

INTERNATIONAL/*INDEXER* MEEETING
Minutes of the International/*Indexer* meeting,
Friday 11 September 2009 (SI Conference, York)

Present

Susan Curran (*Indexer* Production Editor) (**SC**)

Caroline Diepeveen (Netherlands Indexing Network) (**CD**)

Hilary Faulkner (SI, Members' Services Director) (**HF**)

Jill Halliday (SI, International Liaison) (**JH**)

Bonnie Hanks (ASI) (**BH**)

Ann Kingdom (SI, Chair) (**AK**)

Maureen MacGlashan (*Indexer* Editor) (**MM**)

Paul Machen (*Indexer* Subscriptions Manager) (**PM**)

Ruth Pincoe (ISI/SCI, International Liaison Co-ordinator, meeting chair) (**RP**)

Christine Shuttleworth (*Indexer* Indexes Reviewed Editor) (**CS**)

John Simkin (ANZSI) (**JS**)

Wu Zhaolu (CSI) (**WZ**)

Robin Duan (Interpreter) (**RD**)

Apologies: James Lamb; Susan Lambert (assistant editor); Christopher Phipps

1. Welcome and Introduction

RP welcomed everyone, noting that almost all the Societies and Networks were represented.

2. International Business

2.1 RP reminded those present that this was not a formal meeting of international representatives so it would not be possible to take decisions as such; this meeting would, however, provide an opportunity for a "between meetings" discussion of some of the important issues currently on the table.

2.2 RP noted that the International Agreement as revised at the Triennial Meeting in March 2009 had now been ratified by all societies and networks except ASI and CSI. [NB: WZ was able to confirm before leaving York that CSI was now in a position to ratify the Agreement.] RP suggested that it would be helpful if JH (who has been involved with the Agreement from its initiation some ten years ago) explained some of the background.

2.3 JH said that the International Agreement had started as an attempt to clarify some of the confusion between the societies as to what the relationship between them. As was (and is indeed increasingly) the case, a main element in the Agreement was the editorial, production and distribution arrangements for *The Indexer*. After the initial meeting, it was agreed that International representatives should hold a Triennial Meeting, hosted by one of the Societies in turn at their annual conference, in order to review the Agreement. The Mapengo Meeting in March 2006 was the fourth such meeting. Over the years the provisions in the Agreement have become steadily more precise and also more generous in terms of reciprocal rights. But there has also been a tendency simply to keep adding extra material to the Agreement. Much of this material was in the nature of implementing regulation and would go more properly in an appendix. JH suggested that it would be appropriate to revisit the Agreement between now and the 2012 Triennial Meeting (to be held at the SI Conference) to consider what should go into the Agreement itself, and what into an appendix of "implementing regulations."

There was general support for this last proposition.

ASI requests relating to the revised Agreement

2.4 Turning to the 2006 Revision of the International Agreement, RP noted that there was one typographical error: the correct full title of the ASI is now the American Society for Indexing. *This will be corrected.*

2.4 **Clause 15** (reciprocal right to an ad in society newsletters): ASI had requested that the phrase “*dependent on the availability of space*” be added to this clause. In discussion it was pointed out that strictly speaking one could not speak of a “right” if exercise of that right could be unilaterally denied. However, in acknowledgment of ASI concerns, it was suggested that the clause should be changed to read “*will be entitled, subject to availability of space, to one free advertisement.*” BH will take this suggestion back to ASI.

2.5 RP outlined two further points that ASI had raised relating to the Revised Agreement:

a) **Clause 3** (society office-bearers). ASI have asked that the phrase “*with the exception of SIG office-holding and voting*” be added to this clause. There was some puzzlement as to why this should be necessary since there was nothing to stop ASI offering additional “rights” if they wished.

It was agreed that a decision on this issue is really dependent on ASI completing its own consideration of the status of SIGs.

b) **Clause 18** (the International Coordinator) and interim ad hoc meetings. ASI had requested clarification as to how the International Coordinator was appointed, what the role involved, and how interim meetings (such as the York meeting) were arranged. It was noted that there were no formal procedures on these matters, other, of course, than that the annual *Indexer* ‘international’ meeting, which has for many years been convened by the editor of *The Indexer* and has taken place annually in the margin of the SI Conference. In recent years RP, as International Coordinator, had taken the opportunity to link into this informal gathering of society representatives – who would not necessarily be international liaison officers.

