A recent legal decision has put copyright on the front page of No. 92 (May/June 1989). On 6 June, 1989, the *New York Times* was able to report: 'After today, the fee that these businesses pay to a freelance artist will be a fee for the one-time use of the work and not, as has been common practice, for the right to reprint and reuse material without further compensation'. More quotations: from a publisher, 'Publishers and freelancers will have to find a way to work...'; from a lawyer, 'To a large extent, what this is going to do is require all the players to deal with these issues up front...'; from a company president, 'This may be a chance for the indexer to shine...'. The author of the article, ASI's own new President, triumphantly displays her byline: '© 1989 Nancy Mulvany'.

On a less worldly level, the correspondence page has a reply from the Founding Editor of *The wordtree* to a review (in No. 90); and a further letter on the subject of book reviewers who do not review indexes, or even comment on their existence: 'Why not require that every book review include an honest look at the index? To do less is letting us down'. The outgoing President reports that membership numbers had risen, including numbers of corporate members; she hoped that the flyer sent to library schools and database producers would bring a still greater rise in these. The winner of the Wilson Award (see elsewhere in this journal) had been nominated as a result of ASI's telephone campaign to 800 publishers; a press release had been circulated. Meanwhile, further progress had been made towards the establishment of a comparable award for serials; publications and updates flourished; and the *Wall Street Journal* had described indexing as an "offbeat career" in its employment supplement. This rather offbeat characterization had caused ASI to be bombarded with enquiries.

The President's Column returns to copyright: Ms Mulvany, having introduced herself to the members with a potted autobiography, offers some early musing on the new conditions, and on the old. 'It seems that the [Copyright] Office is confusing an index with a database compilation. Indexing is not some umbrella under which any alphabetic list can gather'; formal legislation would help to strengthen the Court's ruling; input from the membership was needed; 'failure...to clearly distinguish true indexing from word-list compilation is catching up with us'; we had 'unique skills transportable to a variety of media'. She quotes Neil Larson: 'Information is nothing without knowledge', and urges some serious flag-waving: 'It is time for us to talk about what we do'.

'Electronic Shoebox' reviews CINDEX Version 4. (CINDEX is for IBM-compatibles only). Always a serious program, it now has many new or enhanced features, and Linda Fetters describes these in detail, finding little to criticize: 'It is highly recommended for any type of indexing, but it is designed especially for professional indexers who must produce a large number of indexes on a regular basis.' 'Software Library News' notes the updating of the 'popular shareware word-processor', PC-WRITE.

Finally the first day's proceedings of the 21st Annual Meeting—a splendid celebration indeed—are summarized. Three publishers started the day: only thirty per cent of UC Press's scholarly books are indexed by professional indexers (low print-runs, high unit costs); seventy per cent of McGraw-Hill's indexes are submitted in electronic form; Chicago's new edition of their Manual of style will 'add information on computerized indexing, with 3 x 5 cards deemphasized'. These publishers had different experiences of many trends, but two separately mentioned that some authors think that an indexing program will do everything while they look on admiringly. Werner Krutein described PHOTOVAULT, an indexing system for photography: he expects his collection of slides to last for up to 1,000 years, and has devised a method for filing and access which he hopes will see them out. After the business session, hypertext took over, with explanations, demonstrations, application-instances and promises. Please note: 'A very respected degree ten years from now will be that of an indexer'. Neil Larson 'dazzled' his audience with his survey of present and future hypertext possibilities for indexers, including adumbrations of 'six-figure incomes'. The final presentation, on indexing online documentation, may have reminded members that not all today's problems are fully sorted yet.

A visitor, K. G. B. Bakewell, President of the British Society, starts off No. 93 (July/August 1989) with a reprint of his talk to ASI's Annual Conference. He writes with authority of the new British Standard and of standardization in general, and deplores the draft ISO
999, joining with others [see IASC/SCAD report below] in hoping that it may be replaced by BS: 3700 as a basis for discussion; having affirmed the importance of Standards, he says they ‘should always be used flexibly ... . There is always room for innovation in indexing.’

He says of computerized cataloguing and indexing, ‘There is little point in studying indexing packages unless one first discusses indexing techniques’. As for the development of internationalization, he hopes that we will build on this: ‘surely our four societies could cooperate and agree on basic indexing principles’.

