Editorial

When local becomes global

The Scottish Group of the Society of Indexers (SI) is honoured to be the first ‘local’ group to be asked to guest-edit an issue of *The Indexer*. Since first meeting in 1986, the Scottish Group has held two well-attended meetings per year, and published the biennial *Indexers Available in Scotland*.

This has been an important moment in our country’s history as we have moved into devolution. The first Scottish Parliament for 300 years met in Edinburgh on 1 July 1999. It seems fitting that this issue should include an article on how the proceedings of our parliament are being indexed.

While proud of our nationhood, Scots hope always to be international in outlook and attitudes. The 1990 conference in Edinburgh was the first SI meeting to be addressed by a member of the American Society of Indexers. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have made it possible to share our treasures via the World Wide Web. SCRAM (the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network) is a multimedia resource base for the study, teaching and appreciation of history and material culture in Scotland. In a country with many remote areas, ICTs have transformed access to information.

The Vatican Secret Archive may not seem particularly Scottish, but by happy coincidence the Keeper of the Secret Archive for over 40 years was a Scottish priest whose knowledge of both the Archive and of Scottish history is second to none. We are delighted to be able to feature this fascinating insight into how a somewhat older institution tackled some of the very same problems that are facing the Scottish Parliament today.

Tartans, on the other hand, are closely identified with Scotland, and have their own particular indexing problems. We hope readers enjoy not only the Scottish contribution to this issue of *The Indexer*, but also the articles from China, Nigeria, South Africa and the USA, and the first papers from SI’s Cambridge conference, held in July 2000. We look forward to other local groups adding their unique flavours to future issues of this truly international journal.

Moyra Forrest, Anne McCarthy and Maureen MacGlashan, for the Scottish Group of the Society of Indexers

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The Indexer cumulative index

Tenders are invited from companies or groups of individuals for the compilation of the cumulative index to volumes 1 to 22 of *The Indexer*. Experience in cumulative indexing is important. The specification for the index is available on request from the Society’s office in Sheffield and lists the three sequences required: Authors, Book Reviews and Subjects.

Tenders may be submitted for the compilation of all or any of the three indexes required.

Tenders should specify:

- The method of working proposed (access will be made available to the successful person(s) to the complete back file of *The Indexer*).

- A reasoned estimate of the time the work is expected to require and an indication of the likely completion date.

- A full quotation for the cost of the job.

All tenders should be submitted to the Society’s Secretary at the address below not later than 31 December 2000.

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