someone who is usually busy with a multitude of other activities. In most countries the task of creating a national bibliography is handled by the national library or a similar body.

Resources on the web

Mary Sue Stephenson at the University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies has created a wonderful list of links to various web articles and resources on indexing. It covers all types of indexing and is well worth checking out at: http://www.slais.ubc.ca/resources/indexing/index.htm

The Getty Research Institute has a very interesting site called Introduction to Vocabularies: A Guide to Enhancing Access to Art and Material Culture Information. It includes a tutorial on controlled vocabularies and their application, lists of readings and tools and an introduction to the Art and Architecture Thesaurus and associated authority files. It is located at: www.getty.edu/research/institute/vocabulary/introvocabs/index.html

Apologies

My apologies to Bella Hass Weinberg. In my last column I indicated that she presented a paper at the Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium. This was my misunderstanding. In fact, she was an invited participant. Professor Weinberg contributed recommendations on semantic interoperability. The discussion group recommendations are available at http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/recommendations.html

Where to go, 2002

16–19 May: Galveston, Texas – ASI annual conference

Contributors to this column

Thank you to contributors Jenny Doke, Jill Halliday and Frances Paterson. Please contact me (at the address below) if you have news about indexing research or projects that you would like to share.

Christine Jacobs is Chair, Information and Library Technologies Department, John Abbott College, PO Box 2000, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, Canada H9X 3LP. Tel: +1-(514)-457-6610, loc. 470; fax: +1-(514)-457-4730; email: cmjacobs@johnabbott.qc.ca

Obituary

Josephine McGovern 1924–2001

Josephine McGovern was a founder member of the Australian Society of Indexers, remaining closely involved in its work until her death on 2 April 2001. She held offices as Vice President, President, and Chair of the Panel of Assessors for Registration and, as a long-serving member of the National and Victorian committees, undertook many jobs for the Society. One role for which she is particularly remembered was as host at meetings, dinners and other events. Josephine would place herself strategically to welcome newcomers and guests. As with everything she did, this was carried out quietly with grace, charm and no fuss.

These characteristics made her the ideal travelling companion. I had the privilege of travelling to Europe with Josephine three times. The first was in 1987 when we attended a London meeting of the Society of Indexers; we were surprised to find that we were the speakers for the evening. Josephine delighted in meeting indexers from other countries and in attending several conferences of the British Society made many friends.

Josephine had a distinguished career as a librarian, being the first woman parliamentary librarian in Australia. She never fought for women’s rights; she just took them for granted – no fuss. Josephine was born in Camperdown in Western Victoria, where her father was a soldier-settler after the first world war. Her first career was as a teacher. She held a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Diploma of Education from Melbourne University.

She first travelled to Europe in 1953, arriving in time for the Coronation and then, with friends, touring Europe in an old London taxicab. From that beginning she became an ardent traveller in Australia, Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East, frequently visiting her many relations in England and Ireland. When she returned from the first trip she changed career, completing professional library qualifications through the Library Association of Australia and working at the State Library of Victoria and Swinburne University of Technology before joining the staff of the Parliamentary Library, where she became Chief Librarian in 1970. Here she began the process that turned what had been like the library of a gentleman’s club into an efficient information centre.

Josephine’s death was sudden and unexpected; we had never known her to be ill. This was typical of Josephine – no fuss. But we miss her.

John E. Simkin

Obituary