

dard in their 'Rules for obtaining uniformity in the indexes of books' and provided a sequence of valid and permanent rules for identifying what should be indexed and how index entries should be composed and presented. They saw the need for publishers to include indexes in their publications, proposing that 'the Committee should gibbet in their Reports all indexless books, . . . perhaps better to adopt a reverse process, and to commend those books which are well indexed' (Index Society, 1879: 10). They saw the value of putting indexers in touch with one another.

But the Index Society was more in the nature of a gentlemen's club (without the armchairs and the waiters) than a professional organization. Members did not depend for their main, or even supplementary, livelihood on indexing. Remuneration is rarely mentioned in the minutes. At one meeting a sum of 15 guineas for 'an editor' is mentioned, at another 'five copies' of an index for its producer. No need is seen for a body of trained indexers to be available to publishers for the indexing of current works. Indeed, no training is envisaged; indexers are apparently to be self-taught, drawing on a presumed wide general education, pursuit of particular interests, common sense and Wheatley's Rules.

Backward-looking and altruistic, and perhaps too learned for the contemporary world, after a few years' existence, or, as Wheatley laments 'after doing some useful work', the

Index Society was amalgamated with the Index Library (afterwards the British Records Association), 'having failed from want of popular support. This want of permanent success was probably owing to its aim being too general and to the public's unwillingness to pay for indexes' (Wheatley, 1902: 210). How many people could *use* the *Index of the names of Royalists whose estates were confiscated during the Commonwealth?* And why was Miss Mabel Peacock not a member of the Society?

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Mary Piggott is a past honorary president of the Society of Indexers and taught at the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College, London.

History of indexing societies part 6: 1988–91

Hazel K. Bell

Through these four years the four societies proceeded and expanded separately as well as in harmony and communication, each producing its own conferences and publications, while sharing the journal, *The Indexer*.

Ken Bakewell, SI's fifth president (in succession to Gordon Carey, James Thornton, Norman Knight and Robert Collison), opened volume 16 of the journal in April 1988 with a guest editorial reviewing the societies' international links, increasing conferences, standardization, the relationship of librarianship and indexing, and the impact of microcomputers. All these issues remained prominent throughout the period.

Conferences

Conferences proliferated and became international. ASI held its 20th Annual Meeting in New York, May 1988; the Proceedings were published by Learned Information. At the SI conference in Cheltenham, July 1988, a group of members formed an offshoot – the Society of Freelance Editors and Proofreaders, now thoroughly established as an active professional body. Ken Bakewell as SI President

represented SI at ASI's 21st Annual Meeting, in San Francisco in 1989, and spoke 'on three themes: standardization, computerization and co-operation . . . I expressed the hope that our two Societies (and those in Australia and Canada) might work more closely together, perhaps agreeing on indexing principles . . . and possibly combining to produce a much-needed manual of good indexing practice' (Bakewell, 1989a). In the same year, 29 UK indexers and seven from Yugoslavia met in Hvar, a beautiful island off the Yugoslavian coast, for a 'Conference of Pleasure' (Bell, 1989b), and Ann Hall from SI (Scotland) spoke to the New South Wales AusSI branch. The SI Edinburgh conference, 1990, was attended by contingents from ASI, AusSI, Ireland and Yugoslavia. One of these visitors, ASI President Nancy Mulvany, as the first ASI member to address an SI meeting, wowed them: 'So full, thorough and stimulating was her description of the present state of US publishing . . . that the next speaker almost abandoned her script, preferring discussion to centre on what we had heard' (Bell, 1990b). In 1990 ASI, IASC and the American Society for Information Science held a joint meeting on 'Indexing software'. Elizabeth Wallis, newly elected Chair of SI, in 1991 addressed the

New South Wales AusSI branch on the criteria for registering indexers in the UK.