2.6 *It was agreed that these two proposals from ASI needed fuller consideration. It was suggested that they be explored over in preparation for the 2012 Triennial Meeting together with other matters such the need to separate out procedural issues from substantial matter. RP said she would set work on this in hand.*

2.7 It was pointed out in discussion that technically until the revised Agreement was ratified the previous Agreement remained in force. This meant that those new provisions which had met with full approval would remain in abeyance, not surely what anyone wanted. It was hoped, therefore, that ASI would be willing to ratify the 2006 revision to the International Agreement with the two changes noted above (see 2.4 and 2.5) with a view to using the time between now and the 2012 Triennial to look carefully at their other two requests and other issues which had been raised. *BH was asked to seek ASI views.*

An acronym?

- 3 JS (on behalf of ANZSI) suggested that an acronym for the group of international representatives who meet at the International Triennial Meetings and take part in online discussions on the Indsocintreps list was needed. A few suggestions were tossed about, ICRIS (International Committee of International Representatives of Indexing Societies) finding the most favour.

International liaison online discussion group

- 4 RP and CD (list moderator) urged that greater use be made of the online Indsocintreps list. WZ said he would make sure that the CSI would subscribe a member with good English so that they could be fully in the loop. [NB: This has now been done.]

5. The Indexer

- 5.1 MM said she was particularly pleased that Professor Wu was able to attend this meeting as it coincided with the CSI-edited issue of *The Indexer* (Issue 27(3) – September 2009). To gather together so much interesting material about the book industry and indexing in China, past and present, was a real achievement. She asked Professor Wu to convey to CSI her appreciation of their excellent work. *The Indexer* marketing team has made considerable efforts to promote the issue outside the indexing world, for example, to Chinese teaching and cultural institutions.
- 5.2 MM said that the changes introduced in 2008 were generally working well. She expressed thanks to PM who did so much behind the scenes to keep subscriptions and distribution under control.
- 5.3 With the exception of a few articles where the copyright holder had withheld permission, all back issues of *The Indexer* are now on *The Indexer* Website. Thanks were due to Sue Lambert and James Lamb for a magnificent effort.
- 5.4 MM has managed to keep the index more or less up to date as each issue appears online with Ingenta-Connect (usually a couple of weeks before people received their hard copy versions).
- 5.5 It has been an uphill battle getting the message across about how easy it is to find what material is available via the online index and the classified contents.
- 5.6 Marketing and distribution remains an area of concern. The possibility of outsourcing is being explored. MM has noticed, particularly at the ASI Portland Conference, that while many people expressed what seemed to be genuine interest in subscribing and said they would do so on their return home, it was clear that, for various reasons, this would rarely happen. She has therefore started taking subscription forms with her to meetings and Conferences in the hope of persuading people to sign on the dotted line. She hoped that others would do the same and would be happy to supply forms for this purpose.
- 5.7 MM emphasised that *The Indexer* is published on behalf of all Indexing Societies and Networks and there is a need to develop a sense of common ownership. The section in the International Agreement dealing with this has been fleshed out quite a lot. (This is one reason it is desirable that the 2006 Revisions to the International Agreement be ratified as soon as possible). Most of the Societies did, of course, have at least one member playing an active editorial role, but as has been agreed last year it would be desirable if each Society could nominate someone on a reasonably long term basis to act as liaison. MM had not made much progress in approaching the Societies about this, but was coming to the view that the best way forward would be to make full use of the online discussion list (Indsocintreps). MM is

on this list and will try to get post relevant material regularly, in the hope that this will facilitate greater input.

6. *Next meeting*

The next Indexer/International meeting will take place on the day before the SI 2010 Conference (29 September – 1 October 2010, Middelburg, The Netherlands). [NB: We hope that there will be other informal meetings of International representatives at conferences throughout the year to come, but the next meeting involving those involved specifically with *The Indexer* will be held at SI in 2010.]