

ICRIS Meeting Minutes, May 29, 2025, Vancouver, BC

Present: Maggie Billard (president of ISC/SCI), Caroline Diepeveen (ICRIS Co-ordinator, NIN and DNI), Devon Thomas (ASI), Paula Clarke Bain (SI), Max McMaster (ANZSI) attended, and Alexandra Peace (ISC/SCI).

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News from Societies

1. ANZSI (Max McMaster)

- a. 72 members
- b. scholarship
 - i. finalized terms
 - ii. any NZ/Aus resident who wants to index can apply
 - iii. permanent \$1000, 50% up front, 50% after completing course
 - iv. Berkeley Course or ASI plus a membership
- c. ANZSI will be turning fifty next year (2026) and will be holding a special conference/meeting, hopefully in person. Dates TBD.
- d. Professional development continuing from 2024, special thanks to ISC/SCI for the conference presentations!

2. ASI (Devon Thomas)

- a. Devon noted that ASI had their online conference in April.
- b. In June, they are holding a meet and greet for new indexers.

3. SI (Paula Clarke Bain)

- a. 232 members
- b. Paula noted that SI is focusing their recruitment and retention efforts on local groups. SI has had several supergroup meetings in various locations in the UK.
- c. SI held their National Indexing Day in person ... two sessions on the same day aimed at publishers.
- d. Caroline Sanderson is the new honorary president, and she would like to get SI into book fairs.
- e. The SI Conference 2025 (Heart and Mind of Indexing) will be held September 19–21 in Birmingham, UK. SI is offering installment payments and first-timer discounts to help with payments. Though notified, CIEP (UK editors) is having their conference on overlapping dates. Jola, Paula, Caroline are some of the presenters, and Katharina Munk will also be there.

4. NIN (Caroline Diepeveen)

- a. 11 members (active) and 2 students in SI course
- b. The group meets every 6 weeks or so, some online, some in person.
- c. NIN has resumed blog posting on their website (only in Dutch). The latest is on indexes in non-fiction books. Caroline also noted that of six non-fiction books, randomly picked out at a bookstore, only 30 percent had indexes (and not all were even good ... some just names).
- d. At their physical meetings, they try to do multi-day trips to bookfair or to Mainz, Germany (Gutenberg's printing press), or Belgium (at the Mundaneum).

5. DNI (Caroline on behalf of Jochen Fassbinder)

- a. DNI has about fifty members, with two students working on the Berkeley course.
- b. DNI will be doing a survey to find out what the members of DNI need from their society.

6. ISC/SCI (Alexandra Peace)

- a. 111 members
- b. ISC/SCI is changing the membership outreach part of the board structure from regional representatives to program coordinators and two membership secretaries (one outward facing, dealing with members; one on the more administrative side). Alex will report back next time with more details as it takes shape.

7. Board Structure and Volunteers

The previous information from ISC/SCI started a small discussion of how various boards are structured and how volunteers are appreciated.

- a. board structure

ISC/SCI has thirteen board members plus a recording secretary; SI has five board members plus other appointees; ASI has about fourteen board members.

b. volunteers

ISC/SCI sends out annual thank-you cards to all volunteers and has two volunteer awards given by the board/president. In addition, Magpie kudos are given to members by other members.

Triennial

The next triennial will be hosted by ASI sometime next spring (2026). Difficulties of travelling in the United States were noted, but no solution is available for that particular issue!

Conference Timing

Difficulties of timing were also noted: best spring times are after universities are finished and can't be Mother's Day; Memorial Day (for ASI), or Victoria Day (for ISC/SCI). ISC/SCI had usually held their conference in late May and ASI in April, but Devon mentioned that the Triennial next year may need to be in May.

ISC/SCI was not consulted this year about this: the ASI conference chair may not have known to check.

Because ISC/SCI already alternates online and in-person years, and ASI does also and in opposite years, the possibility of alternating the "good" conference dates for the in-person conference was discussed. Then the online conferences could be slightly earlier, in early April. Organizers need time for programming and advertising when planning, so societies can't have the online conferences too far away in time from the in-person ones. Devon and Alex will take this back to their respective boards.

It would be handy to have usual conference dates for each society at a central place for everyone to see. This could be one of the documents to keep in a shared folder.

Website

ANZSI (the Australian society) has initiated the development of an international website. ICRIS already has a website, but the website that ANZSI is proposing will be more of an external one to showcase indexers worldwide.

Max gave his opinions, including concerns about the domain name and the focus seeming to be all about book indexes; that the filtering is by geography rather than specialty; and whether the target audience (seemingly editors?) is the right one.

These discussions will go to the website sub-committee of Ann Kingdom, Devon Thomas, and Madelon Nanninga.

International Dictionary

Caroline reported on behalf of Jochen that the dictionary now has 129 concepts, 1150 terms in 11 languages. The dictionary can still be found on JoAnne's website for now until technical issues are fixed: <https://dictionary.joanneburek.com/about-the-dictionary/>

Next Meeting, September 2025, Online and In Person

This will take place in Birmingham at the SI Conference 2025.