Publications

The Indexer continued to appear twice-yearly as the shared journal of all four societies. Editorials considered the disparate profusion of publications on indexing; societies having similar interests and concerns to our own; the position of indexers in the world of publishing; commercial versus scholarly publishing; and indexing on the continent of Europe. Articles brought technology more and more into prominence, including Mulvany's 'Software tools for indexing: what we need' and Cecelia Wittmann's 'Limitations of indexing modules in word-processing software'. Publishing and information work internationally were covered, particularly by Mulvany and Wallis's papers at the SI 1990 conference, 'American indexers in the 1990s' and 'Publishing in the 1990s in the UK', as well as Lei Zeng's 'An overview of the abstracting and indexing services in China', and Nwodo and Otokunfor's 'Indexing of books in Nigeria'. Also notable were Ming-Yueh Tsay's 'A bibliometric study of indexing and abstracting, 1876–1976', Bella Hass Weinberg's 'Why indexing fails the researcher', and Wittmann's 'Subheadings in award-winning book indexes: a quantitative evaluation'. Two symposia were repeated from earlier *Indexers*. Nearly 20 years after the previous contributions, ten indexers explained 'How I became an indexer' (little change – two mothers at home with young children, three librarians moving over, two authors, one of whom brought in a colleague, two workers for learned societies) (*The Indexer*, 1988, 1989). Twelve years after the first symposium on 'How indexers operate', three more described their current methods: here, of course, the computer made much difference to practice (Bakewell et al., 1991).

The current-awareness bibliography that Hans Wellisch had begun publishing in regular instalments in *The Indexer* in April 1986 continued until October 1989.

The established series in the journal continued. 'Indexers in fiction' in these four years covered Anita Brookner's *Lewis Percy*, Orson Scott Card's 'The Originist' and A. S. Byatt's *Possession*. 'Indexes Past' added the indexes to Belloc's *Marie Antoinette, Nuggets of Knowledge* (1935) and *Popular fallacies* (1923) and 'Index Makers' covered Mary Petherbridge, Georgette Heyer, Samuel Pepys and Charlotte M. Yonge.

Each society regularly published newsletters, all ably reported in *The Indexer* by Judy Batchelor. ASI produced its 100th in 1990, greeted by Batchelor with 'Congratulations from us all to a publication which, throughout the years I have read it, has always spoken with a refreshing and individual voice, more an aspiring journal than just the largest and most ambitious of our newsletters' (Batchelor, 1991a). Their appearance occasionally changed: in 1988 Batchelor praised ASI's 'revolutionary new format; it is certainly a handsome production. It has a red masthead, and is beautifully reproduced on biscuit-coloured A4 sheets; corner-stapled with margin perforations for filing. Moreover, contributions are expected to arrive wherever possible on disk or via modems. Caxton would have been proud'

(Batchelor, 1988). Three years later, a new editor brought 'a revised format to go with a fresh outlook . . . in general splendid in layout, content and approach' (Batchelor, 1991b). In 1989, AusSI's newsletter boasted 'a spanking new dress for spring: a bold blue-green title, and some smart printing in a beautifully restrained layout. While applauding all this, I shall miss the old cover, which was over-printed on scraps of index-extracts' (Batchelor, 1989). On the society newsletters in general she commented:

The comparative expense of Newsletters is often troubling to editors and treasurers; the costs show as a large chunk of the pie, and seem to provide far fewer words per penny or per cent than does, for instance, this journal. As a devoted reader of all four Newsletters, I hope subscribers will not be daunted . . . the value to scattered indexers, and thence to our profession as a whole, must be beyond estimation. (Batchelor, 1989)

The 2nd edition of *Anglo-American cataloguing rules*, jointly published by the American Library Association, Canadian Library Association and Library Association, indexed by Ken Bakewell, appeared in 1988. ASI produced Proceedings volumes of its 1988 and 1989 conferences, as well as *Freelancers on indexing: a guide to freelance indexing* (Cynthia Weber), *A guide to indexing software* (Linda Fetters) and *Register of Indexers 1990* (reviewed Wallis, 1990). In 1991 Wellisch's encyclopaedic guide, *Indexing from A to Z*, was published.

