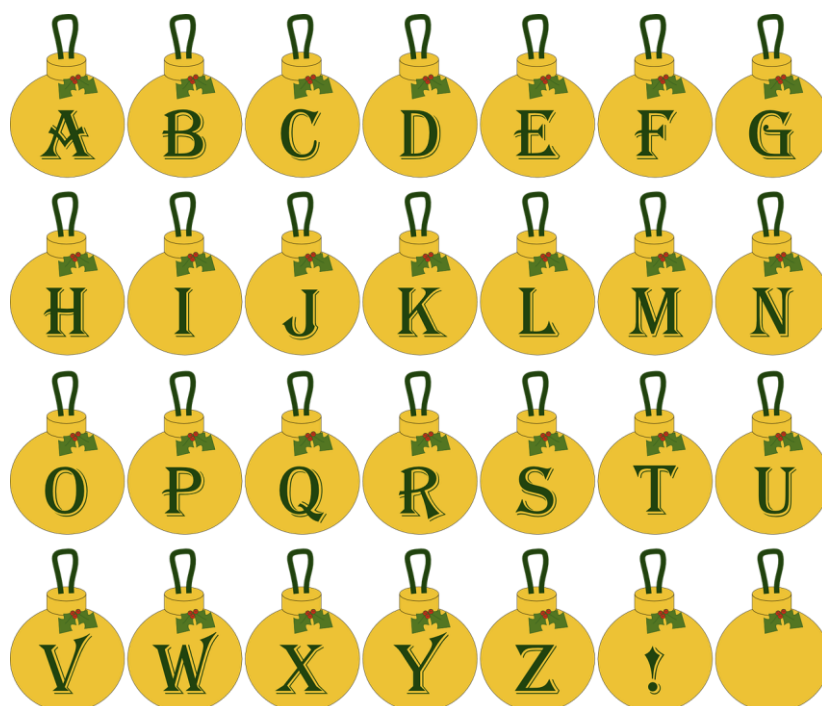
- 20) <https://aws.amazon.com/textract/> ; <https://www.leximancer.com/>
- 21) Kasdorf, Wiliam (ed.) *The Columbia Guide to Digital Publishing*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003
- 22) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_\(publishing\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_(publishing))
- 23) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_and_New_Zealand_Society_of_Indexers
- 24) <https://www.sky-software.com/>
- 25) <https://www.scribendi.ai/cindex/>

Advanced (refresher) indexing workshop

Max McMaster offered an advanced (refresher) indexing session the morning after the conference, Saturday 21 October 2023. He began by briefly referencing “the attributes of good (or bad) indexes” and the knowledge required by an indexer when producing an index. The workshop was very much an information-sharing and discussion event, with many of those newer to indexing gaining insight from Max and the other more experienced indexers present.

Max covered a range of topics, including some that generated occasionally contentious discussion, such as how to handle names, footnotes/endnotes, and front matter. Overall though, the discussion clarified knowledge and understandings. Max’s mantra, ‘the book is the guide’, was particularly valuable advice.

Sharon Betridge





Become a Voluntrove

Join the Trove community

The National Library of Australia’s Trove is about more than finding wondrous things.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/about>

Become a Voluntrove and join our community. Add your own knowledge, organise your research, improve our collections, and share your discoveries with others.
Read more at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/blog/2020/01/29/community-voluntroves>

The fascinating session, “To Be Continued: The Australian Newspaper Fiction Database”, was given by Katherine Bode at the ANZSI Conference in October 2023. Katherine described how she and bibliographer Carol Hetherington used Trove to create a database of over 21,000 novels, novellas and short stories published in early Australian newspapers. At the end of the presentation, Katherine invited ANZSI members to participate in assisting with this Trove database.

See <https://trove.nla.gov.au/blog/2019/09/09/be-continued> for examples of the history of reading and publishing in Australia.

