

Around the world

Glenda Browne

From the societies

ANZSI

Membership of the Australia and New Zealand Society of Indexers has risen to 226, including 30 in the newly formed New Zealand branch. The ANZSI conference in Melbourne in March was the first time the Australians and New Zealanders had got together as ANZSI members, providing an opportunity to discuss the issues that have arisen from our collaboration. Four New Zealanders attended.

The conference also included a number of meetings, leading to the adoption of the ANZSI Action Plan for 2005–06. Priorities are the development of administrative guidelines, upgraded role statements, guidelines for Society activities, the collection in one repository of Society documentation, and a consistent national approach to mentoring.

In regional meetings, ACT indexers met to discuss 'A day in the life of a back-of-book indexer' and held a conference debriefing. The branch has also set up a mentoring program with the ACT Heritage Library, to give indexers practice in compiling newspaper indexes. As a group project the model is peer cooperation.

The New Zealand branch celebrated its official launch in Wellington with a reception for publishers and indexers, launched a series of speakers' meetings in Auckland, and ran indexing courses in Nelson.

Three ANZSI members held a joint meeting with the Queensland Society of Editors, discussing professional links. The meeting noted a laudable Federal government requirement that all of its '50 pages plus' publications must have an index.

Victorian indexers had a talk on 'Mining the archives'; on researching the life of a 19th century woman teacher, unionist and activist; visited Philanthropy Australia; and were introduced to the joys of button collecting and organization.

ASAIB

The Association of South African Indexers and Bibliographers now has 142 members. It ran a conference, 'Beyond book indexing', presented a pre-conference workshop on reference techniques and bibliography for Liasa (the Library and Information Association), and held a workshop on book indexing in Cape Town. Jeffrey Klass spoke at the AGM on the secondhand book trade and the Internet.

ASAIB has updated the *Directory of Available Indexers* and made it available on its website. It will publish the proceedings of its annual conference, *Beyond book indexing*, has completed a draft of the manual *Indexing for Southern Africa* (edited by Jacqueline Kalley and Maryna Fraser), and has started work on a commemorative volume

including all of the ASAIB publications in its first ten years of existence.

Issues being considered by ASAIB include marketing strategies, web indexing and more international participation. ASAIB has said farewell to one of its founder members, Elna Schoeman, who was responsible for the publication of the newsletter and the conference proceedings.

ASI

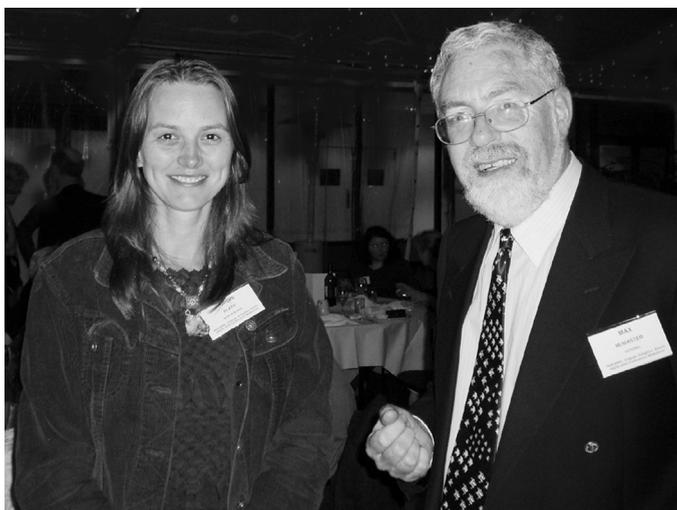
A new publication by the American Society of Indexers, *Indexing specialties: scholarly books*, edited by Margie Towery and Enid Zafran, is now available.

The ASI website includes a useful clickable map with links to information on local chapters.

The Web Indexing SIG is very enthusiastic, and is currently working on an FAQ section for the site. While all indexers are conscious of the need to promote their services, both individually and as a group, web indexers have a much more basic role in promoting the work they do in an environment that has not traditionally used the services of indexers, and the SIG is playing an important role in this area.

CSI

There are about 1,200 members of the China Society of Indexers. Its 2005 annual conference will be held at Fudan University, Shanghai, with the theme: 'Index and database: deployment and innovation'. During the conference, an exhibition of index productions in China will be held.