Standards

The British Standard 3700, *Recommendations for the preparation of indexes to books, periodicals and other documents*, was revised by BSI Technical Committee DOT/2 and published in 1988. Ken Bakewell, chairman of the committee, described in *The Indexer* the principles of the revision and the changes made, concluding, 'it is my earnest hope that the standard will be widely used . . . and that the indexes resulting from the application of the standard will be more closely geared to the needs of their users' (Bakewell, 1988). Hans Wellisch (1989) reviewed it in the *ASI Newsletter* as 'probably the best, most concise and practical guide to good indexing practice'. A year later Bakewell (1990) reported progress on the revision of ISO 999, the proposed international standard. Jessica Milstead was ASI's standards reporter, recommending that ANSI 'should provide a new American indexing Standard rather than adopt or adapt the draft ISO Standard' which she found 'too limited . . . hardly recognizing the existence of indexes that may be compiled after the fact of publication, and cover a collection of works. We do not need a standard for back-of-the-book indexes alone' (Milstead, 1990). At the ASI AGM for 1990 she claimed: 'Standards make things fit together'; most Standards were qualitative, while 'quantitative Standards are a long way off'; 'the current US Standard meets neither the needs of the electronic indexing field nor the back of the book indexers' (Batchelor, 1991a). Susan Klement sat on the Canadian ISO committee revising the international indexing standard. Mary Piggott (1990) described 13 standards relevant to indexers in *The Indexer*.

The first meeting of the National Information Standards Organization Committee on Standards for Indexes was held in Washington DC in October 1991, with Jessica Milstead as

ASI representative who provided information on current standards work to ASI. It analysed the August 1990 draft Guidelines, and its progress was reported in ASI's *Newsletter* (Wolner, 1992).

Publicity

Dream publicity came to SI with more articles on our subject in *The Times* by Bernard Levin. He had first trumpeted the indexers' cause in 1976, with 'A haunting, I promise, for those who refuse to tell who's who and what's what' (Levin, 1976), then again in 'Enter the lists for this noble minority' (Levin, 1985). In 1989 he added to the collection with 'Don't come to me for a reference', an agonized response to 'the full, almost heroic awfulness' of the index to a biography published by Oxford University Press (Bell, 1990a; Levin, 1989). In November 1991 he gave us 'Why Montaigne matters', a fine fourth paean to indexing and cry of distress at its depreciation (Bell, 1992a; Levin, 1991). What more could one hope for of a champion in the lists?

Personalities

Robert Collison, Norman Knight's successor as SI President from 1980 to 1987 and author of classic texts on indexing, died in 1989. Ken Bakewell wrote his obituary for *The Indexer* (Bakewell, 1989b). Peter Greig, who had been instrumental in the founding of IASC and its affiliation to SI, and published so much on indexing within *The Indexer* as well as *Draft chronology for a study of indexing and abstracting in Canada*, *The indexer as entrepreneur*, *Indexing manuals: a select chronological checklist*, and *String indexing: a selective reading list*, resigned after many years from the IASC/SCAD executive. Batchelor (1990) commented: 'we hope that the distinctive voice of this most international of indexing personalities may still sound from time to time'.

Awards

The Wheatley Medal for Indexing (UK) and the H. W. Wilson Award (US) continued to be presented or withheld annually. AusSI instituted its own annual medal, 'intended to promote standards of excellence in indexing in Australia', in 1988, the first being awarded to Elmar Zalums for his index to *A history of Australia* (Melbourne University Press).

At the 1989 AGM of SI, President Ken Bakewell presented John Gordon, former Secretary, Chairman and Vice-President of SI, with the Carey Award 'for outstanding services to indexing in the form of selfless dedication to the Society and its administration: re-invigorator, organiser, consolidator; protector of the standards of the Society; enthusiast of indexing, supporter of the membership; fiery arguer, innovator of ideas' (*The Indexer*, 1990).

Computers and technology

The first 1988 journal issue featured CD-ROMs, LISA, Micro-OCF, MORPHS, NEPHIS, PRESTEL, SGML and an 'Electric publishing miscellany'; a heading for a review of ASI's *Newsletter* in October 1991 cited 'VINDEX and

CINDEX and INDEX! and PC-INDEX and using VENTURA and all'. ASI's *Newsletter* ran a regular feature, 'Electronic shoebox', in which Linda Feters reviewed software programs, eventually assembling these assessments as *A guide to indexing software*. Margaret Cooter reviewed computer use for indexing to date in the guest *Indexer* editorial for October 1988, 'Electronic dreaming', concluding:

Now there is software to do all the tedious jobs with panache, and remove the interruptions to 'pure' indexing. . . . Indexing programs are starting to get past the stage of speeding up the mechanical routines and are now starting to shape the actual entries . . . is this the beginning of the end, or the end of the beginning?

