

**Meeting of International Representatives of Indexing Societies (ICRIS)
and *Indexer* Representatives at the ASI Conference
Thursday 19 April 2012, 5:00 PM, San Diego, California, USA**

Participants: ICRIS representatives: Ruth Pincoe (ISC/SCI; ICRIS Coordinator), Maureen MacGlashan (SI), Mary Russell (ANZSI), Pilar Wyman (ASI)
Visitors: Noeline Bridge (ISC/SCI), Judy Dunlop (ISC/SCI), Heather Ebbs (ISC/SCI), Steve Falk (ASI), Lai Heung (ANZSI – New Zealand Branch), Ronnie Seagren (ISC/SCI)

Welcome and Introductions

Ruth Pincoe welcomed all participants to this informal ICRS meeting and asked for a round-table of introductions. Ronnie Seagren of Canada noted that ISC/SCI's new website will be up soon.

1 International Agreement Issues

1.1 Agreement revisions: Ruth circulated the draft revisions to the International Agreement prior to this meeting. Ratification of revisions has to be made at the International Triennial Meeting, which will be in July 2012 in Brighton, England. At the current meeting, most international representatives said that their executives had given it a green light (with some minor editorial corrections requested from SI). It is before the ISC/SCI executive as of this date, but Ruth expects no problems. She had heard from ASAIB and they are fine with it. She has not heard from the European networks, but thinks they will also be fine.

Actions

- *Ruth Pincoe will double-check with the sister societies and networks not represented at the San Diego meeting that they are fine with the revised International Agreement.*
- *Heather Ebbs will make the grammatical edits to the Agreement.*

1.2 International Coordinator: Ruth Pincoe plans to step down as International Coordinator soon. She has very much appreciated the role and mentions that it is a good way for the smaller societies to contribute. She has informally approached Mary Russell, who has agreed that she would be willing to take on the mantle. This will have to be approved at the International Triennial Meeting on 11 July 2012.

1.3 Proposed host for 2015 Triennial

ANZSI has indicated that they would be happy to host the International Triennial Meeting in 2015. If the same rotation as for the previous Triennials continues to be followed, that would put the 2018 Triennial somewhere in North America. This rotation is not binding, but provides a good starting point. Maureen MacGlashan noted that the ICRIS page on the *Indexer* website could include this sequence.

2 Business Arising from Meetings in 2011

2.1 ICRIS role and/or responsibilities in International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF), Indexes Working Group

The question at issue is whether there is an ICRIS role or responsibility in the IDPF Indexes Working Group (WG). Discussion included the following points:

- Given that ICRIS has an international agreement, a working ICRIS and ongoing international discussions, we need to consider what international issues we might play a

role in, and what that role could be.

- ICRIS could possibly, as a body, be a member of the WG, but the cost is ~US\$650. (ASI is a member, and ANZSI is just joining.) Other societies may not have the funds to spend on membership. Further, an organization that joins should have someone who is willing to commit a lot of time to participate and has the appropriate competence and expertise. ANZSI will pay a small honorarium to their representative to cover expenses and a small amount of time.
- ICRIS is not structured appropriately to be a working member of the WG.
- *The Indexer* is beginning to have “Around the Digital World” as a regular column. The problem is the timeline, as the usual copy deadline is three months before date of issue (although there is good flexibility). Nonetheless, regular reports from IDPF are being sought—these will be part of the historical record.

Ultimately, it was agreed that, at least for now, ICRIS’s role is that of information sharing amongst each other and with our societies.

2.2 Indexer Appreciation Day (ASI, 18 November 2011)

ASI celebrated its first Indexer Appreciation Day on 18 November 2011. Indexers gathered in towns and areas having the name Index. It was a fairly quiet day, but it is hoped to continue the Day and to gradually gain more recognition. About 20 places were identified as having the name—towns, mountains, etc. A few had reasons behind the name (for example, Index Mountain looks like an index finger sticking up).

3 New Business and Concerns

3.1 ICRIS list: Membership and changing functions

The ICRIS email list has grown “organically”, without many specific decisions. There has been an arbitrary limit of two people per society or network so that the list would not become too big or busy. Different societies and networks have different needs and resources. However, two list spots per society may or may not be enough, depending on how the list use grows. Further, we do not all know who is on the list, or is supposed to be on it.

In our discussion, it was agreed that ICRIS needs to decide how the list should be used and then move on from that to ideas on representation. Strict rules and regulations are not necessary, but we do need a guide on what the list is for and a system for regularly circulating a list of members.

One suggestion was that people who are known to be coming to another society’s meeting or conference as their society’s representative (this is not always the regular ICRIS representative) be temporarily added to the ICRIS list to help bring them up to date on current ICRIS issues.

The list is also very important for newsletter exchange, but equally important is that the representatives on the list know what their responsibilities are relating to other societies’ newsletters.

For new ICRIS members, it would be useful to have an FAQ of some sort: how members are appointed or elected, what their role is, etc.

