AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

The Australian Society of Indexers or AUSSI, which I believe is the acronym the Society of Indexers uses for the Australian Society, has now been in existence for just over a year. We have a membership of 57 drawn mainly from Melbourne where we are based, but also have members in the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Tasmania. The average attendance at general meetings is seventeen.

We have held four general meetings plus an Annual General Meeting and have had guest speakers on a variety of indexing topics. Our first speaker was Mr John McKinlay, Cataloguer of La Trobe University Library who gave a talk entitled ‘Classification, Thesauri, Indexes—a Continuum’. Another speaker was Mr R. Williamson of the Australian Paper Manufacturers who had been on an extensive trip abroad and gave us an account of his impressions of the information scene overseas. At our Christmas meeting, three members of the Society gave us an account of work they had in progress. Mr Keith Darling compiles ‘Guide lines’, a subject index to articles in periodicals which is used extensively in school and public libraries here. He explained the methods he employs and how his entire family are involved in this work. Dr Ed. Lewis of the Army psychiatric department has embarked on the mammoth task of compiling an index to indexes and he spoke of his method of approaching this. Mrs Jean Uhl, a very experienced indexer, spoke on her work of indexing Supreme Court Records, the History of Mount Royal Hospital she is compiling and the index she has just completed for Donald Horne’s book Money made us. For our first meeting of 1977 our programme took a different form. Mr Michael Ramsden, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Librarianship at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, really put members to work as he delivered a practical lecture on Subject Analysis.

We have begun publication of a Newsletter which is open to contributions from all members. This newsletter is the only real contact members outside Melbourne have with the Society and is our main avenue of communication.

As you will all be aware we are completing negotiations with the Society of Indexers on terms of affiliation and hope that we will have a happy and helpful association together. We have made contact with the American Society of Indexers and at this stage have agreed to exchange Newsletters.

We are in the process of setting up a panel of experienced indexers with a view to starting a Register of Indexers, and members have been asked to submit a completed index for assessment. So far, we have had little contact with publishers and authors and we are hoping that this Register may help to forge a link.

Although small in number our members are very enthusiastic and ideas are beginning to flow. We hope that as these ideas are put into practice our membership will increase.

Sylvia Ramsden,
Hon. Secretary
Australian Society of Indexers

A Canadian Society

An Open Forum for Indexers and Abstractors, organized by the Committee on Bibliographical Services in Canada (of which Mr Peter Greig is Secretary), and held in Montreal in June was attended by some sixty persons. The three objectives of the meeting were achieved. These were: (a) that there is a desire to form an association of Canadian indexers and abstractors; (b) the consideration of a number of objectives; (c) the formation of an ad hoc executive to prepare a constitution and a detailed statement of objectives for circulation to a prospective membership.

Personalia

We mentioned in our last issue that Dr Graham Jones’s article in our April 1976 issue had been selected for inclusion in the American publication Library literature: the best of 1975-1976. We now learn that only thirty articles have been included after the examination of some eighty book-related and library periodicals.

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