

Results 1998

Note: many of the links are no longer current.

The Australian Society of Indexers is proud to announce the winner of the 1998 Web Indexing Prize. Full details of entries are below.

Winner

(tol.editor@education.tas.gov.au)

State Library of Tasmania, Australia

Tasmania Online

<http://www.tas.gov.au>

Comments

Role:

Staff at Tasmania Online provide a comprehensive index to Tasmanian content on the Internet which requires that the professional staff at Tasmania Online identify and provide entry points for all relevant World Wide Web sites on the Tasmania Online listings.

Credits:

- Lloyd Sokvitne - manager - meta data and search engine
- Liz Holliday - editor - manual subject index and javascript for business
- Elizabeth Loudon - cataloguer

Purpose and Audience:

Tasmania Online is a geographical/State based index that provides access to all World Wide Web sites which either reside on a Tasmanian server, or which have substantial Tasmanian content or Tasmanian authorship. This includes government and non-government information. The intended audience is local, national and international, with specific options also provided for clients interested only in Government or only Education domain based information. The index promotes the use of the Internet within the community and provides an easy access point for a local and international audience to all aspects of life in Tasmania.

Techniques:

From only 200 Web pages at its inception, Tasmania Online now fully indexes over 1600 Web sites and 100,000 web pages. Individual sites are identified both through a process of active searching by Tasmania Online staff and by Web authors notifying the service about their Web site or page. Alphabetical and subject indexes are generated and maintained manually and a specific search engine that utilises Dublin Core metadata is also provided that runs off a seed file provided by Tasmania Online staff. The subject index provides access to 23 major categories of information. A further 483 sub categories are used. Sub-categories are created by the staff in response to new sites being added.

Hardware and software:

Tasmania Online operates on a DEC Alpha UNIX server running Apache WWW server software. The Tasmania Online index pages are static HTML pages, created using HTML text editing software.

The search engine is based on Microsoft Site Server 3.0 and is used to both gather and index Tasmanian Web sites.

Specialised metadata entry forms have been created by Tasmania Online staff for use with desktop text editors and a special set of macros has been written for use within Word.

Second

Marilyn Rowland on behalf of Janet Smith and Acxiom Corp. (marisol@marisol.com)

Marisol Productions (M.Rowland); Cross World Network (J.Smith); Acxiom Corp. (client)

East Falmouth, MA, USA

Case-in-POINT Index

Comments

Role

Marilyn Rowland became involved in the Index with Volume 4. Previous volumes (1-3) were prepared by another indexer. Janet Smith is the editor of Case-in-Point and oversees work on the index.

Purpose

Case-in-POINT is a print and online newsletter published six times a year by Acxiom Corporation (Conway, Arkansas) which serves as a reference center on information-based business solutions. The newsletter includes Newsletter Articles, Case Studies, and Reports which offer a wealth of ideas on the responsible, effective use of consumer and business data. The audience for the newsletter includes the wide range of organizations and businesses that use consumer and business data for marketing and research.

The on-line index serves the same purpose as a print index--providing the user with quick and easy access to key information, concepts, people, companies, and products and services discussed in the newsletter articles, reports, and case studies.

Several indexes are provided: a comprehensive subject index, a company index, and name index, and product/service index, and a main subject index.

An interesting feature of the index is its keywords links. At the end of every article is a link to keywords so that the user can see which subject-area index terms were used in the index.

The keywords list links back to the main index so that the user can readily search for other articles on the same topic.

Techniques

The index is created in Cindex by Marilyn Rowland, who checks them against existing terms in the index, and then submits terms to Janet Smith for terminology review.

Then, Marilyn converts the index into HTML format and inserts terms into the existing HTML pages. No Web indexing programs are currently used.

When Marilyn has finished updating the various indexes, she e-mails the updated HTML pages to the webmaster who uploads the pages to the site.

Software

CINDEX

Netscape Navigator Composer

IBM-compatible pentium computer running Windows 95

Further comments from Janet Smith <jsmith@crossworldnetwork.com> Cross World Network, Inc.

The Publication: Case-in-Point is a bimonthly newsletter devoted to the use and management of marketing information (i.e., customer and prospect data). It is circulated in print to roughly 3,000 senior marketing executives and CIOs in America's largest corporations, as well as to database and IT consultants. We also distribute it to about 1,000 top managers in major companies in the United Kingdom. And we make the full library of materials available on the Web at no charge. Our coverage ranges across all industries and across management, marketing, and technology topics, winning broad praise from readers. My firm, Cross World Network, publishes the newsletter for database services provider Acxiom Corporation, which underwrites it as a service to customers and others interested in innovative data-driven strategies.

Index: The purpose of the Index is to aid users in finding what they need in our extensive library of print and on-line materials. We have, since the publication's launch, published over 21 issues, alongwith 49 stand-alone case studies and 34 in-depth reports. Keeping a printed index up to date and useful for readers is simply too expensive a proposition. We prefer to send readers to the Web to use our on-line index.

