

Minutes of the Informal ICRIS Meeting on April 6, 2022, via Zoom

Attendees

ANZSI: Madeleine Davis
Tracy Harwood

ASAIB: Karin McGuirk
Marlene Burger

ASI: Devon Thomas

CSI: Chunxiang (Sherry)

DNI: Jochen Fassbender

ISC/SCI: Alexandra Peace
Margaret de Boer

NIN : Caroline Diepeveen
Pierke Bosschieter (minute taker)
Harry van der Werff

SI : Nicola King
Ann Kingdom (chair)

ICRIS website: Maureen MacGlashan
The Indexer: Mary Coe

Absent : Eileen O'Neill (AFEPI Ireland)

The meeting started with a round-up of news on every society

ASAIB: Karin McGuirk

- 69 members of which 24 are paying members, 2 retirees and 2 new members. The Executive Board has two new members.
- Zoom meetings will continue as members are dispersed over a large area.
- Workshops are now all online. Basic indexing principles and continuing resources indexing; the abstracting workshop will be part of the 2022 Conference.
- Conference will be held online on 20 May 2022. Theme: Indexing in Service of the Reader.
- Awards will be presented in a separate online event
- We will have a look at our website to make it more user-friendly.

ASI: Devon Thomas

- Membership is holding steady, but there's an uptake in interest probably due to Dennis Duncan's book being published in the US.
- Fall 2021 event on name indexing with international participants.
- Online conference will be April 29-30 2022, free attendance for ICRIS representatives.
- Webinars are planned.
- Afraid people are getting tired of Zoom, interest in online events is less than in previous events.

ISC: Margaret de Boer

- Conference is being held on May 13-14 2022, preceded by a Fireside chat for new indexers on the 12th. Theme: Past Perfect, Future Progressive.
- Membership increased to 128.
- New webpage on the website with resources for new indexers.
- We are still doing our national/regional Zoom meetings.
- We did a rate survey and discussed the outcome in the Zoom meetings.
- We now also have member initiated Zoom groups.

- New Co-president Tere Mullin.
- 3 members won the DReam to Index scholarship.
- We hope the 2023 conference will be in person in St John's.

ANZSI: Madeleine Davis, Tracy Harwood

- Membership is down to 89, because of retiring members.
- The members' library will acquire books of ANZSI medal winners. If indexers use this service the postage is paid by ANZSI.
- National Indexing Day (NID) was targeted at ANZSI members. Presentations about 'soft marketing' your indexing business, and about whom we should aim to please with eBook indexes. All time zones in Australia and New Zealand could join. Very good turnout. A face-to-face NID lunch was held in Melbourne.

DNI: Jochen Fassbender

- Stagnation concerning membership, because cancellation of Frankfurt Bookfair in 2020 and 2021.
- We have a new website.
- Research on availability of *The Indexer* in university libraries. Only 2 have recent issue, not consultable online. Jochen to send an email about this to several persons and bodies, in the hope that this has a positive effect.

NIN: Caroline Diepeveen

- Membership stable.
- Plenty of work.
- Continuing with our Zoom meetings, but thinking about reinstating our annual in-person meeting.
- We are organizing support for the newer members through our Groups.io discussion forum.
- We are stimulating the international context of indexing. That's why Harry is now present as an observer and we hope to have a sizeable delegation at the Berlin conference.
- We promoted the Berlin conference on our website.

CSI: Chunxiang (Sherry)

- 1600 members, including institutional members, of which only 10% are really active.
- We celebrated our 30th anniversary.
- We have two new indexing standards. One for the indexing of theses, the other for indexing local chronicles. We are trying to promote these standards internationally.