Nancy Mulvany contributes a further major article on copyright in indexes; we note that the US has finally accepted the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. Pros and cons, procedures of and constraints on filing for copyright are discussed at length, with still more detail promised for the next Newsletter; many of the issues addressed are internationally relevant. She had personal experience of retaining rights in an index subsequently marketed elsewhere, but there were other considerations which might be more important to the majority of indexers: ‘Is the retention of copyright the most effective way to maintain editorial control over our work? I do not have a definite answer to this question. I think it is important to realize that we are part of a much bigger picture. We must find a productive way to exercise our rights. However, we must not overlook the needs of our clients.’

Elinor Lindheimer is spitting mad, at meticulous length, about Robotti’s Indexing books and periodicals: guidelines for authors and indexers, and ‘would not recommend that anyone buy it’. ‘Software Library News’ offers the usual enticing catalogue of new software for purchase by members; I noticed particularly xword (won’t do your crosswords for you, but will convert your w-p index to someone else’s w-p format) and PC-HYPERTEXT (for which see below, and SI MicroIndexer section).

The rest of this issue continues the summary of the Annual Conference papers. The development of wordstar had been described: ‘starting up, growing pains and getting smart’. Medical indexing was the next topic: of particular reference-use was a ‘volume containing medical subject headings currently in use with annotations about likely cross-references’ referred to as The annotated alphabetic list—1989. The morning session had finished with a panel discussion between the developers of various indexing software packages: all felt that the problems of embedding indexing entries in an online text were soluable, but only by companies with large resources; it was not clear whether the potential market was big enough to support multiple versions of each program—possibly the future would bring primarily hardware-specific software in the indexing field; during an interesting section on the extent to which index-design influenced indexing practice, it was pointed out that ‘each panel member [had] designed his software for a specific person—his professional-indexer wife’.

The afternoon had begun with BevAnne Ross on serials and multi-volume works: ‘Many publishers consider team indexing to save time’; Ms Ross thinks it probably does not save money, and certainly does require sophisticated control. She concluded by saying that ‘the journal’s index or the collection’s index can be the researcher’s most frustrating enemy or finest friend’. Cynthia Kolnick then spoke on writing your own contract: ‘a contract should contain the tasks, responsibilities, and deadlines. It is also wise to include contingencies ... the what-if part of the agreement’. We note that the Newsletter includes a contracts questionnaire for members, and that tape-recordings of the entire Conference proceedings are available.

Episode Three of the Conference, a report on Betty Kiser’s Electronic Mark-Up paper, opens No. 94 (September/October 1989): a talk ‘full of clear explanations about a topic that confuses many indexers’. Ms Kiser covered Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), the ‘defining rules’ of the process; ‘SGML applications’, the system-independent application of such rules to documents; and the Electronic Manuscript Project (EMP), an industry-wide concentrated effort to achieve a relevant Standard, which was completed at the end of 1988 and was to be published as ANSI/NISO Z39.59-1988 (also known as the AAP Standard). Her terms once defined, she went on to demonstrate some electronic mark-up in action, including long tags and short tags, the latter easier to key and to proofread. However, ‘since dedicated indexing programs like CINDEX and MACREX can automatically insert these tags after the index has been edited, little is to be gained from using short references.’ It is to be hoped that all wordprocessor and typesetting software will adopt the Standard as soon as possible. We are reminded that Hugh Maddocks’ Generic markup of electronic index manuscripts is available from ASI ($15 for non-members).

‘Software Library Review’ is surveying the hypertext disks in the ASI Software Library. TEXTPRO is discussed this time, with very detailed explanations; PC-HYPERTEXT is to follow: ‘The TEXTPRO system is the simpler of the two, having fewer features ... It is ... easier to understand at the beginning ... The PC-HYPERTEXT system, though more difficult to learn, is very powerful ... ’

