

ANZSI Newsletter

Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.
Volume 7 | number 4 | June 2011

ANZSI News June 2011



Membership dues for 2011–12

The dues for 2011–12 will be:
Australian members \$80
New Zealand members A\$73
Renewals for most members are due 1 June 2011. If you joined ANZSI this year your membership will be up for renewal at the end of 2011.

Indexing societies membership dues comparison

To see how ANZSI's membership rates compared with our sister societies, Max McMaster decided to look at three important attributes associated with personal membership:

- basic membership rate
- is *The Indexer* sub included in the rate?
- is Indexers Available (or equivalent service) included?

Membership rates comparison

Society	Personal membership rate	<i>The Indexer</i> subscription	Indexers Available entry	Totals (A\$)
ASAIB	R120 (A\$17)	available via ASAIB	included	17
ANZSI	A\$75	£28 (A\$45)	included	120
ASI	US\$150 (A\$150)	£28 (A\$45)	US\$125 (A\$125)	320
ISC/SCI	CAN\$90 (A\$90)	included	CAN\$40 (A\$40)	130
SI	£100 (A\$160)	included	£20 (A\$32)	192

Each society currently publishes a newsletter which is part of their basic membership. The newsletters vary in physical size (number of pages), frequency, and the use of colour within their pages. The ASAIB produces two newsletters per year, ISC/SCI three, ASI and SI four, while ANZSI produces 11 per year. There are obvious cost implications, but these costs are 'hidden' within each society's basic membership fee structure, so they have not been considered in the overall comparison.

The results show a marked variation between societies in what personal members pay. Excluding ASAIB, where not all the data was available, you can see that ANZSI members currently pay the cheapest rates overall.

ANZSI Council considered offering subscription to *The Indexer* as part of membership dues, but the idea was rejected. I encourage members to subscribe to *The Indexer*, as it is your professional journal.

The Indexer June 2012

ANZSI will be the guest editor for the June 2012 issue of *The Indexer*. I am keen for it to reflect the diverse range of indexing done in Australia and New Zealand. If you have been involved with indexing something a bit unusual and are able to write it up, please consider doing so. Notes for contributors are available on *The Indexer* website at <www.theindexer.org>. Please let me know if you are interested.

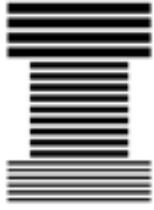
ANZSI Medal for 2011

Have you recently completed a particularly large or complex index? Are you proud of your work? Are you pleased with how the index was printed? If you are answering yes to these questions, why not enter for the ANZSI Medal? Applications close 31 July and details can be found at <www.anzsi.org/site/medal.asp>.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Daphne Lawless on gaining ANZSI registration.

Mary Russell



Australian and New Zealand
Society of Indexers Inc.

ANZSI Newsletter

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About the newsletter

The newsletter is published monthly 11 times a year, with combined issues for January and February. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the society. For details about contributions and editorial matters, refer to the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.

ANZSI contact information

Contact information (PDF) is available on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.



Indexing see Change 2011

Conference opportunities

Small group discussion leaders

Included in this year's Conference are a number of 45-minute small group discussions focusing on language indexing, subject indexing and areas of different indexing.

The Conference Committee would like to hear from you if you would be interested in leading one of these discussions, and you are invited to nominate a language, subject or different form of indexing. To see which areas have already been covered please see the Draft Conference Program at

<www.anzsi.org/site/2011confprog.asp>.

Administration Desk Assistant

The Conference Committee is offering a paid Assistant position for the three day duration of the Conference. Duties include assisting with on-site registrations as well as helping delegates with enquiries. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Nikki Davis at <bookindexing@gmail.com>.

ACT Region Branch

invites you to join us and our colleagues from the

Canberra Society of Editors

on Wednesday 29 June 2011,

6.00 for 6.30pm (refreshments provided).

Come along, meet and share experiences with your colleagues!

At the Emeritus Faculty, Building 3T

Fellows Lane Cottage (off Fellows Road), ANU

Email <eleanor.whelan@bigpond.com>

OR phone 0408 802 443 for location details.