Third

Peter Langmead (p.langmead@afc.gov.au)

Australian Film Commission

Sydney, Australia

Directory on Screen Network Australia

Comments

Role

Created Directory section in Screen Network Australia site. Identified appropriate sites from web searches and trade press and created database of sites. Developed descriptor scheme and directory structure to enable multiple paths to sites for different users groups.

Purpose

To provide gateway to sites for or about the Australian film and television industry and their audiences.

Hardware and Software

Filemaker Pro database on Macintosh server. Query interface programmed by Beyond Online who developed the site for Screen Network Australia.

Remaining Entrants in Order of Receipt

Bruce McLeod (brucemc@ausinfo.gov.au)

AUSINFO, Canberra, Australia

Others given credit for the indexes:

- SCALEplus - David Grainger, Manager of Electronic Legal Publishing, Attorney Generals Dept
- OSIRIS - Jeremy Gregson, Manager of Internet Publishing, AUSINFO
- Media - Jeremy Gregson, Manager of Internet Publishing, AUSINFO
- Fed Gov Search Engine - Jeremy Gregson, Manager of Internet Publishing, AUSINFO

4 indexes were entered:

Index 1: Australian Government Media Releases

URL: <http://fed.gov.au/medrel.htm>

Comments

Applicant's role in creating the index:

Wrote the system

Maintain the indexing and subscription lists

Purpose of the index and the audience:

To keep an index of Federal Media Releases including customisable subscription to receive daily emails

Audience:

- Journalists, special interest groups and the public

How the index was created:

- Maintained daily through a spider
- Software and Hardware used:
- Unix, Verify Search 97 & spider, Perl

Further notes

The basic operation of the Media Release service and the Fed Gov Search Engine are the same. We have hundreds of Federal Government web sites and, apart from the technology, the operation of them relies on a close knowledge of the Web Sites themselves and the ability to be partially assisted in the monitoring of them by programatic tools such as link checkers and customised software to monitor these sites once identified.

The Media system operates nightly and spiders "seed pages" which are defined anchor points within a Dept or Agency web site holding an index of Media Releases. The Spider then uses pattern matching of URLs to separate out the Media Releases from things like links back to the home page. New URLs are discovered as they are new to the index and marked as such.

These URLs make it on to a separate index which is run for subscribers to the media release service.

We currently have 700 subscribers to this service.

Major problems are-

- Although hard to believe many web sites do not even put a <title> tag on their releases and some that do simply put on "Release 20 of 1998".
- Keeping track of the constant change that is the Web.

Index 2: Commonwealth Government Search Engine

Applicant's role in creating the index:

- Wrote the system.
- Maintain the indexes
- Currently implementing meta searching

Purpose of the index and the audience:

- Index at Federal Government Web Site including html, pdf, rtf, .doc, .xls documents
- Dublin Core searchable
- Audience: Australian Public.

How the index was created:

- Use of spider in conjunction with scheduling scripts

Software and Hardware used:

- Unix, Solaris, Verity Search 97 & spider, perl

Further notes

As with Media Releases much of this work involves being on top of the quicksands of Federal Government Web Sites. We would receive about 5 new sites a week some by being told about them and others by examining new domain registrations or coming across them in our travels.

Also we have had trouble with some sites being off-line when spidering. The result had been that we run two indexes and selectively transfer from development into production based upon monitoring of the results.

Sites are grouped by portfolio so that searches on Portfolios can be done. We have also recently added the ability to search within a single web site.

This Wednesday we are seeking approval to put up a metasearch form using some new techniques for indexing Dublin Core metadata. The search form will be up on the site by the time your entries close. In this form each field of the AGLS (basically Dublin Core) will be a checkbox on a form and the results list has been formatted to display the metadata fields. Other than that there's not a lot to say. It is the most used of all our systems simply because of the huge amount of useable data which is more a reflection of the content publishers than us!

Index 4: OSIRIS

URL: <http://indrel.ausinfo.gov.au> (offline at 14/12/00)

Applicant's role in creating the index:

- Write the system.
 - Maintain the indexing
 - All upgrades except auto hyperlinking (Heart)

Purpose of the index and the audience:

- Searchable index of Australian Federal Industrial Awards and Agreements
- Audience: Legal, Union, Associations & public

Software and hardware used:

- Unix, Verity Search 97, perl

Further notes

OSIRIS is a totally automated indexing system set up using the majority of SCALEplus code. We receive rtf versions of Awards, Agreements and associated data from the Australian Industrial Registrar in Melbourne via FTP. Each night the data is indexed into the system and the resulting error message emails contain semi automated cgi hyperlinks to allow fast resolution to problems that the computer couldnt resolve.

The system is well used and well regarded however it is not a major soak of resources. It only has 5 databases.