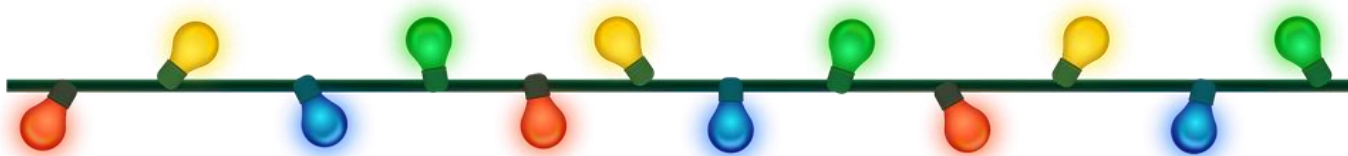
Explore, edit and share - In Katherine's words:

“With this database you can be the first modern-day Australian not only to read but to edit a previously forgotten story, from Australia or around the world. You can even export the story when you've finished and publish it on Project Gutenberg to achieve your own first edition! Another feature of *To be continued* is that it allows users to add missing instalments when they come across them in Trove, or to add entirely new stories discovered in Trove's digitised newspapers. All of these activities serve to improve and enrich our understanding of Australian literature and literature in Australia.

The database links to the fiction in Trove and to its text correction facilities, so users can correct the text as they read along and then draw the corrected version back into the database by clicking on the “Update text from Trove” button in each chapter record.”

For information about becoming a volunteer for Trove, go to:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/help/become-voluntrove>



ANZSI Library

After a successful excursion to the ANZSI conference, the Australian collection has returned home and is available, as always, to members.



(Photograph: Karen Gillen)

The (recently expanded) 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:

Australia: [Karen Gillen](#)

Aotearoa New Zealand: [Carol Dawber](#)

Karen Gillen, Library Officer (Australia)

Indexing resources

A brief list of indexing resources, including podcasts, email lists, blogs and reading material.

ANZSI (Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers)

Reading lists at <https://www.anzsi.org/member-area/recommended-reading-and-guidelines/reading-lists/>

- Textbooks and standards
- Special formats and types of indexes
- Indexing special subjects
- Indexing names
- Thesauri and controlled vocabularies

ASI (American Society for Indexing)

Webinars

ASI charges a small fee but ANZSI members can apply for a discount code.

<https://www.asindexing.org/category/webinars/>

- Reference Shelf
- Books and Articles
- EDI Resources
- Indexing the Web
- Online Discussion Groups
- Online Reference Sources
- Professional Organizations
- Publishers Online
- Software
- Standards/Technical Reports

<https://www.asindexing.org/reference-shelf/>

[IDG] Indexer's Discussion Group (IDG)

This is a group discussion list for professional indexers, and anyone interested in indexing books, journals, and other print and electronic media, the freelance life, and the business of indexing.

<https://idg.groups.io/g/main>

Freelance Indexer Exchange - Podcasts by Michelle Guiliano

“Michelle hosts a podcast for freelance business owners who specialize in indexing books, websites, documents, and digital content. In each episode of the Freelance Indexer Exchange podcast, she takes an in-depth dive into the business of indexing, providing an authentic, personal look at the ups and downs of freelance life.”

Her podcasts can be found at <https://linebylineindexing.com/freelance-indexer-exchange-podcast/> or via Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

- [#23 Index Edit Part 3: The Process \(33:01\)](#)
- [#22 Enid Zafran - The Growth of Indexing Partners and Cindex in the 1990s \(28:27\)](#)
- [#21 Index Edit Part 2: Pros and Cons \(24:05\)](#)
- [#20 Enid Zafran: Indexing Services at the Bureau of National Affairs from 1990 to 2002 \(32:02\)](#)
- [#19: Index Edits - An Introduction \(20:15\)](#)
- [#18: Enid Zafran: Indexing in the 1970s and early 1980s \(34:43\)](#)
- [#17: End of Season Q&A \(Part Two\) \(22:24\)](#)
- [#16: End of Season Q&A: Questions from Newish Indexers](#)

Netherlands Indexers Network (NIN)

NIN blogposts, which appear regularly on the NIN website on different indexing-related topics, are now also available in English. To read them, visit the website at <https://indexers.nl/en/blog-en/>

Two recent posts:

- Professional indexers: the international perspective gives an overview of training, ICRIS, The Indexer journal the International Dictionary of Indexing Terms, International Committee of Representatives of Indexing Societies (ICRIS), National Indexing Day and a proposed international indexing website.
- Resources on how to make indexes lists the most important resources on creating indexes that are available in Dutch and English covering information that can be accessed for free and information that you have to pay for.