See ANZSI website at

<www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=207>

THE INDEXER

The International Journal of Indexing

Published on behalf of the American, Australian and New Zealand, British, Canadian, Chinese, German Netherlands and African indexing societies

Carols, Poetry, Fictional characters, the indexing thereof
Saving time as an indexer
Indexer authorship
Irish and Welsh names – sorting them out

You'll find it all (and much more) in the June 2011 issue of *The Indexer*

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE NOW!

www.theindexer.org

twelve-monthly subscription rate for ANZSI members for 2011 only: £28.00

ANZSI and Branch events

Date and time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Sat 18 June (am and lunch)	NSW Branch	Book indexing (conclusion)	Thomson Reuters, 100 Harris St, Pyrmont	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=181 >
Thurs Fri 16–17 June	Qld Branch	Back of book indexing 1 & 2	TBA	\$250 per day for ANZSI members; \$300 others Instructor: Max McMaster. Laptop or PC required for Part 2. Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=199 >
Sat 18 June	Qld Branch	Macrex musings	TBA	Instructor: Max McMaster www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=201
Tues 28 June 6.00 for 7.00 pm	Qld Branch	General meeting – mystery speaker	The Salisbury Hotel, 668 Toohey Road, Salisbury, Brisbane	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=206 >
Wed 29 June 6.00 for 6.30 pm	ACT Region Branch	Meeting with Canberra Society of Editors	<i>See next column</i>	Meeting at Emeritus Faculty, Building 3T, Fellows Lane Cottage, ANU. Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=207 >
Wed 6 July 6.00 pm	Vic Branch	The VIC Same publication many indexers = ???	Kew Holy Trinity Anglican Church	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=204 >
Tues 26 July 6.00 for 7.00 pm start	Qld Branch	AGM	TBA	Speaker ANZSI President Mary Russell Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=194 >
Thurs 28 July 9.00 – 12.30 pm	Qld Branch	Embedded indexing	TBA	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=195 >
Thurs 28 July 1.30 – 5.00 pm	Qld Branch	Annual reports indexing	TBA	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=196 >
Fri 29 July 9.00 – 12.30 pm	Qld Branch	Database indexing	TBA	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=197 >
Fri 29 July 1.30 – 5.00 pm	Qld Branch	Thesaurus construction	TBA	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=198 >
Mon to Wed 12–14 Sept	ANZSI	ANZSI Conference	Brighton Savoy, Brighton, Vic	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/2011Conference.asp >

Indexing Indaba

Collaborative indexing



In the March 2011 (Vol 29, No 1) edition of *The Indexer*, Fred Leise explores the fascinating history of the index to the 1983 Bell & Hyman edition of *The diary of Samuel Pepys*. Co-edited by Robert Latham and William Matthews, this version

(which took almost three decades to finish) was the first to contain the complete text as well as commentaries on it.

While a major focus of Leise's article is on the construction of the index and the special techniques employed in it, it also brings to light the remarkable collaboration between its compilers, Robert Latham, the Pepys librarian at Magdalene College, Cambridge and his wife Rosalind (Linnet). Together they produced a 317 page volume of between 50,000 and 60,000 locators. If that is not staggering enough, the Lathams did not have any computer assistance and created the entire index on handwritten slips.

They received well-deserved recognition for their work which won the 1983 Wheatley medal, fitting as Leise notes because Henry B. Wheatley also enjoyed a connection with Pepys's diary. He was the editor of the 1893 Bell edition and like Latham produced an index which was published in 1899.

Robert Latham noted his wife's work in the acknowledgments to the Bell & Hyman index by writing:

'My wife Linnet has shared in the making of this Index. I laid down the ground plan, but she involved herself in every process of its construction. She read aloud the entire text of the diary while I took notes - discussing with me, as we went along, exactly what words might best introduce the successive groups of references, and thus converting what might have been a chore into a paper-game. At later stages she undertook innumerable investigations into detail, and checked from the text every reference in the typescript.'