More discussion is needed on how ICRIS can be used. For example, Maureen MacGlashan has been using the list for discussing how *The Indexer* can move forward. An ICRIS web presence in general would be useful for exchanging information not just among ICRIS representatives, but also the public in general: for example, access to the FAQs and the

International Agreement, contact information, dates of forthcoming conferences, etc. There could be an ICRIS page on *The Indexer* website, which all societies could have links to. That page might also be a good place for IDPF information.

Action: *Mary Russell and Ruth Pincoe will work on a first draft of a guideline for ICRIS members and the ICRIS email list, and consider what content would be appropriate for an ICRIS webpage.*

3.2 Suggestions for a theme for the international session at the SI conference in Brighton (the conference session, not the Triennial Meeting)

Often the international session at the Triennial covers something like what each society did over the previous year. Given the increasing sharing of information through newsletters, ICRIS and *The Indexer*, that type of session might not be very valuable this year. Instead, Maureen MacGlashan suggested that each speaker talk for five minutes about their conferences: what worked well at the last one, what did not work well, lessons learned, what changes they are making for the future, etc. Given that many of the conferences are close together this year, the news will be quite fresh.

Other ICRIS members agreed, noting that this type of session could help people to think about ways to better attract not just their own members, but international members. What is the purpose of a national conference, especially if people can get information through local workshops or on line? Face-to-face, personal contact is always a draw, but it may not be enough; people may be looking for practical, hands-on continuing education. ANZSI does national conferences every other year; on off years, the branches offer more workshops, which allows them the chance to reap some of the conference advantages. Further, expanding the topics or sessions to include editors, etc., may add interest, especially as many indexers have other income sources.

Action: *Maureen MacGlashan will circulate a question to the ICRIS list to prepare representatives for speaking to their society's conferences: problems, successes, plans for the future, etc. at the Triennial international session.*

3.3 Website access for Indexers in China

ISC/SCI was recently warned by its new web host that the host (Webnames.ca) will soon be blocking access to its services from China. In other words, websites and email hosted by Webnames.ca will not be available to users in China.

This same issue happened to Potomac Indexing (Richard ShROUT) of the U.S. Others at the current meeting were not aware of any problems encountered by their societies or members.

Action: *Ruth Pincoe will check with the ISC/SCI executive and Richard ShROUT on how they resolved the issue about their web hosts blocking access from China users.*

4 Indexer Issues and Concerns

4.1 Indexer status and news

See earlier items.

4.2 International availability of society publications at membership rates

The issue at question is how, technically, to make society publications available at member rates to members of sister societies through online ordering systems.

Recently Maureen MacGlashan went online to try to order some ASI publications, but there was nowhere on either the ASI site or the Information Today site to enable a member of a different society to order ASI publications at member rates. This issue has relevance to *The Indexer* because it is beginning to be made available via the publish-on-demand company Lulu. Further, some of the old SI publications will also be made available through Lulu to non-SI members. SI has a members-only Lulu page that is password protected. Clearly SI does not want this link to become publicly available. If the sister societies and networks could post the link and password on their members-only areas, that might work, but it may not be the best way of handling it. At least one society tends to circulate such information via email to members, which is the same as circulating it to the general public.

When a publication is available through a society website, there could be a place in the order form to indicate that one is a member of an associated society. This will not work for Lulu, because to get the SI member rate, one must go to the password-protected SI member site.

Discussion then moved on from this specific technical issue to related technical issues about online publications:

- ANZSI was recently able to order all ASI publications at the member rate by simply writing in “ANZSI member” in the Information Today order form.
- There needs to be an obvious way for members of sister societies to order other society publications.
- The ANZSI website has three areas: public access, members only and council members only. Sister society newsletters go only on the council members area.
- KeyWords may be changing format to have only one print issue a year of such things as feature articles and key columns. Other content would be available online and added continually to address issues of postage and printing costs as well as timeliness. ASI is also looking to make its website more nimble, maybe through an app.
- E-publishing makes publishing easy but raises issues such as digital rights, member-discount ordering, etc.

4.3 Visible presence of ICRIS on *The Indexer* website

See under item 3.1, above.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM

Upcoming Society Conferences and ICRIS Meetings for 2012

ISC Conference, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Thursday, 31 May to Friday 1 June

ICRIS Meeting: Wednesday 30 May, 4:00 PM, LOCATION TBA

Representatives expected: ANZSI: Max McMaster; ASI: David Ream; ISC: Ruth Pincoe;

SI: Hilary Faulkner

SI Conference, Mercure Brighton Seafront Hotel, Brighton, UK

Wednesday to Friday, 11-13 July

ICRIS Triennial Meeting: Wednesday 11 July, 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Representatives expected: ANZSI: Mary Russell; ASAIB: Marlene Burger; ASI: Pilar Wyman;

DNI: Elske Janssen; NIN: Caroline Diepeveen; ISC: Ruth Pincoe; SI: Maureen MacGlashan