‘Electronic Shoebox’ looks at two programs designed for genealogical indexes: SKY INDEX and IXM. Linda Fetters feels that SKY would be inadequate for more than the simplest name-indexes; from her description I would suppose that a standard back-of-the-book program would handle even these better. She is even less enthusiastic about IXM. [Heaven forbid anyone should be discouraged from supplying us with more and better: indexing software, but perhaps someone will explain to
The President's Column asks members to fill in, or update, their Register applications (ASI's Register, like IASC/SCAD’s proposed publication, is not an élite, but an equivalent of SI’s or AusSI’s directories of Indexers Available, circulated to publishers; the Conference panel of freelance indexers has been taped and transcribed, to appear as a twenty-page publication: Freelancers on indexing; Ms Mulvany is visiting the SI Conference and urges others to attend; on behalf of its members ASI has bought copies of the British Standard and of SI’s training manuals; volunteers are sought for nomination to the Board; a draft version of an Indexing Agreement is being reviewed by ‘several interested persons’; and (from the Washington Post) ‘Will [a forthcoming gossipy, name-dropping memo] be published with an index?’ ‘No... It’s an intimate, chatty sort of book. It would look a little ruthless to put an index in it.’ (So we’re not only offbeat and (potentially) rich as Croesus; we’re hard-eyed and thin-lipped realpolitikers too. Pass me my copyright symbol...)

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**Australian Society of Indexers**

(Vol. 13, no. 2-3)

The main article of No. 2-3 (June–September 1989) is a cogently written description by George Levick of the method he uses to assess indexes submitted for Registration by AusSI. (‘The object of assessment is not to award prizes for excellence, but to establish a basis for a claim to competence under the common constraints of professional practice’.) Levick begins by reading the index: ‘[one] object is to ensure that the index is evaluated on its own terms'; goes on to make a broad appreciation of the ‘scope, intentions and character of the text' which he believes should be reflected in those of the index (‘There are exceptions to this... but in my experience they are few and subtle'); ‘indexes’ a sample of the text for comparative purposes; ‘uses’ a sample of the index; and only at the end of the process studies the applicant’s own comments: ‘I believe that it is best to maintain an outsider’s view as long as possible. On the other hand, if the applicant has been able to anticipate and explain any serious criticisms that may have arisen, that fact should carry its full appropriate weight—though to understand is not always completely to forgive'.

There follows a reproduction of AusSI’s ‘Checklist for Assessors’ which, in conjunction with Levick’s article and with any knowledge one has of comparable guidelines—for example those of the British Society's own Register or the Wilson Award criteria—provides an opportunity to reflect on one’s own self-critical procedures and on the standards of the profession as a whole. Satisfactorily thought-provoking.

New South Wales members had a busy session last April: they participated in a talk by Ann Hall, from Scotland, entitled ‘How I Make a Good Living from Indexing’, then put on their formal hats and constituted themselves a Branch of AusSI. Ms Hall completes six or seven indexes a month and runs a correspondence course, Book Indexing Postal Tutorials, while her husband runs their house in the country as a bed-and-breakfast establishment and provides computer expertise at crucial moments. She also administers the British Society’s Supervision scheme (by which members, normally those who have completed a training scheme, ‘index a book under the supervision of a professional indexer from the Society’), and presumably from time to time boils the odd egg and helps with the odd bit of homework.

Far from exhausted by this account of the full life, New South Wales indexers turned vigorously to the detail of their formal business; they will have about three meetings a year, using the Newsletter for written communication. An earlier, looser regional organization had foundered; this one seems set to flourish, and we wish it well.

The Newsletter closes with an invitation to the SI Conference, and to AusSI’s jour de fête—their Medal Dinner.

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**IASC•SCAD**

**Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada**

(Vol. 11, nos. 1, 2)

No. 1 (October 1989) begins with the resounding announcement that IASC/SCAD is shortly to produce its first Register ‘to publicize both the membership and the concept of professional abstracting and indexing’. The AGM programme on hypermedia had been successful enough to persuade the audience to sit through the lunch hour to hear all the presentations; ‘Despite the wonders of machine-aided systems, it is still not possible to get something for nothing. High quality human design-work, input and analysis remain the prerequisites of good retrieval systems, whether manual or machine-aided’. The Society had established special links with the Classification and Indexing Section of the International Federation of Library Associations; it would receive all the Section’s newsletters, which would ‘broaden the scope of [its] reporting’ to all IFLA countries. A sub-
group of the International Standards Organization had adopted a Canadian motion to make the new British Standard 'the basis for discussion and development'; it was expected that the sub-group would complete its work in Paris, in November.

An enterprise which should prove a valuable research tool was a twenty-six-volume cumulative index of all the personal names in the New York Times index to 1984. Compugramma had now produced version 2.0 of MICRO INDEXING SYSTEM, incorporating many features now standard in other programs: abbreviations list, repagination facility, more sorting options. New sub-menus dealt with programmable keys, punctuation styles, and special sorts. The Liu-Palmer Thesaurus Construction System (from Pacific Information) was 'reported to offer online facilities for structuring terms in relation to existing terms'.