ANZSI honorees Tordis Flath and Max McMaster (see page 225)

DNI

The Deutsches Netzwerk der Indexer publishes an email newsletter. It has five new members, bringing the total to 15, including one member each in Austria and Switzerland. The new members come from a range of fields including content development, lecturing, technical communication and library work.

DNI is planning a meeting on 20 October at the Frankfurt Book Fair, which will include a panel discussion about indexing with German publishers. One British and two Dutch indexers are planning to attend.

The DNI website is being developed. The bibliography section now lists nearly 100 items, including articles from *The Indexer* with a German context, and a set of original material from the former GDR.

IASC/SCAD

IASC/SCAD has 135 members. The 2005 AGM and conference at the University of Ottawa had 45 attendees. It began with a musician and writer who confessed that his first book had been published without an index, and who sang a song he had composed especially for the conference. This was followed by presentations by Michèle Hudon on indexing in a multicultural and multilingual environment, Gay Lepkey on controlled vocabulary in the federal government, Dave Ream on web indexing, and panel discussions on genealogical and scholarly book indexing. Christine Jacobs also spoke on the Society of Indexers' course and accreditation issues.

The AGM included the biennial election of the new executive. Ruth Pincoe is now the international liaison officer, taking over from Noeline Bridge who has done a splendid job.

One current issue is the storage of the society's archives. They are currently kept by Peter Greig, a founding member, as well as by past executive members who have boxes of papers in basements, closets, and under beds. Also, because executive meetings are now held via email, the question of archiving online material adds another dimension to the storage of paper material. Peter will try to find a home for the archives in a depository. However, initial decisions need to be made concerning the quantity of material, its kinds and formats, timed disposal, and future uses, which will determine storage options.

Planning is now going ahead for the joint ASI/IASC international conference in Toronto in June next year. The societies hope it will be a truly international conference, and are encouraging members of the affiliated societies to plan to attend and make presentations.

The IASC/SCAD website was redesigned by webmaster Cheryl Lemmens, incorporating attractive colours and font changes for enhanced readability. Another major change was the incorporation of the previously separate English and French sections into bilingual pages, along with a bilingual site index.

NIN

The Dutch Indexers Network (NIN) is an informal group of indexers working in the Netherlands or with Dutch-language

items. Members are involved in the provision of indexes for books and journals as well as electronic media. Membership is open for people working professionally as indexers or training to be indexers.

SI

The Society of Indexers has between 700 and 800 members. The 2005 annual conference was held in the beautiful surroundings of the University of Exeter, with glorious summer weather as a bonus. On a theme of 'Connections: working in the present – learning from the past', the participants heard presentations on the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, indexing cartoons, embedded indexing, libraries and museums in South-West England, the ANZSI mentoring scheme and information/Internet security.

At the AGM, SI welcomed Professor John Sutherland as its new president. He is Lord Northcliffe Emeritus Professor at University College London, has published 21 books, and writes a weekly column on general affairs for the *Guardian* newspaper. Thanks were offered to the outgoing president, Maureen MacGlashan, for her great contribution during her four years of office. Michèle Clarke handed over as chair of the Society to Sue Lightfoot, and the new treasurer Cate Allwood was welcomed.

SI continues to offer a wide range of training workshops and courses as well as its distance learning course, and is introducing an online workshop this summer.

Website changes include a quicker way to search the site index (the alpha bar is now provided on the home page, saving one click) and the option of saving your password in the members' area.

Indexing awards

The winner of the Australian Society of Indexers (now ANZSI) Medal for 2004 was Nelson-based freelance indexer Tordis Flath, for the index she created for *Toss Woolaston: a life in letters*, published in 2004 by Te Papa Press. Indexes by Simon Cauchi and Max McMaster were also recognized.

The winner of the ASAIB Award for best bibliography/index in Southern Africa for 2004 was Yvonne Garson from Johannesburg for her publication *From myth to reality in the cartography of the Colonial Era: historical maps of Southern Africa and the islands off its coast*, published by the University of the Witwatersrand. For the first time ASAIB also nominated a runner-up: Shelagh M. Willet from Gaborone, Botswana, for her publication *The Khoe and San: an annotated bibliography*, published by Lentswe la Lesedi.

The ASI/W. W. Wilson Award for excellence in indexing was not awarded this year.

The Theodore C. Hines award for 'continuous dedication and exceptional service to ASI' was presented to Frances Lennie. Frances was the first northern United States Hines Award honoree, and the only sitting officer to be thus honored. She noted that indexers and indexing societies around the world share common problems and goals, and that since 1999 there has been a steady move toward sharing

Around the world

and solving these common experiences. She concluded her speech, 'Good luck, ASI. May all your main headings be meaningful, your subheadings appropriate, and may your cross-references always lead in the right direction.'

