

Minutes of the Informal ICRIS Meeting on April 7, 2021, via Zoom.

Attendees:

ANZSI: Madeleine Davis
Tracy Harwood

ASI: Devon Thomas

ASIB: Karin McGuirk

CSI Lijun Liu
Xueke Yang

DNI: Katharina Munk

ISC/SCI: Alexandra Peace (chair)
François Trahan
Margaret de Boer

NIN : Caroline Diepeveen
Pierke Bosschieter (minute taker)

SI : Nicola King
Ann Kingdom

ICRIS website manager : Maureen MacGlashan

Absent: Mary Coe (The Indexer)

The meeting started with a round of news on every society, with the following subjects in mind:

- membership numbers and retention
- what is working and what's not for societies
- amount of work received by members
- conferences and how they will be run

ASAIB: Karin McGuirk

- in 2020 68 members listed, some did not renew, 2 new members
- fees stayed the same
- website a bit more active
- first online training, probably via Zoom, which garnered some interest
- 20 May online ½ day conference with AGM. Pre-recording of presentations, which will be available to participations for a while afterwards
- Awards will be presented as part of indexing day

CSI: Lijun Liu, Xueke Yang

- Membership 1600 individual members, 100 institutional
- Standard on how to index dissertations will be official soon
- The journal has had a title and frequency change. It did collaborate with The Indexer, which published some Chinese papers in English translation. Hopes that this will be continued in the future
- Also hopes to collaborate more with other indexing societies

DNI: Katharine Munk

- 50 members of which 35 are active
- new website is live
- two online meetings were held, instead of the annual meeting at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2020, with more attendees than usually visit the live meetings
- organising the Berlin conference is in progress (see ICRIS: Caroline Diepeveen)

ICRIS: Caroline Diepeveen

- the ICRIS meeting has been postponed to 2022
- the Berlin conference will be a hybrid conference
- call for papers/speakers will go out soon

- there is no fixed date yet, but it will not be directly linked to the Frankfurt Book Fair

NIN: Caroline Diepeveen

- 10 members. There is a dwindling membership due to retirements, but some new members were added in 2020
- there are also two new potential indexers interested in the profession (maybe COVID-related, as people think of new careers)
- two indexers are being mentored at the moment
- plans for an informal online meeting in June
- no plans for formalization of the network

ANZSI: Madeleine Davis, Tracy Harwood

- 96 members, of which 29 accredited, but dwindling numbers due to retirements
- there is not enough new blood. The mentoring scheme was abandoned many years ago and it is very difficult to get work for beginning indexers
- indexing societies should educate publishers on the importance of indexes as lots of publishers think that with pdfs and epub's an index is no longer necessary
- no conference in 2020 or 2021
- two Zoom workshops were organized, on biographies and quoting. A teleconference on a bolts and nuts Q & A was also organised. Questions in advance for all three were requested
- the lending library of indexing books has been well received (other attendees were extremely interested in this)

ASI: Devon Thomas

- 400 individual members and 10 institutional members, there was no drastic drop in 2020 and there is new interest from younger people

- the 2020 spring physical conference was turned into an online conference and was a great success
- there was also a conference in the autumn
- there will be an online conference in 2021, preceded by a workshop given by Fred Leise
- chapters are struggling, but they were already struggling before COVID
- it is difficult to encourage new indexers
- mentoring - still thinking about it

SI: Nicola King, Ann Kingdom

- 325 members at the end of 2020. Of these 180 were professional members and 70 were student members. The remainder were Life Members, ordinary members and retired members, some of whom may be working as indexers. Membership is declining
- many new members are from library backgrounds
- Zoom meetings are being held by local groups and ad hoc meetings as well
- workshops will be available shortly on Zoom
- the new course has more hands on mentoring
- organising a survey about what people want from an online conference
- a conference with AGM will be held in the autumn 2021
- raising profile of society via social media
 - through Twitter and National Indexing Day
 - sponsoring speaker Hay literary festival

ICS/SCI: Alexandra Peace, François Trahan and Margaret de Boer

- numbers going up from 108 to 114
- there is a well-functioning mentoring program
- there are monthly video chats and monthly regional Zoom meetings which are well attended
- recruitment of volunteers is going very well

- aspiration to bilingualism: parts of website and selected other information is available in French
- starting to make Webinars, but for the time being they are members only
- raising the profile of the society
 - membership of the Book & Periodical Council
 - physical letters to publishers
 - attending literary festivals
 - advertising directed at the editors in humanities conferences

Other discussions:

- some countries get their paper issues of The Indexer 3 months late. It was suggested that it could be a possibility to print the journal in the USA/Canada. For Australia/New Zealand this would not be an option, because the print run is too small.
- are informal Zoom sessions during conferences successful? The consensus is that 6 people in breakout rooms work very well
- mentoring could be done internationally
- Zoom 'fatigue' during conferences means that not too many sessions can be held in succession and that there should be lots of small breaks
- Lijun asked about the basic knowledge of indexing of people with a background in library science. It seems that practical knowledge about cataloguing, abstracting etc. has been replaced by subjects concerning IT. Most library schools do not give courses in indexing. The best traits an indexer should have in an analytical mindset and curiosity
- Participants thought the meeting had been a success. Maureen noted that in recent years the informal live meetings had not been working very well, so maybe we could make these informal Zoom meetings a regular occurrence

Date for the next meeting: Wednesday September 29, 2021.