

Meeting of ICRIS and Indexer Representative and Guests Brighton, Victoria, Australia held on 11 September 2011

Present: Ruth Pincoe (ISC/SCI; ICRIS Coordinator), Maureen MacGlashan (SI; *Indexer*), Max McMaster (ANZSI), Michael Ramsden (ANZSI; recorder), Mary Russell (ANZSI), Pilar Wyman (ASI).
Ruth Pincoe took the chair opened the meeting at 4.05 PM. She welcomed everyone present.

1. Introduction and News

Mary Russell reported that the dates for the New Zealand conference have now been settled. The Conference will be held in Wellington (North Island), 13-15 March 2013. The conference venue, the ICA Conference Centre, is close to the quay and has good views of the harbour and of the city. It is also close to a number of hotels which are within walking distance. In New Zealand March 2013 will be Book Month. Mary also reported that the report of the BISG (Book Industry Support Group) to which ANZSI Council and the NSW Branch made a submissions, is expected this month.

Pilar Wyman reported that the ASI Conference in San Diego will be held in April at a beachfront hotel, on 19-21 April 2012, with the ICRIS meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 18 April.

Maureen MacGlashan reported on the SI Conference at Keele University. This had been a successful conference, partly due to the late inclusion in the program of Nick Gibson, whose keynote presentation was pitched at exactly the right level. Maureen also drew attention to an article on e-publications in a recent issue of *The Economist*. [Note: During the ANZSI conference the ICRIS representatives were able to agree on and send a letter to the Editor of *The Economist*. Unfortunately the letter was not published, but this action is an important example of the possibilities for a co-ordinated approach at an international level.]

Ruth Pincoe noted that this was the fourth meeting of international representatives held this year, and welcomed the increasing frequency of meetings, commenting that this frequency helped representatives to become better acquainted and led to more meaningful discussions. On the other hand Maureen MacGlashan noted that the increasing cost of international travel was becoming a serious problem.

2. Changes to the International Agreement

(a) ICRIS acronym

Ruth Pincoe has discussed with the changes required to work the acronym (ICRIS) into the International Agreement with Heather Ebbs, a member of ISC and an excellent editor. Heather has agreed to work on these revisions. We hope that a revised agreement would be ready for circulation in November.

(b) Newsletters

Amendments to the International Agreement regarding access to the newsletters on member societies and reciprocal advertising rights have been drafted. It was agreed that the titles of the Newsletters to which these amendments were applied, together with the access arrangements for each one, would be better set out in a schedule attached to the agreement rather than in the body of the agreement itself.

3. Frequency of ICRIS meetings

(a) There was considerable discussion on the nature and frequency of ICRIS meetings. There was general agreement that there should be a meeting before the conference of each member society. Moreover, these meetings should be held on the day prior to the opening of the conference or, for conferences that open in the evening, on the day of the opening.

(b) Maureen MacGlashan pointed out that it takes three years from the first formulation of an amendment to the International Agreement to its endorsement by all member societies. It therefore makes sense for a formal meeting to be held on a triennial basis. However, this triennial structure does not preclude the possibility of interim meetings at which decisions could be taken or agreement be reached on actions to be taken. 'This was generally agreed with the next triennial meeting scheduled for the SI Conference in Brighton which commences on 11 July 2012 in the late afternoon. It was noted that the whole of that day

had been set aside for the Triennial Meeting. It was likely that there would be some pre-conference workshops taking place but there was no reason why these should interfere with the international meeting. In accordance with usual practice an informal supper in a local restaurant would be arranged for the previous evening (10 July) to ensure that people arriving from a distance would not be left stranded.

- (c) Mary Russell offered, on behalf of ANZSI, to host the 2015 triennial meeting as this will be an ANZSI Conference year. It was agreed that arrangements for the 2018 meeting be left in abeyance pending the future development of ICRIS. There was emphatic agreement that the rotation ought not to be built into the international agreement, but a schedule listing the dates and location of past triennials might be useful.

4. Reporting of minutes

In addition to posting the minutes of ICRIS meetings to the ICRIS list, it was agreed that ICRIS members should present the minutes of ICRIS meetings to the Council or Executive Committee of their respective societies.

5. ICRIS members at Society conferences

Most Society conferences have a session in which international representatives report on developments and events in their respective societies or respond with comments on a specific theme. It was agreed that such sessions should not be left to the last session of a conference (as happens with some societies), when delegates are beginning to leave, but should be scheduled within the conference as an integral part of the proceedings. It was also generally agreed that societies be asked to give greater visibility to international representatives. Suggestions included having them chair some sessions (as was done at the ASAIB conference in 2009), or giving them colour-coded badges that, in addition to the name also identifies the society they are representing. With the adoption of a viable acronym, 'ICRIS' is acquiring a real persona. It was agreed that it would be useful to build on this by having a visible presence on *The Indexer* website. This could include an explanation of what ICRIS was, the text of the International Agreement (already on the website) and the 'regulations'. It could also list the dates and hosts/place of previous Triennial Meetings, and any scheduled future meetings. This would show the 'rotation' so far without any implication as to future venues. It could also list the international reps and the international liaison "officer."

6. Future developments

It was agreed that indexers need to be proactive in addressing future developments. Of special concern was the growth of e-publishing. There was general agreement with Maureen MacGlashan's suggestion that 50% of the program of each conference be future oriented.

7. E-publishing

Maureen MacGlashan and Pilar Wyman raised the issue of e-publishing as a matter which indexers need to address. It was agreed that this is a global concern and that indexers need to keep abreast of continuing developments if we are to remain to be viable. The question was raised as to what editors are doing about this issue. There is a need for the development of guidelines for e-publications and indexing. It is essential also to recognise that the provision of index to a e-publication is more than simply appending a version of a back-of-the-book style index; we have to re-conceptualise our ideas of what an index is and how it works. Mary Russell agreed and said she would be addressing this issue in her opening address the following day.

The possibility of an award for database indexing was raised as well as the need to draw attention to good models.

It was agreed that there is at present no effective dialogue between those involved in print publication and those involved in e-publication and that this is a matter for regret.

The meeting closed at 5.45 PM