The only major problem has been accuracy of electronic markup. As we do not have the staff that SCALEplus has the system attempts to split documents up by section in order to allow easier access over the Web. To partially address this a "top 100 Awards List" has been defined which covers 95% of the workforce. Any new data covering these Awards are alerted to staff via email and the integrity of the markup is checked and sometimes fixed.

We will not have our subscription service ready by the time your entries close however this will be our next upgrade to the service. The effect of this will be that professional organisations and unions (even individuals) will be able to get automatic notification when their pay and work conditions are varied. We expect this to be very popular.

Scott Brown (sbrown6@metz.une.edu.au)

Beenleigh, Qld, Australia

Convicts, Characters and Cads - the ancestors of Scott and Fiona Brown

<http://www.uq.net.au/~zzsbrown/family/> [link broken at 13/7/00]

Comments

Role:

Created the indexes and pages from, initially, a Gedcom database file. Sole creator and page maintainer

Purpose:

Genealogical data including Local Histories and biographies. 1000+ pages. Also includes comprehensive links pages aimed at Family historians and genealogists

Techniques:

The index was created from a Gedcom file initially using GedPage to create the individual pages. Advanced formatting and layout was done using MS FrontPad and hand coding. The index was created in the same manner.

Hardware and Software:

GedPage, MS FrontPad and a text editor on a 486DX4-100 running Windows 98.

Michael Geist (mgeist@uottawa.ca)

University of Ottawa Law School, Canada

The Canadian Internet Law Resource Page

<http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~geist/cilrp.html>

Comments

Role

sole creator

Purpose

Develop the first comprehensive guide to Canadian internet law. Designed for anyone interested in internet law.

Techniques

Hours of searching.

Hardware and Software

Claris Home page, Adobe Photoshop, Macintosh

Belinda Weaver (b.weaver@library.uq.edu.au)

University of Queensland Library, Australia

Guide to Internet information sources for Australian journalists

<http://www.uq.edu.au/~mlbweave/>

Comments

Applicant's role in creating the index

Sole creator

Purpose of the index and the audience

A subject guide to Internet sources of research and background information for Australian journalists and researchers. Useful for librarians, journalists or anyone researching Australian information, statistics and current affairs.

Techniques

As a journalism liaison librarian and Internet trainer, I created the pages using my existing bookmarks, and wrote the annotations for sites as a aid to users in finding the most appropriate sites.

Software and Hardware used

HomeSite Web editor on a Digital Pentium II

Joanne Hooper (johooper@netweavers.com.au)

Internet Weavers

Comments

Role

I am the designer and webmaster for the Australian Institute of Alpine Studies web site. I created the index, which we have we called a 'virtual library' (in the 'Resources' option).

Purpose

To bring together information for alpine researchers and those interested in alpine research in Australia and overseas. The index appears in the 'Resources' option on the navigational menu and is called the 'virtual library'.

Techniques

The index grew out of a recognised need that information about alpine research should be made available in one place. Also the sites were selected our members who have used them and believe that they have information of value to share; by searching for alpine using multi-search engine technology and then looking thoroughly through each site to make sure it was worthwhile added.

Software

The site was designed for a Netscape browser, using AOLPress. We have also utilised WebSeeker (multiple search engine technology).

Carolyn Harris (Tall_Trees@Bigpond.com)

Tall Trees Family History

Myaree Business Centre, Western Australia

http://www.users.bigpond.com/Tall_Trees/ [link broken at 13/7/00]

Comments

Role

I have researched names and addresses of others organizations that give help to the Genealogist. I have done all of the typing and layout.

Purpose

Index is to help other people researching their family history.

Techniques

The index was created using family history magazines, the internet and word of mouth.

Software

I used Microsoft Word and then sent all the files on to my Web Master to send in to Bigpond.

Cathy Dunn (cathyd@shoalhaven.net.au)

Milton, NSW, Australia

Milton Ulladulla History Site

<http://www.shoalhaven.net.au/~cathyd/>

Comments

Role

Researching/Indexing/publishing pages as part of the Milton Ulladulla History and Pioneer Records site

Purpose

Family Historians, Genealogists and Australia Historians. Giving assess to primary resources and records. Arts and humanaties students. The site was also by local high school students as part of their studies of the local heritage aspects of district.

Techniques

Research and indexed into database - work processor Then converted to html code.

Software

Works, Claris Page, Netscape, Pent Windows, Adobe Deluxe,

Grace Newhaven (gloria@cobweb.com.au)

Adelaide, South Australia

Bicycle Fish Adelaide

<http://www.cobweb.com.au/~gloria/index.html>

Comments

Role

did it all !

Purpose
bicycle users
Techniques
stored list of URL's derived from discussion groups

Judges

Dwight Walker
AusSI Web Indexing Prize Coordinator and WWWalker Web Development
Maureen Henninger, SILAS, UNSW
Kerry Webb, Australian Library and Information Association