dation Research Award, and the Worldwide Books Publications Award. For more information on the awards, check out the website at www.arlisna.org/index_953.html

Recent publications

Where to go, 2003
18–21 May: Dallas, Texas – STC 50th anniversary conference
19–22 June: Vancouver, Canada – ASI–IASC/SCAD combined annual conferences
27–29 June: Glasgow, Scotland – SI annual conference
12–13 September: Sydney, Australia – AusSI international indexing conference

Contributors to this column
Thank you to contributors Jill Halliday and Lori Lathrop. This is my last ‘Around the World’ column. It’s been fun, but as it should be, given its name, the column is on the move. This time it is travelling from Canada to South Africa, where Christie Theron has graciously volunteered to take over the job. Please send him any news at therojc@unisa.ac.za

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Obituary
Shirley Kessel 1926–2002

I am sure that many readers will be saddened to hear of the death of Shirley Kessel on 28 March 2002, after a short illness at her home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, just outside Washington, DC. A freelance indexer for over 13 years, and for much of that time a member of the Society of Indexers, she achieved Registered status in 1993. She was an enthusiastic member of the SI, attending several conferences and maintaining a close interest in all its activities. She was a dedicated indexer with a considerable range of publishing contacts among her specialisms, which included economics, law, philosophy, political science and history. Indeed, in spite of her illness, she continued to index until three weeks before her death.

Shirley took her first degree in 1948 at Mount Holyoke College and embarked on a career in child welfare before obtaining a scholarship to go to the School of Social Work at the University of Chicago, where she met her future husband, then a student in the Graduate School of Business and later a professor. After her daughter Cathy went to university, she entered Graduate Library School at Chicago, obtaining her MA in 1976. From here Shirley took up a succession of indexing and cataloguing posts in a number of organizations, which included the American Petroleum Institute and the Himmelfarb Medical Library at George Washington University, and from 1979 to 1985 she was head research librarian at the American Mining Congress in Washington, DC. A research post then followed at Columbia University before she became established in independent research and writing in topics such as fiscal policy, corporate finance, international trade and supranational institutions. Indexing seemed to be the next natural step in a career progression that had enabled her to build up an extensive network of contacts in her specialist field.

I first met Shirley at the SI’s Chester Conference in the early 1990s and we soon formed a firm friendship. The SI conferences presented an ideal opportunity for her to travel within the UK to visit friends and contacts, especially in Somerset, to which she traced her ancestry. While attending the Bristol conference she managed to fit in a short visit to my daughter’s farm at lambing time. She entered into the spirit of the occasion by bottle-feeding some of the lambs and discussing farming issues until late into the night! She stayed with my wife Janet and me both in Norfolk and in Scotland and we in turn paid a return visit to her home just outside Washington, DC. Much of our communication was conducted by email on a weekly (and sometimes daily) basis and it was fascinating to have Shirley’s perspective on subjects as diverse as the (serious) business of indexing to economics and politics, military history and the US Civil War, and (less serious), the weather, plants in the garden, the cats, and travel plans. I was struck by the enormous range of her interests, which included Scottish history and culture – one of the highlights of her visit to Edinburgh with us was a pilgrimage to the grave of Adam Smith. We shared the horror, almost hour by hour, of the events of 11 September 2001, and once again the insights gained from across the Atlantic deepened my understanding of the significance of that dreadful day.

My wife used the word ‘vitality’ to sum up Shirley’s energy, commitment and enthusiasm. Her passing has left a great gap in our lives, and above all for her daughter Cathy. I am sure that her many friends in the UK and the USA will share in our sense of loss.

Peter Gunn, King’s Lynn, Norfolk