

Minutes of the ICRIS meeting held on 24 October 2024 at Peking University Library, Beijing, China

Attendees

Virtual attendees are indicated with an asterisk

ANZSI – Kerryn Burgess

ASAIB – Karien Hutchinson*

ASI – Devon Thomas

CSI – Chunxiang Xue, Xiaoyuan Chen, Jin Feng

DNI – Jochen Fassbender*

ISC/SCI – Alexandra Peace

NIN – Pierke Bosschieter, Madelon Nanninga, Caroline Diepeveen*

SI – Ann Kingdom*, Paula Clarke Bain*

The Indexer – Mary Coe*

Updates from societies/networks (in alphabetical order)

ANZSI

ANSZI membership has declined due to retirements and is currently about 70 members. It has been working on ways to increase membership including a scholarship for indexing training through the SI, ASI, and Berkeley courses with a year of membership in ANSZI and publicizing the John Simkin medal for excellence in indexing. It has also been encouraging professional development by watching indexing conference presentations together and discussing them. The ANZSI librarian has also created a collection of all of the books with award-winning indexes. ANSZI, in partnership with Wikimedia Australia and the Charles Sturt University School of Information and Communication Studies, is using Wikidata to fill in gaps on library-science-related content (including indexing) on Wikimedia platforms, such as terms, people, and professional organizations.

ASAIB

ASAIB has been struggling with membership for the last few years and most of its current members focus on editing, rather than indexing. Due to this, the inability to find officers, and continuing concerns about the availability of work, ASAIB will be incorporated as an interest group of the Professional Editor's Guild (PEG). One member of the ASAIB Executive Committee will join the PEG executive committee. Current ASAIB Honorary Secretary Karien Hutchinson will take the initial seat on the PEG executive committee. She and Kevin Walker (PEG Executive Committee member tasked with Marketing and Communications) will attend ICRIS meetings. ASAIB members will receive a year of paid membership in PEG in order to integrate the groups efficiently.

ASAIB asks that ICRIS accepts PEG as an ICRIS member once the transition is complete. This will entail changing the ICRIS agreement and will need to be formalized at the 2026 Triennial and approved by all the societies and networks.

ASI

ASI membership is about 450 members; membership has declined with retirements but there is interest in the profession from younger indexers. ASI held its first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a two-day conference in the Philadelphia, PA area. In addition, some of the local Chapters and Special Interest Groups are reviving in-person and online activities. ASI also held a three-part online learning course on creating and using macros with dedicated indexing software. On December 6, ASI will host an online event: "All About Indexing: From Thesauri to AI, Tools and Tips for Working Smarter" with five speakers.

November 18, ASI will celebrate National Indexing Day. ASI's first formal board meeting occurred on November 18, 1968. The day will be marked on social media with the hashtag #indexingday. ASI thanks SI for the idea of celebrating indexing on a national level.

ASI also announced two new indexing awards to take the place of the ASI Excellence in Indexing Award aka The Wilson Award. To better reflect the variety of work that indexers do, the new awards are divided into two broad categories (Scholarly/Technical and Trade), offering ASI members a greater opportunity to win recognition for their indexing skills.

CSI

The China Society for Indexing has 1700 individual members and 200 organizational members; many members come from university, library, and museum staff and departments. The 2024 conference at Peking University expects there to be 140 attendees and includes six keynote speakers as well as several breakout sessions.

DNI

DNI has about 50 members, of whom about half are active indexers; many are copy-editors. It is suffering from a lack of organizers. Much of DNI's recent activity has been in publishing articles, including those by Walter Greulich and Jochen Fassbender; Pierke Bosschier has been writing reviews. Meetings have been online. Work on The Dictionary of Basic Indexing Terminology continues, with additions of Chinese and Japanese languages in process. The project hopes to add more languages and terms, but activity is dependent on volunteers.

ISC/SCI

The 2024 ISC/SCI conference was virtual this year, with over 100 attendees from several countries. Membership is holding steady. The 2025 conference will be a physical conference and will be held in Vancouver in May or June, and not as previously stated in Toronto. ISC/SCI also held its Annual General Meeting and currently about 40 percent of members volunteer with the organization. ISC/SCI is working on raising the profile of indexing and indexers in the publishing field and the president and past president have been meeting with editors and publishers to present on indexing and to answer questions about indexing. These have been very successful.

NIN

NIN has nine members, including a new, enthusiastic member; three others are taking the SI course. (Note there is no Dutch-language training course.) NIN holds bi-monthly Zoom meetings at a fixed date and time, which helps with good attendance. NIN did have an in-person meeting

in Haarlem and visited a museum on the invention of the printing press. Marketing efforts have been stalled, but will start up again. NIN's blog has restarted with posts in Dutch and English and the group continues to educate publishers who reach out on the need for quality indexing. NIN will also be host of the ICRIS online meetings in 2025.

SI

SI membership is around 250 with about 50 students; it too has seen a slight decline due to retirement. Local groups are still not as active as before the pandemic, but a recent "super-group" meeting was very successful. The online forums continue to be active and there are monthly Zoom meetings with a topical focus and providing opportunities for networking. The 2024 conference was held virtually over two days with many international participants. The 2025 conference will be an in-person conference in Birmingham.

SI has also updated its continuing professional development requirements with a revised point system for activities and added a mentoring scheme for indexers who have been qualified for several years. In addition, indexing students benefit from group tutorials and personal advisers, and a series of leaflets to support newly qualified indexers has just been launched.

The marketing committee and blog have a focused push on publishers and for National Indexing Day on March 28 the Society hosted a half-day workshop with four presentations for publishers and editors, which received excellent feedback and social media presence.

SI will announce its new honorary president in November.

The Indexer

Mary Coe gave a brief update on *The Indexer*. The new distribution system is working well. Madelon Nanninga is the new reviews editor. Liverpool University Press is providing lists of the most frequently downloaded articles, giving insight into trends in readership. Mary asked that international representatives at the CSI conference in Peking keep an eye out for presentations that would make good articles in *The Indexer*, in addition to the planned summary coverage of the conference. Ann Kingdom added that the subject indexing project is progressing.

International indexing website

ANSZI, with the help of JoAnne Burek of the ISC/SCI has created a draft of the international indexing website. Each society is asked to look at and comment on the draft with an eye toward eventual approval. There was some concern that the site may go beyond the initial remit or be missing information. Ann Kingdom of SI, Madelon Nanninga of NIN, and Devon Thomas of ASI will coordinate comments into a master document for distribution and discussion. The issue will be placed again on the agenda for the next meeting in April 2025. Concerns include target audience(s), length of text, access and inclusion of CSI on the site, multilingual links, and eventual hosting of the ICRIS page.