Delving back into the April 1980 edition of *The Indexer* (Vol 12, No 1), a report can be found of an address given by Robert Latham to the Society of Indexers when the index was completed in 1979. (Perhaps like me you're curious about the lag between this date and the index's publication in 1983!) From this report, it is clear how much they enjoyed working together on their joint enterprise. Apparently some parts of the text were amusing to the point of hilarity and they sometimes disregarded rules of deadpan analysis resulting in, for example, a sequence of sub-entries under a heading for 'Mrs Bagwell', ending in 'her resistance collapses in ale-house'.

Registering significant trees

Significant tree registers are maintained by the National Trusts of Australia and are also a common feature of local governments. Nominations for trees are welcomed with consideration taken into factors such as outstanding aesthetic significance; outstanding dimensions in height, trunk circumference or canopy spread; age and venerability; genetic value; and links to cultural practices, historic events and famous people.

Plant ecologist and chairman of the National Trust of Victoria's Register of Significant Trees, Dr Greg Moore, believes that people generally underestimate the value of trees. But the recent launch of the Trust Trees iPhone app, has given him something to be optimistic about.

The app, which directs you to significant trees located across the state of Victoria, has almost 1200 entries. Dr Moore envisages that its usage is likely to see the database double in size as more people are prompted to report significant trees in their area.

(The *Saturday Age*, 16 April, 2011)

How dirty is your data?*

Greenpeace should perhaps be enlightened on the benefits of an index, but in the meantime, their recently released report *How dirty is your data?* makes for some thought-provoking reading. The report seeks to answer the question: As cloud technology disrupts our lives in many positive ways, are the companies that are changing everything failing to address their own growing environmental footprint?

Because of the disparate ways in which the term 'cloud' is used, the report defines it as energy and resources used broadly with online services. 'Cloud computing' refers to IT computing services for hire within the online ecosystem and in particular they have examined ten major IT brands - Akamai, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, HP, IBM, Microsoft, Twitter and Yahoo.

The report pays attention to telecommuting, an area that indexers can easily relate to. While some emissions are reduced by this way of working, the need for electronic and telecommunications networks to stay in touch has given rise to new energy demands. The nature of cloud computing is that digital consumption remains largely invisible to us and we probably hardly ever consider the amount or the type of energy used in the data centres or 'information factories' that are the backbone of the IT brands that we use daily.

It's a useful publication for those interested in the energy report cards on their IT brands or simply to read some of the mindboggling figures on digital consumption. For example, on a daily basis, Twitter sees half a million

(continued on next page)

(Indexing Indaba, continued from page 1)

new accounts created and generates 8 terabytes of data.

<www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/How-dirty-is-your-data/>

History of information

OK, so this does involve a lit bit of digital consumption but Jeremy Norman's website <www.historyofinformation.com/> is well worth a visit. It offers a truly astonishing

amount of information in chronological and thematic format on, you've guessed it, the history of information and the media from 2,500,000 BCE right up until the present.

Nikki Davis

News from Queensland Branch

Queensland Branch celebrated its third birthday on 24 May, which was just one month later than the actual foundation date of 28 April. It was great to network with old and new Branch members and industry friends who gathered, in the same venue as in 2008, to commemorate the formation of the Queensland Branch. Our first General Meeting after formation was honoured to have the then ANZSI Council President, John Simkin, as our first guest speaker.

Obtaining the use of a meeting room in the Salisbury Hotel for the price of dinner is a huge incentive for the Branch, so most members purchased dinner and drinks. We also enjoyed a very tasty chocolate birthday cake for supper.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Mei Yen Chua, one of the founding members of the Branch. Mei Yen Chua is a confessed foodie, author, poet and indexer of *Master Chef Australia – The Cookbook Volume 1*. She talked to us about her favourite kind of books, cookbooks, and gave us a dozen to look through.

Then we had a discussion on the finer points of what goes into indexing a cookbook. No food topic was left undiscussed. We participants were enthusiastically

encouraged to discuss the indexes in both Mei Yen's favourite cookbooks and others borrowed from the local library.

We learned what makes an index special and practical from a cook's viewpoint. On the flip side, Mei Yen also delved into what makes an unusable index, and there are plenty out there! Another aspect that interested Mei Yen was the multi-ethnic cookbooks – their formats and their indexes (often quite inadequate for the international market), leading the group to ever more vigorous discussion.