Michèle Hudon had run two highly successful courses on indexing special collections; the revised layout of the Newsletter had been acclaimed (a hiccup in the volume number had occurred and been rationalized; we are to note that new volumes would now start in January of each year); and members were urged to send their entries for the new Register as soon as possible. The issue ends with a useful bibliography of hypermedia.

No. 2 (November 1989) announces the location of IASC/SCAD's 1990 AGM in Halifax on 25 May. Toronto members were invited to what sounds like an interesting session on INTELLECT, a system for querying databases in natural language. Everybody was invited to the Society of Indexers' conference in Edinburgh (Scotland), and to a free workshop on indexing and thesaurus practices in the psycINFO online database, at the University of Western Ontario. An impassioned plea for early membership renewal sets forth in mammoth type the advantages of membership: these include receipt of The Indexer, which is described as a 'distinguished publication'. [Noted, with humble (and grateful) glee.]

Most of this issue consists of reviews. A second edition of Rowley's Abstracting and indexing, addressed primarily to students of library and information science, contains extra material on computerized aspects of the field, and an expanded chapter on controlled language; 'definitely... a very good introduction... However, the reader who is already familiar with the first edition... will not gain much new knowledge'. Consumers' index to product evaluations and information sources (Ann Arbor) is published quarterly and cumulated annually. Specific texts are listed, and general ones abstracted. The individual products are not listed in the indexes, which cover subjects--e.g. automobiles, water-activities; alerts/warnings; and recalls. The reviewer found that the subject index required some patience to search, and that as is usual the information only partly overlapped with other magazine indexes; the book appeared, however, to be 'a useful reference source'. He notes that computer and office products are covered in a companion publication: Computer and office product evaluation.

The issue includes a disturbing report of index censorship; the entry 'opium' was deleted from the index to a social studies book which dealt with the nineteenth-century opium trade in China, the publisher stating that the entry 'would just get the kids excited'. The Editor asks other members to report any similar experiences, and asks, 'Does the indexing/abstracting profession need a code of ethics? Does IASC need a code of ethics?' Indexers worldwide may care to consider similar propositions.

Society of Indexers
(Nos. 3/89, 4/89; MicroIndexer 12)

No. 3 (Summer 1989) has news of forthcoming meetings—of a talk on the Oxford English Dictionary, of an outing to tour the Library and Archives of the University of Sussex, and of description of recent work by three indexers: 'one completely manual, one using computer and one space-age systems'; plus the AGM and a meeting of the North West Group. And of globe-trotting: SI's President, Ken Bakewell had been to Scotland, to give 'a wide-ranging talk' to Scottish indexers, and to San Francisco (see ASI news above); while the Hvar (Yugoslavia) 'Conference of Delight' (reported in The Indexer 16 (4), October 1989) is remembered with joy by the Editor: 'Hvar was a delight... We shall be making a return trip in the near future, and all I can do is urge you to go!

The British Film Institute's Television Unit had instigated a project for viewers and television workers to keep 'a diary for one television viewing day'; these diaries were now being indexed, and should become 'an invaluable research tool... in which all the main broadcasting issues will be indexed'. Meanwhile, the Fawcett Library ('Britain's main historical resource for... all aspects of women in society') wanted a volunteer to help with periodical indexing.

As so often, the special treat of this Newsletter is a nosegay of instances and quotations: a British newspaper magnate has asked his solicitors to have a modern history book withdrawn from sale because, of the four references attached to his name in the index, one in fact refers to 'an alleged Russian spy' of the same name; Rotterdam police are to file criminals under photograph, fingerprint and smell—how, the Editor wonders, does one index a smell; an economist avers, 'If the community wants to stop inflation, it must make indexing illegal'.