Society of Indexers (SI)

- SI bookshop and publications - training courses, occasional papers, books and workshops at <https://www.indexers.org.uk/shop/>
- SI blog at <https://www.indexers.org.uk/posts/category/blog/>
- Indexers newer to the indexing profession may like to read the following on the SI website:
 - [Thinking of becoming an indexer? Questionnaire](#) - Do you have the skills, attitude and qualities to be an indexer? Anyone thinking about embarking on an indexing career will be able to judge their suitability for the profession using this questionnaire https://www.indexers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Pre-enrol_2013.pdf
 - A career in indexing <https://www.indexers.org.uk/about-indexing/a-career-in-indexing/>

Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI)

- Discussion groups <https://indexers.ca/fr/resources/discussion-groups/>
 - Listservs
 - Index Peer Reviewers - Indexers volunteer to review each other's edited indexes

- Indexing Software User Groups for Cindex, Macrex and Sky Index
- LinkedIn Groups
- New and Aspiring Indexers <https://indexers.ca/indexing-as-a-career/>
- Indexing software <https://indexers.ca/resources/software/>
- Education and training (including international training) <https://indexers.ca/fr/resources/education-and-training/>
- Books, journals and websites <https://indexers.ca/resources/books/>
- TIDE Resources [Style guides and presentations](https://indexers.ca/resources/caring-about-equity-diversity-and-representation/) compiled by The Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (TIDE) Committee <https://indexers.ca/resources/caring-about-equity-diversity-and-representation/>

Madeleine Davis

People

Welcome to new members

ANZSI welcomes Jasmine Lee, Tasmania; Peter Deng, Western Australia and David Crosswell, Queensland.

And a renewed welcome to Sonya Rawlings, Queensland (with an apology for the misspelling of your name previously.)

Glenda Browne, Membership Secretary

ANZSI Victorian conference attendees lunch

The Victorian delegates at the latest ANZSI conference thought it would be nice to catch up afterwards. As most of us lived in or near Ballarat, we met a few weeks later at Lilly's, the café that adjoins the Eureka Stockade site and museum. One indexer was thrilled to see a book she had indexed in the gift shop. A Ballarat indexer who was unable to attend the conference also joined the group.

Six were due to meet but sadly the men were unavailable on the day. Therefore, four chatty women flew the flag for ANZSI and discussed what we liked at the conference, what books we like to work on, our childhood education (remarkably similar across the board), ANZSI past and present, mentoring - and that was just in the first hour (we were there for three)!

We will organise another event in Ballarat in February.

Susan Pierotti



Susan Pierotti, Miranda Fyfield and Karen Gillen at Lilly's, Ballarat (Photograph: Trischa Mann).

Vale Michael Ramsden

Michael John Ramsden*17 April 1935 – 21 October 2023*

On 21 October 2023, on the long drive back home to Melbourne from the recent ANZSI conference held in Wagga Wagga, I passed some of the time rehearsing all the stories of the news and gossip I was looking forward to reporting to my dear friend, colleague and mentor, Michael Ramsden. The next morning however, I received the saddest of news: Michael, aged 88, had passed away the day before.

Memorial service

A memorial service was held for Michael on 27 October at Federation Chapel, Lilydale Memorial Park, Lilydale, Victoria. His sons and daughter each gave very moving tributes to his personal and career achievements, the impact he had on other people's lives, and his devotion to his family (and their devotion towards him). The service was livestreamed and may be viewed at

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTY5Nzk3ODQ1ODEyMzMzNDQmb25lcm9vbS1lbWFpbCZpbmZpdGF0aW9uX3ZpZXdfYnV0dG9u> *

**Early life and career**

Michael was born in Leeds, Yorkshire, on 17 April 1935. In 1957, after completing a BA (Hons) in History from the University of Southampton, he took up a position as a graduate trainee with the Gillingham Public Library. Over the next couple of years, he attended the School of Librarianship at North Western Polytechnic (now University of North London), passing the [UK] Library Association's Registration Examination. By 1961, he had completed three years' service in public libraries and gained his ALA. He was then appointed to a lectureship at the College of Librarianship, Wales (now Aberystwyth University). A decade later, Michael brought his family to Australia as 'ten-pound Poms' to take up a lectureship in the Department of Librarianship at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (now RMIT University). He was employed at RMIT for the remainder of his academic career. During his tenure there, he was promoted to the level of full professor, served as Head of the Department of Librarianship, and for ten years was the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. In 1988, Michael was made a Fellow of the Library Association of Australia (LAA) (now the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)), for his "distinguished contribution to the theory and practice of librarianship through his research, his scholarship and publications, particularly in the area of classification and indexing, and in his contribution to the development of education for library and information studies".¹

Following his retirement from RMIT in 1995, Michael took up back-of-book indexing as a freelancer. He had already indexed a couple of books and thought that working as a freelancer was a natural progression from his library career, and it would provide both intellectual stimulation and some discretionary income.² He also then gave a great deal more of his time in voluntary service to ANZSI.

