

Minutes of the Informal ICRIS Meeting on September 29, 2021, via
Zoom

Attendees

ANZSI: Madeleine Davis
Tracy Harwood

ASAIB: Karin McGuirk
Marlene Burger

ASI: Devon Thomas

CSI: Lijun Liu
Xueke Yang

DNI: Katharina Munk
Jochen Fassbender

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

NIN : Caroline Diepeveen
Pierke Bosschieter (minute taker)

SI : Nicola King
Ann Kingdom

ICRIS website manager : Maureen MacGlashan
The Indexer: Mary Coe

Absent : Eileen O'Neill (AFEPI Ireland)

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

- Membership numbers and retention
- Meetings and attendance
- Conferences and how they will be run
- Standardization: NISO/other countries
- Indexing day
- Affiliations with other societies

ANZSI: Madeleine Davies

- 86 members. We have a few indexers who retired and a few new indexers. But how do we give them work?
- We held zoom meetings
- In the process of organizing 3 online legal workshops
- We have been asked to affiliate with the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) and would like to talk about this later on.
- How will the ICRIS zoom meetings develop in future?

CSI: Xueke Yang

- 1600 members, institutional members included
- In November this year we will have a general election in Shanghai
- We celebrate our 30th anniversary
- We have developed a standard for indexing dissertations
- We hope to collaborate again with The Indexer in future
- We hope to collaborate more with the other societies

ASAIB: Karin McGuirk

- 67 members, of which 27 paying members and 4 new members
- We had several zoom meetings, and they are working well

- We held our conference on 20 May, together with our Indexing Day, online. It was quite interesting and with good attendance from all over the country.
- We have a new executive member, since a member sadly died
- We are planning a bibliography workshop
- Next year's conference will be 2 days and hybrid

NIN: Caroline Diepveen

- Stable membership of 10
- We had 2 informal Zoom meetings
- We established an email group for the members to exchange jobs and ask questions
- Most new members are internationally orientated especially for workshops and webinars
- Jobs are plenty

DNI: Jochen Fassbender

- 48 members, of which 10 are non-indexers, 25 are active members, and 6 are outside of Germany
- We are affiliated, in an unofficial capacity, with the German Society for Information Science (DGI). We offer reduced rates to members.
- We organised one online meeting this year and one is planned in October. The Bookfair will be a restricted one (masks etc.)
- The Berlin Conference 2022 will be announced on the website of the DGI shortly
- Our own website is evolving and is making progress

SI: Nicola King

- Membership has not changed
- We had several Zoom meetings for local groups and workshops with specific subjects
- We are comparing our British standards with the new NISO standard and will publish about this shortly

- We are affiliated with CIEP (formerly SfEP) Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading
- The book of Dennis Duncan about indexes is providing us with a lot of free promotion
- There is plenty of work for members
- The conference will be in November, completely online. Dennis Duncan will talk with Paula Clark Bain, the indexer of his book, about the work of an indexer. Rest of program is interesting as well. Booking will open shortly

ASI: Devon Thomas

- Membership 400, steady
- We are organizing online webinars and courses, about evaluation of online information, on indexing names/geographical names and a three-part course on indexing religious texts
- Our conference will be in Spring 2022, again online
- We are running a survey on eBook indexes
- We have no current formal affiliations. We have a representative at NISO, but this is not reciprocal. We had a membership with the Association of American Publishers but we dropped our membership. We are considering other affiliations, but there are many in the US and we want a good fit. Some US indexer are also members of the Editorial Freelancers Unions but ASI itself is not affiliated with it.
- It is hard to get started, but there's a lot of work.

ISC: Alexandra and Margaret

- Membership 125, of which outside of Canada, and 11 institutional members
- We organize monthly regional and national meetings
- We did hand out our diversity bursary and volunteering award
- Heather Ebbs received a merit membership

- Magpie Kudos, a way for members to thank another member, is working well
- Webinars are still a work in progress
- The Indexer is now printed in Canada, which means we receive it with very little delay
- A new indexers resources committee is taking shape
- The 2022 Conference will also be online. Last conference was a great success
- Affiliations. We are a member of the Book & Periodicals Council and have an unofficial affiliation with Editors Canada. We offer members reduced prices.

The Indexer: Mary Coe

- There is an advert for the Berlin conference in the next issue
- September issue is out now
- In the December issue Jochen's list has pride of place. The list will also be published on The Indexers website
- Will try to incorporate more Chinese articles. An article on the new standard for dissertations would be a good idea.
- More articles on the history of the index/indexers

Triennial News: Caroline Diepeveen

- The planning is now for a hybrid conference
- Dates 17-18 October 2022, the ICRIS meeting will be on the 16th. This is immediately after the Book Fair
- There are now 3 keynote speakers
 - One from the UK: Judith Flanders, who will talk about alphabets.
 - One from Germany: Urs Stehili, who will talk about the sociology of indexing/list making.
 - And one from the Netherlands: Prof. Kiene Brillenburg Wurth, who will talk about the future of indexing/non-alphabetic indexing.
- Call for papers is still open

- Website will launch shortly (as you read on the ICRIS list, it has already launched)

Discussions

Work for new indexers:

Alex: diversity award bursary for the training course, informal groups that pass work on to beginning indexers and a new indexers resources committee is in the works

Madeleine: 3 legal indexing courses, but we can't offer Australian indexers work in this field. We discovered that an Australian university is offering an indexing course to students finalizing a thesis. We will report back on this at the next meeting.

Website ICRIS: From Madeleine comes the questions if ICRIS shouldn't have its own website? Opinions are divided. It is probably uneconomical, and we don't know what Rebecca's views are on this. So we decide to put a committee together that is going to investigate this and report back at the conference in Berlin. Alex is going to chair this committee and the members will be Mary, Rebecca, Maureen, Ann, Madeleine and Pierke. Alex will send an email out.

Affiliations: with editors and publishing organizations, should be reciprocal arrangements. So that editors know about indexing. Editing can be a second string to the bow of indexers. Sometimes the SI had joint conferences with SfEP that worked very well.

Standardization: In China there were recently 3 standards published. Can we see them? There will be a comparison of the British standard and the NISO standard published in Sidelights. There is a German Standard from 1988. There should be an overview of standards on the ICRIs website, also in foreign languages. Are there French and Spanish standards?

Conferences hybrid or online only?

Alex: For Canada a hybrid conference was not economically viable and there were too little human resources for this. We think we will be alternating every year

Karin: We didn't have very good experiences with hybrid conferences, so we opted for online

Devon: hybrid conferences costs too much to do it right (film & sound crews). We're talking 1000s of dollars

Alex: in a hybrid setup the breakout rooms will suffer, and they are such a nice way to network

Caroline: For the Triennial we are still thinking of a hybrid conference. We will need extra people to organize this. We certainly will not offer the whole package online as well, only the highlights.

Heather Hedden was very enthusiastic about a hybrid conference she attended recently in Amsterdam. We will ask her how this was arranged. Probably intra-European travel won't be a problem, but we will see how things develop with international travel.

Next Meeting:

The SI will host the next meeting in April 2022