Thirty-five people were awarded the ASI Order of the Kohlrabi in 2004 for service above and beyond the call of duty. Details of the award (a gold-colored pin) and winners are at <http://www.asindexing.org/site/OKHonorees.shtml>. (The kohlrabi is the vegetable indexers would be if they were a vegetable, because like the kohlrabi, no one knows who we are, or what to do with us.)

John Halliday was awarded the Bernard Levin Award for services to SI for his work on setting up and running the website over the last five years.

There were three winners of the Betty Moys Prize (SI) for an outstanding newly accredited indexer: Pauline Davis, Sue Edwards and Louise Secker.

The Wheatley Medal was presented to Hazel Bell for her index to *Seven pillars of wisdom: the complete 1922 Oxford text*, by T. E. Lawrence (published in 2004 by J. and N. Wilson). Her index showed very great attention to detail, for instance in understanding the Arabic names, and in conveying the historical flavour of the 1922 text. The panel also commended Moira Greenhalgh for the index to *Blackstone's criminal practice 2005* (Oxford University Press) and Sylvia Potter for *West European politics: a 25-year index 1978-2002* (Frank Cass, publisher).

Conferences: dates for your diary

Conferences are scheduled by ANZSI (March 2007, Melbourne), ASAIB (October 2005 at the Military Museum in Johannesburg, not Durban as initially planned), joint ASI and IASC/SCAD (15-18 June 2006, Toronto), CSI (October 2005, Shanghai), and SI (7-9 July 2006, St Aidan's College, University of Durham).

A conference entitled 'Colloque indice, index, indexation – colloquium on indexical signs, indexing, indexes' will be held at the Université Charles de Gaulle – Lille3 from 3-4 November 2005. The conference will focus on historical and cultural aspects of indexing, indexing as a semiotic and cognitive process, manual and automatic indexing practices and the economic and social implications of indexing. There is a summary page in English at <http://www.univ-lille3.fr/colloque/indexation/presentation-en.html>.

Across the boundaries

Names

Three of the societies have considered or implemented name changes in the last six months. AusSI changed to ANZSI, with the official inclusion of New Zealand in the society. IASC/SCAD is considering a name change, as its full version in both languages is very long. To change to a shorter version would mean dropping the 'abstracting' component, so there are investigations into whether this function is of historical interest only, or whether it still applies to members' work.

SI considered changing its name to include some national

designation, but decided against it on the grounds that the current name was inclusive and uncontroversial, and encompassed members in continental Europe and farther afield. In an international context, however, it agreed that 'Society of Indexers (UK)' may be used.

Indexing rates of pay

The societies have taken different approaches to recommended rates, with SI suggesting a wide range, and ASI having no recommended rate. SI has agreed to continue to recommend rates of £16-30 per hour, or £1.20-5.00 per page, with the lower rates being for non-specialist texts and less experienced indexers. ANZSI has recently raised its recommended rate from A\$45 to AU\$55 per hour, while ASI does not recommend a rate, although INDEX-L discussions often mention expected page rates of between US\$2.00 and US\$5.00 or more. Melody Englund wrote that some indexers add an extra 50c or US\$1.00 per page for rush jobs.

Other

The 'Literature of the book' exhibition of 500 volumes 'by, about and for the book professions', including a section on indexing, mounted by LOGOS, drew great interest and attention at the 2005 London Book Fair. The exhibition was also shown at the 2005 Frankfurt Book Fair and International Conference of the Book, and is being shipped by the British Council to various parts of the world. It will ultimately be lodged with the Oxford Brookes University's Centre for Publishing Studies. For David Lee's review of the accompanying bibliography see page 244.

Thanks to Qin Banglian, Frances Lennie, Jochen Fassbender, Noeline Bridge, Jane Coulter, Marlene Burger and Madely du Preez for contributions to this column. Thanks also to people who sent information to me or to these corresponding members. Apologies for material I have had to cut for space reasons.

If you know of any interesting indexing developments (especially non-society news) please send it to your corresponding member (details on the inside front cover of The Indexer) or directly to me, Glenda Browne, at world@theindexer.org.



Lynn Farkas, ANZSI President, with conference keynote speaker Professor Neil Archbold