Much paper accompanies No. 4 (Autumn 1989): with more ephemeral items come documentation for the
AGM, a publications-list, a Members’ List, an invitation to the Edinburgh Conference, and the Annual Report (membership up, open learning course inaugurated and so far flourishing, new regional group founded and the bank balance satisfactory). A member asks for information about experiences of indexing in collaboration with other indexers, and also for examples of publishers’ style and format requirements for indexes. A third regional group, perhaps based in Bristol, is contemplated, and the Secretary hopes that members will contact her about starting further sub-societies. Some major indexes have been completed: one to the nineteen-volume Catalogue of the drawings collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects; and consolidated indexes to the sixteen-volume Oxford history of England and to a definitive edition of the Works of Charles Darwin. Various new additions have been made to the library, including the charmingly titled A Topography of cataloguing: showing the most important landmarks, communications and perilous places, by the Society’s own librarian, the eminent Mary Piggott. This issue’s bonne bouche is a reference in a humorous newspaper-article to Quinlan Terry: the author chooses to assert that the architect has wilfully reversed the natural order of surname and forename, but concedes that some may claim that ‘the poor chap was probably listed like that in an index and has never been put back the right way round’.

A brisk price-survey by Drusilla Calvert of the cheapest computers and their accessories starts off Microlndexer 12 (July 1989). Next, in a solid and lucid article, ‘Organizing Your Hard Disk’, Dave Tyler points out usefully, ‘The manuals provided to tell you the facilities available in the disk-operating system (DOS) are so comprehensive that they are pretty useless unless you know exactly what you are looking for’; it seems that much the same applies to hard disks themselves. However, this article should give anyone the confidence to become a hard-disk addict, although if you have a little hand at hand for the tricky bits it may be no bad thing. An extract (by Pat Booth and Janet Shuter) from the Society’s new indexing course does an equally solid job on submitting index copy to publishers on disk; the options and protocols for handling non-standard characters and typographical instructions include the sensible possibility, sometimes overlooked, that it may be simpler and cheaper for everybody, where few such eccentricities are involved, just to send the text on the disk ‘in plain’ and let the typesetter add the codes him/herself from the clearly marked-up printout. The authors also explain that the hardest option (for the indexer), of keying in the typesetter’s own codes, demands the care and skill of ‘real’ typesetting, ‘and this should be reflected in the fee agreed’.

Leigh Priest uses WordPerfect for indexing: ‘I have seen indexing programs and admire all that they can do, but they do not do sufficiently more to persuade me to part with more money for indexing software’. By using ‘macros’ even for formatting (deleting repeated headings to replace with a subheading indent, merging repeated headings to precede a single string of references etc.), Ms Priest avoids many of the most laborious aspects of word-processor indexing; and has worked out many other purposeful sophistications. ‘It is more work than an indexing program... But I find a word-processor actually more flexible and the work already entered more accessible for editing’.

After so much heady do-it-yourself instruction, the three reviews which follow should inspire less guilt in those imbued with work-ethic (‘Why am I still pottering along with this nice easy program on this nice easy computer—and finding it actually quite difficult enough for me?’). Liza Weinkove reviews A dictionary of computing by S. M. H. Collin, which has 5,000 entries with examples and highlighting devices for extra clarity, plus appendices on various codes, languages and other exotica; she has few reservations and recommends the book as being ‘clearly set out, easy to read, easy to understand and reasonably priced’. (If your interests are poetic rather than cybernetic, perhaps you should still buy such a dictionary: how are you to remain unmoved by ’kludge’ or ’graceful degradation’?)

A new version of a program specially designed for Amstrad PCWs, INDEXER III, is reviewed by Gary Hall; he commends the programmer, ‘who actively seeks constructive criticism from indexers’ but cannot commend the program for more than the simplest occasional indexes. ‘It would be worthwhile for the programmer to consult indexers and authors... It would be a much more marketable proposition if he did’. Microlndexer ends with an introduction to the PC-HYPERTEXT program under the cunning title of ‘Hypertext Unzipped’. Janet Shuter had been ‘playing with various hypertext demos... and was delighted with Neil Larson’s PC-HYPERTEXT. Creating a crude hypertext document network is a piece of cake... The real skill comes in deciding what separate documents to link and how to link them’. To display the virtues of hypertext, she gives the rest of her space to a selection of quoted instructions and examples from Larson’s own introduction. Guilt again: I’m going to have to play with this some time.

This issue is so full of good meat that there is little room for lighter-weight fillers; but you may like to know that computer-use and modem-use continue to increase among indexers in the UK, while in the USSR many criminals are better supplied with electronic detection equipment than the police. Also, the Editor gives herself a decorative box and very large type to ask, ‘Isn’t it time you wrote to Microlndexer? ’ Yes—but in case I (still) don’t get round to it, perhaps appreciative readers of this column would care to answer the call (and unload a bit of guilt).

JUDY BATCHelor