SI: Nicola King, Ann Kingdom

- Membership still around 300. Most people join to do the training course. Very disappointingly there certainly is no Dennis-Duncan effect in the UK.
- Local groups have started meeting in person again, besides holding the Zoom meetings.
- We are facing the challenge of doing online tax in the coming year (every three months) and hope to help our members coping with this.
- We are trying to promote member-initiated Zoom discussion groups for CPD.
- We did a National Indexing Day Zoom event. The talks were recorded and will be on the website. About 26 persons attended. It worked very well, with loads of activity on social media. *The Times* had a little paragraph about it.
- We held our conference online last winter and are thinking about having a one-day event in person.
- It's time we did another rates survey. We put our recommended rates up because of inflation.

***The Indexer*: Mary Coe, Ann Kingdom**

- All back issues of *The Indexer* are now available on the Liverpool University Press website. Older articles are open access.
- For National Indexing Day four newer articles have been made open access for a month.

- Launch of survey into how people find information in *The Indexer*.
- We probably can report back on the outcome of the survey at the Berlin Conference.

Ann Kingdom: thanks to Maureen MacGlashan

This will be Maureen's last ICRIS meeting. We are sad to see her go, as she has been the corporate memory of ICRIS. She has been very involved in ICRIS and played a really important role. A thank you from all of us.

Alex Peace: on ICRIS Website Taskforce

- There's no need to change the *Indexer* website. A sub-domain for ICRIS on the Indexer website would be preferable, which would provide a good URL to point to.
- For marketing purpose we need a separate international website providing a landing page for all the indexing societies, and a blog to keep it dynamic for higher ranking in Google searches.
- Jochen: suggestion to use meta keywords in different languages.
- There should be a clear report on what we envisage. That report should be circulated to all societies before Berlin so that they can voice their views beforehand. We can then decide in Berlin how to proceed.
- Madeleine will set up a new task force, to prepare a new paper. She will also liaise with Rebecca Linford (webmaster) to see if we can secure www.indexers.org (cc'd Ann Kingdom)

Triennial Meeting

- International Agreement needs reviewing. Ann and Devon will take a close look at it. Madeleine will put it on the ANZSI agenda. We need feedback on this from all societies before the Berlin conference so that we can put proposed changes on the agenda.

- In Berlin we will also discuss where the next Triennial will be held. Preferably societies should offer to host it in advance of Berlin. Reappointment of coordinators, Caroline and Pierke, should also go on the agenda.
- The timing of the ICRIS meeting is important because some people will attend via Zoom. The twice-yearly Zoom meetings are a success and they should be included in the International Agreement.

Caroline Diepeveen on the Berlin Conference

- Provisional program is ready and will be posted on the conference website shortly.
- We will be open for registration after Easter. We're still aiming for a hybrid conference. You will register and pay for online attendance only. When we are sure the conference can go ahead, you get the opportunity to pay the last part of the fee. Food and accommodation are not included in the conference fees. Online participants will be able to attend the complete conference as we won't have breakout sessions (except for online participants while on-site have refreshments). Speakers include Dennis Duncan and Paula Clarke Bain talking about the translation of the index to Duncan's book.
- The conference venue is the Weiberwirtschaft. The Sunday before the conference the ICRIS meeting will take place in the afternoon.

Madeleine Davis: on purchase of recordings of conference sessions of other societies

Madeleine asked if ANZSI could purchase recordings of individual conference sessions from other societies, which they can then use as a one-time Zoom event. This question arises as ANZSI members have difficulties participating in conferences of other societies because of time differences. Would other societies be willing to do this? There seem to be issues with speaker agreements and other

judicial problems. Madeleine will write to every society separately and see what comes of it.

Alex Peace: questions on indexing standards

- Which ones are there, are there recent ones? There are many International and National ISO standards. They are mostly very expensive. There are three different standards in China of which two are new (see above). There are French and Spanish versions of the ISO standard.
- Is the Berkeley course using the NISO standard? In the US the *Chicago Manual of Style* is mostly used and publishers are making up their own standards. So the standards are mentioned but not taught as the only rules to follow. The SI course teaches the British Standard (ISO 999).