There followed articles on automatic indexing; linguistics of indexing, natural or artificial; and hypertext. By October 1991, Nancy Mulvany was hosting WELL (Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link), an online conference on indexing and an electronic mail service.

Copyright

All our societies were concerned with copyright and contracts. In the UK, in 1988, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act was passed; SI had an address on the subject from the Chairman of the British Literary and Artistic Copyright Association on how copyright law affected UK indexers, and whether, like the compilers of tables and directories, indexers could claim 'authors' rights' (Bell, 1989c). Nancy Mulvany, while ASI President, made copyright the subject of her campaign, writing: '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 . . . failure to clearly distinguish true indexing from word-list compilation is catching up with us' (Mulvany, 1989a). 'The days of working without a written contract are almost over', she declared, and she discussed the option of filing for copyright, and proposed a standard form for this purpose (Mulvany, 1989b), which was printed, as the Indexing Agreement, in the *Newsletter* of March/April 1990. ASI also established codes of practice in this period.

Training

SI invested £10,000 in an open-learning course of five units, each comprising self-study text and self-administered test; the first Accredited Indexers were approved in 1990, having passed the five 'core' tests. ASI distributed a questionnaire to gather information for the 4th edition of their *Education and training in indexing and abstracting*. For AusSI, Michael Wyatt organized a weekly evening class course in indexing in 1987; AusSI also held an Information Exchange on Future Educational and Training Needs of Indexers in 1990 (Schauder and Simkin, 1992).

Society matters

In 1990, SI spent a day considering its future in a SWOTC analysis (that is, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and constraints). President Bakewell (1992) commented: 'As a Professor of Information and Library

Management, I was delighted to see SI adopting a truly management approach'. What were regarded as SI strengths included training, conferences, members (ability, goodwill and support), publications, value for money, meetings and minimum rate (of pay) system; the weaknesses were seen as the age, dispersal and parasitic nature of members; the age and informal nature of Council; lack of research; London skewed; lack of paid staff or headquarters; lack of liaison; and media relations.

During this period, SI was also establishing Special Interest Groups as well as subgroups, including an Irish Group, a North-Western Group, a Scottish Group and a Law Indexers' Group.

A giant step in society communications was made in 1990: ASI installed a Society telephone with an answering machine, monitored for calls by two volunteers. Its membership had risen from 245 in 1972 to 776 in 1990. ASI participated voluntarily in the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's newspaper indexing project, for which Nancy Mulvany constructed a thesaurus (Batchelor, 1991a).

For AusSI, George Levick contributed the section on indexing to the Australian Government's *Style manual for authors, editors and printers* (4th edition). AusSI's 1990 membership was 205, with branches being established (Victoria in 1991). In 1991 it published its own *Indexers Available*:

There had been a number of delays, not least the wiping of the typesetters' disk containing the final version; lacking a backup, amendments had to be patched into an earlier version. . . . Copies were sent to some 124 publishers throughout Australia. (Odgers, 1992)

IASC published a membership profile in 1990:

Over the 13-year period, 1977–1990, a total of 384 persons joined IASC. In its first year . . . IASC gained 30% of this total for a count of 115 members . . . Today, 21% of our membership is drawn from those 115 . . . In recent years, membership has hovered round the hundred mark. (Batchelor, 1991a).

The Japanese Association of Indexers translated and reprinted in their journal three articles from *The Indexer* (Bell, 1989a).

'Shoebbox, International' pulled down its shutters in 1992. For nine years (18 *Indexer* issues) Judy Batchelor had provided elegant, detailed and appreciative resumés of all the societies' newsletters. During that time the output of newsletters had increased from a total of nine fairly thin ones for a year reported in April 1983 to 14 much expanded issues in six months for October 1991. This growth of publications reflected the tremendous developments of the societies through those years. All four had expanded, established new subgroups, vigorously increased their activities, met the challenge of new information technologies and changes in the world of publishing, and raised the image of the profession of indexing. International communication among the four societies was becoming well established; they were reprinting material from each others' newsletters and exchanging material among them. *The Indexer* hoped 'they may come to be internationally shared publications in their own right' (Bell, 1992b).

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Hazel Bell is a freelance indexer and was editor of *The Indexer* from 1978 to 1995. Email: hkbell@dia1.pipex.com