

Meeting of International Societies and *Indexer* Representatives and Guests Providence, Rhode Island, 27 April 2011

Present: Ruth Pincoe (International Societies Coordinator; ISC/SCI), Heather Ebbs (ISC/SCI), Terri Hudoba (*Indexer*; ASI), Maureen MacGlashen (*Indexer* editor; SI), Richard Shrout (ASI), Pilar Wyman (ASI)

1. Introductions and News

Pilar Wyman: ASI's elections, to be held at the current conference, will see Pilar become the President-Elect and Richard Shrout become President.

Maureen MacGlashan: The offices at SI have seen some reorganization. The contract term of one of the two staff members has ended so there is now just one full-time staff member, although others are hired temporarily as needed. The Continuing Professional Development Committee is now offering a workshop on getting started, setting up a website, etc. In the last two to three years there has been more local group activity, and this CPD workshop is one example. The local group pays, but it is a good opportunity to receive SI training. The Scottish section of SI faces the issue of a relatively small number of members ($n = 60$) spread over the whole of Scotland. Afternoon meetings are held twice a year, but great distance combined with short time mean that many members do not attend; they are looking at addressing this difficulty with a longer mini-conference—the first will be held in October 2011.

Ruth Pincoe: Speaking as International Coordinator, Ruth noted that this is an inspiring position, making one particularly appreciative of the cooperative international structure. Speaking for ISC/SCI, she noted that the annual conference this year will be held in conjunction with the Editors' Association of Canada.

Terri Hudoba: The Twin Cities Chapter of ASI has been renamed the Upper Midwest Chapter.

Richard Shrout: Richard will be attending the 2011 S.I. conference as the ASI representative. Pilar Wyman will be attending ISC/SCI and ANZSI.

2. Issues Arising from the Minutes of 29 September 2010

Participants were referred to the summary of issues that Mary Russell sent to the international list on 19 January 2011.

(a) Newsletter access to members of sister societies: There is consensus from societies that their member newsletters can be shared with the members of sister societies. *Key Words* (ASI) is not a member newsletter but a subscription bulletin. Wording changes to Clause 7 of the International Agreement are needed. There was discussion of various possibilities at the current meeting, with discussion focusing on the need for the wording to be as simple and clear as possible while retaining some flexibility should newsletters change in the future. Ultimately, it was agreed that the wording in Clause 7 needs to clarify that newsletters will be available to the governing bodies of the other societies and associates and that they can be shared with members of those societies via members-only areas of websites. As worded, the Clause is much too wordy; much can be deleted now that all newsletters are electronic. The Clause itself should be generic, but an attached schedule can then set out the specifics of the newsletters, *Key Words*, etc.

Action: Heather will draft possible wording by about mid-May and send it to Pilar for review, with the object of further discussion at the international meeting in Vancouver in late May.

Action: Ruth will speak with the South African representatives about *not* sharing the newsletters of other societies as widely as they currently do.

(b) Reciprocal advertising in newsletters: There is consensus that the Clause about reciprocal advertising as stated in the International Agreement is acceptable as currently worded. Although data are lacking, it is believed that this benefit is very rarely exercised. Should it prove to be a problem in the future (e.g., by ads taking up too much space, etc.), the Clause can be revisited at that time.

(c) *Key Words* subscription rates: ASI is currently working out appropriate subscription rates for members of sister societies and associates.

(d) Access to international liaisons' listserv: Current members of the listserv are appropriate, and if any international member identifies an appropriate other person in their society to include, they can identify him or her.

3. Other Concerns

All international representatives are asked to review the International Agreement for any other changes that might be needed, and to do that as soon as possible. It would be excellent to have a serious draft of any changes available by the SI conference this coming September and the ANZSI conference soon after that, with a view to ratification at the Triennial Conference next summer in the U.K.

Action: All international representatives are to review the Agreement and raise any further concerns as soon as possible.

4. *The Indexer*

Content: Maureen MacGlashan reported that the June issue is almost final, and many articles are planned for September. December is being guest edited by ISC/SCI—Heather Ebbs is working on finding content. June 2012 will be guest edited by ANZSI. Elaine Maynard will be guest editing a theme issue at some time on image indexing.

Efforts continued to identify possibilities for outsourcing some aspects of *The Indexer*. There were various options under consideration, including in particular whether the outsourcing should be limited to marketing, subscription management, distribution and an online hosting or whether it would make sense to outsource production as well. Whatever decision was taken there would be financial implications. The time was also ripe to consider the possibility of an electronic only version only for individual subscribers, but this would need very careful consideration because of the possible side-effects. MM would report on progress to the international advisory group.

Terry Hudoba reported that she is finding the “Around the World” section to be getting more difficult as the societies already share so much information. The section has two halves: sharing information and a theme approach. The former may be becoming redundant; the latter presents the need to come up with themed queries.

Action: Terry will prepare a question for *The Indexer*'s international advisory group, explaining the issue and asking if they are both seen as useful, and asking for ideas for more theme questions.