

ICRIS Meeting
ISC/SCI Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA
Wednesday, 30 May 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Participants: ISC/SCI), Hilary Faulkner (SI), Max McMaster (ANZSI), Ruth Pincoe (ICRIS Coordinator, David Ream (ASI)

Guests: Heather Ebbs (ISC/SCI), Christine Jacobs (ISC/SCI),

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ruth Pincoe welcomed representatives and guests and invited all to give updates and news.

Max McMaster, vice-president of ANZSI, reminded everyone of the ANZSI conference on 13–15 March 2013 in Wellington, New Zealand.

Hilary Faulkner, standing in for Maureen MacGlashan, is a former member of SI's executive and current coordinator of the Northeastern Regional Group. She noted six information items: (1) SI's 2012 conference is also the triennial of the sister societies. It will be held in Brighton on 11–13 July. (2) SI has a Publishing Technology Group looking into issues around developing technology. (3) SI is starting to give talks to students in publishing courses to try to raise awareness about what indexers do, etc. (4) *Indexers Available* is being revamped. (5) The society is considering setting up some kind of award for index-friendly publishers. (6) A lack of volunteers is making it difficult to fill at least one position (editor of *Sidelights*).

Ruth Pincoe noted that ISC/SCI has just redeveloped its website, which should be ready for launching sometime in June 2012. In addition to having an updated look, it is more user-friendly and will offer members the ability to do online registration, payment, etc.

Dave Ream, a software developer and member of ASI, referred to the recent ASI conference in San Diego where ASI came up with a new mission and vision statement ("The Voice of Excellence in Indexing: We advocate, educate, and provide the central resource for indexing."). The revised statement is part of the continuum of presenting the organization more broadly (the name change several years ago was a first step).

ASI has a Digital Trends Task Force (DTTF), co-chaired by Dave, Jan Wright, and Mary Harper. Further, Dave, Jan and Michele Combs co-chair the Indexes Working Group (IWG) of the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF). They are, together and separately, making the rounds of ASI chapters to talk about DTTF, the IWG, and EPUB 3.

Christine Jacobs, a past international liaison and past president of ISC/SCI, chaired (in 1996 or 1997) what is probably the first meeting of what eventually became ICRIS. It was noted that Jill Halliday of SI has written a short history of ICRIS for the September 2012 issue of *The Indexer*.

1. Triennial Meeting and International Agreement

Ruth Pincoe circulated the document describing the changes to the International Agreement and their rationales. This document has also been circulated on the ICRIS list. Most of the boards of the various societies and networks have accepted the changes in principle. The new

Agreement will be brought forward at the 2012 Triennial Meeting for approval by all the Societies and Networks; all but China will be represented.

2. Agenda for the International Meeting at Brighton

One additional agenda item suggested for the Brighton meeting was something about how the societies and networks might be involved in IDPF, perhaps through some sort of overall statement of the combined societies. Something that could be presented at book fairs and such around the world would be good; for example, a proposal to have a joint indexers' body with a common statement at something like the Frankfurt Book Fair was suggested. Jan Wright and Dave Ream have been going (and are continuing to go) to a variety of publishing-related conferences. It was suggested that the IWG charge could be looked at to see if it could become overarching. Further, compiling a list of book fairs and publishing conferences around the world might be a good thing to pull together.

Another topic for the Brighton agenda might be the ISO 999 standard, which has not been revised since 1996.

Later in the meeting, it was noted that decision making may be required more often than every three years at the triennial (for example, re IDPF) and that some structure may be required for that.

Action: Ruth Pincoe will circulate a call for agenda items on the ICRIS list.

3. International Session during the SI Conference

At the San Diego meeting, it was agreed that the international session at the SI conference would have the theme of conferences – that is, each representative will talk for a few minutes about their conferences: what has worked well at the last one, what did not work well, lessons learned, what changes they are making for the future, etc. Maureen MacGlashan will circulate an inquiry to the ICRIS list asking representatives to prepare to speak to that topic.

It was suggested that it would be worthwhile to invite Adele Furbank, the SI conference coordinator.

4. Terms of Reference

At the San Diego meeting, Mary Russell and Ruth Pincoe were delegated to begin drafting a terms of reference (ToR) for ICRIS and the ICRIS list. This draft was circulated at the current meeting. This document is not intended to be binding; rather, it is a working, living document outlining the general practices of this group.

Comments at the current meeting including the following:

- A maximum number of host society guests was suggested: perhaps 5 or 6. Conversely, it was suggested that it is important to allow guests to attend for the sake of openness and to encourage future international representatives. In practice, few guests attend; the most was in South Africa when the whole ASAIB board came. Ultimately, it was agreed that this section needed to be reconsidered.
- More references to the role of the coordinator were suggested (for example, running ICRIS meetings).
- The lack of decision-making capacity of these meetings was raised; there may need a for structure in which decision-making occurs more frequently than every three years at the triennial. This idea has been raised in the past (in Keele and in Melbourne) and may need to be revisited (this will be added to the Brighton agenda).

Mary, Ruth and Heather were thanked for pulling together the initial draft ToR.

Action: Heather Ebbs will revise the draft ToR based on this meeting's discussion.

5. ICRIS List and Identity

It was suggested that it might be productive for ICRIS to have a wiki in addition to the email list. Wikis are useful for posting and working on documents, for posting things like glossaries and terms of reference, for links to other sites, etc. It is planned that *The Indexer* website will have an ICRIS page or site on it, but it was noted that a wiki is easy because it does not need a webmaster—anyone with access to the wiki can do updates.

A second suggestion was that every society should reference ICRIS on their webpage. An ICRIS logo might be useful.

Having the International Agreement accessible through each society's homepage is one way of showing the benefits of membership and sisterhood.

6. International Digital Publishing Forum: Update

One role for ICRIS is to ensure that all the societies and networks are aware of the IDPF IWG to report out to members.

ASI joined the IDPF last autumn, since when the IWG has been formed through the efforts of Dave, Jan Wright and Michele Combs. The IWG has been meeting biweekly through teleconferences. Glenda Browne of ANZSI is also a member, and the group's mentor is in Sweden. There are also members in Japan, France, and other non-English-speaking countries. Not all members of the IWG are indexers, but all are index "allies."

There are about 400 members in the IDPF. In voting to create the IWG, there were about 69 votes "for", 1 against and 1 abstention.

What has taken the most time to date is defining the terms. The final draft of terminology was completed about a week ago. The IWG has developed four "use cases," which will be described in more detail during the coming ISC/SCI meeting. The next steps are to prioritize the cases and to begin defining the tagging structure of an e-publication index.

ASI and ANZSI are paid-up members of the IDPF. Working groups can invite non-IDPF members to participate as consultants. See <http://idpf.org/charters/2012/indexes/> for further information. Ronnie Seagren (ISC/SCI) has expressed interest. She works for IBM, which is a member of IDPF.

7. The Indexer

Max McMaster has asked about subscription costs for groups (for example, branches of ANZSI, or chapters of ASI). This is still under discussion with SI and *The Indexer*.

8. Other Business

None

Adjournment 5:28 pm.