According to Michael, his career highlights were his election as President of the Association of Assistant Librarians, election as a Fellow of ALIA, appointment to the foundation professoriate at RMIT, and compiling the index to *Plants in Action* (submitted for the then ANZSI Medal and awarded a commendation).

ANZSI membership and service

In 2019, ANZSI Life Membership was conferred on Michael in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society and his significant contributions to indexing. He first joined the Society, then the Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI), in 1976 - the year it was founded; and was registered as a professional indexer (now accredited indexer) in 1983. Over the years, he brought not only his extensive knowledge of indexing, but also a wealth of administrative experience, to his service as an office holder in the following ANZSI Council roles: Vice-President (2019-2021), Secretary (2009-2013), Member (August 2019). He also served on the former Victorian Branch Committee (1998-1999, 2013-2015).

In these roles, Michael made a significant and lasting contribution to the governance of the Society and to the professionalisation of indexing. He developed and implemented a range of efficient and effective administrative procedures, particularly his redrafting of the ANZSI Constitution, following the introduction of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic.). He played a key role in steering the restructure of the organisation and (although he had not yet then rejoined Council) was co-opted as a member of the subcommittee that developed the Society's Code of Conduct.

In addition to his Council and Branch Committee work, Michael also served as a judge for the John Simkin Medal (formerly AusSI Medal and ANZSI Medal), including acting as the Convenor of the judging panel for the inaugural ANZSI Medal.

Michael also made significant contributions to the training of indexers and the professional development of ANZSI members. In 1985, for example, whilst employed by the Department of Librarianship at RMIT, he conducted short courses in indexing, in association with AusSI. In the years since then, Michael has conducted a range of workshops and delivered numerous talks on indexing-related topics, first at RMIT, later at the VIC Club of the Victorian Branch of ANZSI, and at meetings of the former Melbourne Indexers' group. Michael also developed the thesaurus to be used by volunteers employed on the Society's *ANZSI Newsletter* Indexing Project.

As colleague, mentor and friend

I was fortunate to join ANZSI Council at the time Michael was Secretary and observe his administrative and organisational skills first-hand. He soon became a greatly valued mentor, colleague and dear friend. After the last Victorian-based Council handed over to the new geographically distributed Council, some former Council members, including Michael, continued to meet regularly for convivial lunches at Southbank in Melbourne. Sadly, this came

to an end when Michael's loss of mobility prevented him from taking the train from Lilydale to the city. However, we still met regularly for dinners in Kew after Vic Club and Melbourne Indexers meetings. I later rejoined Council in 2018, and frequently sought Michael's advice on various administrative matters. Within a short time, Michael also rejoined Council, and I relished the opportunity to be working with him again. In 2019, at a party celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary, I had the great pleasure of presenting Michael with his ANZSI Life Membership certificate.

Karen Gillen and Michael Ramsden.



(Photograph: Nikki Davis)



Michael with daughter Caroline, granddaughter Bridget, great granddaughter Gracelyn and wife Sylvia (reproduced from Quiet Achievers in Indexing)

Family and final years

In 2012, Michael was featured in the 'Quiet Achievers' profile series in the *ANZSI Newsletter*³, later republished in the ANZSI publication *Quiet Achievers in Indexing* (2015). Despite his significant career achievements, Michael reported that his greatest achievement was raising a family with his wife Sylvia. He was immensely proud of his family, and was a devoted father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He delighted in sharing news of their latest accomplishments.

In his later years, Michael spent a lot of his time researching and writing his family history, eventually establishing a familial link to Charlemagne. Copies of the book were published, complete with an extensive and exemplary index compiled by Michael himself.

In March 2023, hampered by a number of health issues, Michael eventually moved into residential aged care at Park Lane, Croydon. It was a difficult transition for him, but he did

his best to make himself at home surrounded by his books and treasured belongings.

In October 2023, he was transferred to hospital after suffering a medical crisis. He was discharged the following day and returned to Park Lane, where he passed away peacefully aged 88.