The lucky door prize of *The Indexing Companion* was won by a great supporter of the Queensland Branch, librarian and author Graham Potts.

We all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and offer our sincere thanks to Mei Yen Chua for her very informative and educational evening which helped make our third birthday celebration meeting such a pleasurable occasion.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 28 June – come along and network with an Indexer!

Moira Brown



At the party were (L to R): Franz Pinz (Treasurer), Mei Yen Chua, Cate Seymour-Jones, Moira Brown (Branch President), Graham Potts, Deirdre Kesteven, Rachael Harrison (Secretary).

Annual Report Challenge

The cycle of annual report indexing will be upon us shortly, and it is imperative that we have sufficient, qualified annual report indexers to keep up with the demand. Some indexers dismiss annual report indexing as not being ‘real indexing’, yet for our Canberra colleagues in particular, annual report indexing keeps them fully occupied for the best part of three months of the year – from August to October – so it is far from being inconsequential.

To put the size of the annual report market into perspective, according to the 2010 Australasian Reporting Awards (ARA), 205 organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand received either a gold, silver or bronze award for their annual report. These 205 organisations were spread across federal, state and local governments; statutory authorities, and the corporate world. Only 96 (47%) of these annual reports had an index! The number of organisations that submitted annual reports to the ARA, and which did not win an award, is not specified, and of course, the number of organisations that were not involved is similarly unknown. Even ignoring the very large number of shareholder companies, by my estimation, there are in excess of 950 federal, state and local government bodies and statutory authorities (museums, galleries, energy companies, health authorities, etc.) in Australia alone, and probably around another 100 in New Zealand. Assuming that an additional 100 annual reports, over and above the original 96 mentioned under the ARA, included an index, this would then equate to around 20% (approx. 200 of 1050) of the annual reports including indexes. This is a pretty poor effort!

The annual report is one of the principal means of communication for any organisation. Moreover, one of its major functions is to provide an organisation’s stakeholders with an overview of its business activities and finances. Still, many annual reports are difficult to navigate through. This is where the index comes in. The index can be seen as value-adding, thus enhancing the usability of the annual report.

Getting into annual report indexing is a good way of breaking into indexing. If you are serious about indexing, track down some annual reports covering your local area. Local government, water authorities, health authorities, energy authorities, etc. should all produce an annual report. Have a go at indexing one of last year’s annual reports, then make contact with the appropriate organisation, usually via their communications or PR manager, and show them what you can do to add value to their annual report. The beauty of indexing the previous year’s annual report is that most annual reports generally maintain a similar structure from one year to the next, so, in many instances, all you need to do is update names and page numbers.

If you are not sure whether your annual report indexing skills are up to scratch, the Annual Report Challenge organised by Vic Branch can help. You are asked to index one of two annual reports, and submit your index to <ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org> by 31 July. The Challenge is open to all ANZSI members, and you will receive written feedback on your index. Assessment of the index will be based on the Registration criteria. The cost is \$75.00. To register for the Challenge visit <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=205>.

Participants can choose either of the following annual reports:

Hobart City Council Annual Report 2009-2010

or

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Annual Report 2009/10.

They are both approximately 90 pages in length.

As mentioned above, there are approximately 1050 annual reports which could be indexed. Since we have some 200 plus members within ANZSI, that equates to approximately five annual reports each. So make sure you get your fair share, and get involved!

Max McMaster

Is or are your data dirty?

When the editor came across *Is your data dirty* in Nikki’s ‘Indexing Indaba’, his immediate reaction was to change *is* to *are*. While his red pen still hovered, he thought, ‘but we allow *the media is* – what are the latest rulings?’ So he looked. Sure enough, his first reaction was initially supported by the Oxford English Dictionary (2nd Ed. on CD-ROM (v. 4.0), OUP 2009), which begins its brief entry on **Data** with the flat statement, ‘pl. of datum, q.v.’

However, well down in the much longer entry on **Datum** he found, ‘Used in pl. form with sing. construction,’ for which one of the citations was ‘1965 J. Allan, *Speaking of Computers*: Incidentally, by general usage data is now accepted as a singular collective noun.’ So the red pen was laid down (on this occasion), and for any of you pedants out there who may have shared the editor’s doubts, the matter of *data* now seems laid to rest. As it has long been for the *media* ...