Michael is survived by Sylvia, his wife of 64 years, sons Phil and Patrick, daughter Caroline, 11 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Karen Gillen

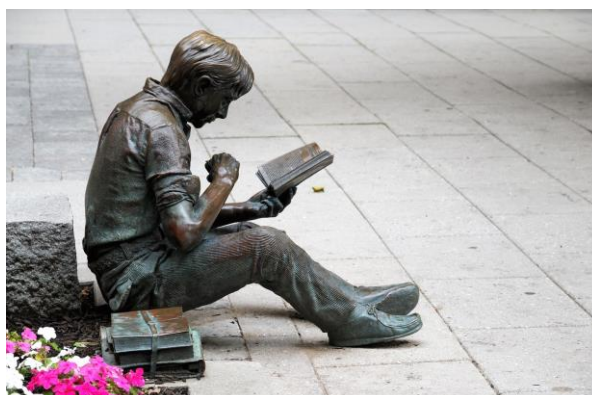
1) Phillips, S. Major LAA Awards conferred. *INCITE* 9(8) May 1988: 9,11.

<http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/inCiteALIA/1988/106.html>

2) McMaster, M. (ed. and comp.) *Quiet achievers in indexing*. Lawson, NSW: Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, 2015.

3) *ANZSI Newsletter* 8(2) March 2012: 8-9

* The recording of the service was still available online at time of publication. *Ed.*



Institute of Professional Editors welcomes new Chair

The Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) is delighted to announce that Stephanie Holt has been appointed [in November 2023] Chair of the board.

Stephanie replaces Ruth Davies, who was appointed in May 2020. Ruth will remain on the IPEd board ...

In discussing her appointment, Stephanie highlighted the importance of IPEd's voice in an ever-changing landscape.

“These are challenging times for the profession. AI is reshaping our work, even as editorial expertise remains often misunderstood and undervalued. IPEd's advocacy is vital as we strive to grow our membership, support important research, promote best practice in editing and publishing, and deliver quality professional development to the sector.”

Please see more in the media release at

<https://www.iped-editors.org/news/institute-of-professional-editors-welcomes-new-chair/>

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 before the month of publication? Get ahead with your reading by subscribing.

See details on the image below for the publishing changes coming in 2024.

More info at <https://www.theindexer.org> and <https://liverpooluniversitypress.blog/2023/06/28/important-notice-distribution-of-the-indexer/>

The Indexer

The International Journal of Indexing

Volume 41.4
(December 2023)

Editorial
Mary Coe

Announcement
New Distribution Model

Research Articles
Metadata at The New York Times
Jennifer Parrucci

Mondeca for thesaurus, autotagging, and ontology management
Glenda Browne and Helen Moore

What's in an index? The hidden work of indexing
Urs Stäheli

The first indexes? Eusebius's canon tables
Jolanta Komornicka

'Rather a complicated person': indexing T. E. Lawrence
Hazel Bell

Indexes Reviewed
Christine Shuttleworth

Book Review
Book Indexing: A Step-By-Step Guide by Stephen Ullstrom
Madelon Nanninga

Index
Index to volume 41



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.

Contact information

General email: info@anzsi.org

 ANZSocietyIndexers

 @ANZSI_indexers

ANZSI Council 2023-24

President: [Madeleine Davis](#)

Vice-president: [Mary Coe](#)

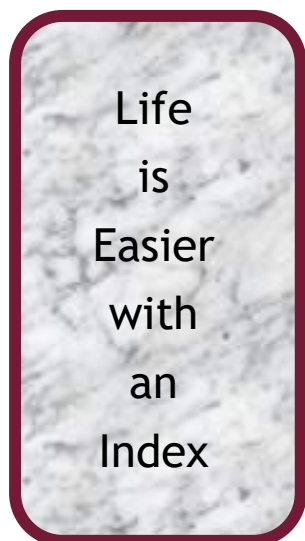
Secretary: [Sherrey Quinn](#)

Treasurer: [Michael Wyatt](#)

Council members: Shirley Campbell, Elisabeth Thomas, Shelley Campbell, Susan Pierotti and Sharon Betridge.

Group and regional contacts

Please consult the [ANZSI website](#) for details of regional and interest groups, and contacts.



Newsletter

Published by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.

GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

ISSN 1832-3855

© Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.

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](#).