NSW Branch sponsorship for attendance at events of related professionals

This is a reminder that NSW Branch offers sponsorship for Branch members to attend meetings or events run by related professional groups. The upcoming Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) conference to be held in Sydney on 8 and 9 September is an eligible event. Because editors employ indexers, and have a huge influence on the work we do and the way we do it, getting together with a large group of editors should be a valuable networking experience. It is also important for ANZSI to have representation at these events. Details at <http://www.editorsnsw.com/conferenceregistration.htm>.

The Style Council conference on Saturday 10 September would also be an eligible event. It features a session on revision of the Australian Government Style Manual which could be important to indexers. Details at <http://www.editorsnsw.com/conferencestylecouncil.htm>.

Sponsorship is based on the cost of the event (or a proportion thereof), with an upper limit of \$100. An additional allocation of \$50 may be made for long-distance travel costs.

The deadline for the early bird discount for the IPEd conference was 28 May 2011. If you have already paid, you can still apply for sponsorship. Send details of your registration to NSW Branch Treasurer Sue Flaxman (sueflaxman@bigpond.com).

Members who receive funding are asked to write a report after the event, and to promote ANZSI and indexing during the event.

You can find more information at:
<www.anzsi.org/UserFiles/file/NSW%20event%20attendance%20sponsorship%202008.pdf>.

How others once saw us ...

"The preparation of the book has enabled an extended search, often of a very tedious nature, among old records, in consequence of so-called "indexes" being little better than caricatures. Indeed, in the old days, the least intelligent clerks would appear to have been selected for the important work of index-making. Certainly the art of indexing was then only imperfectly understood, and the idea was never grasped that the object of an index is to show at a glance whether the book contains information of the description sought."

J.H. Mayo: Medals and Decorations of the British Army and Navy. (Archibald Constable, Westminster, 1897.) Vol 1, Preface, p. ix.

From Alan Walker

When the back of the
book matters most.


for professional indexers

"CINDEX easily takes care of the time-consuming details freeing me to concentrate on the interesting bits."

Alan Walker - Honorary Life Member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, twice winner of the Society's medal for an outstanding index

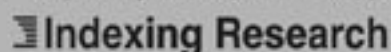


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Tips and hints – building your professional library

ASI publications

At The VIC ‘Show and tell’ meeting in April, a lot of interest was shown in my collection of American Society for Indexing publications. If you are in business, a professional library can be a tax deduction (obviously first check with your accountant), so why not develop it. What could it include? In this article I shall look at ASI publications.

American Society for Indexing publications

Their publications cover a wide range of topics. I have selected a few to give you an idea of the range available.

There are a few titles that assist in setting up a business. They are aimed at American indexers, but the advice is still relevant to Australian indexers. Titles include:

- *Starting an indexing business*
- *Running an indexing business*
- *Software for indexing*
- *Marketing your indexing services*

There is a selection of booklets on indexing specific subject fields, including:

- cookbooks
- genealogy
- history
- law
- medicine
- psychology
- web sites

A few of their publications include some specialised chapters. For example:

- *Indexing specialties: scholarly books* includes chapters on indexing music, law, political science, philosophy, economics, and foreign languages.
- *Index it right! Advice from the experts volume 1* has chapters on indexing art, biographies, computer manuals, encyclopaedias, gardening/horticulture, philosophy, theology and web sites.
- *Index it right! Advice from the experts volume 2* has chapters on databases, embedded techniques, locators, subheadings, taxonomies and thesauri, technical writing, textbooks and naval and military indexing.

One final title I will mention is *Indexing for editors and authors: a practical guide to understanding indexes*. This explains the basics of indexing. It covers what is an index, number and types of indexes, characteristics of a good index, index style and format, index length and index space, author/editor/indexer relations, hiring an indexer, what an editor needs to tell an indexer, editing an index without tears and electronic files. While all this advice is aimed at editors and authors, it is a good resource for indexers learning the trade.

All these publications and relevant chapters have been listed in the appropriate sections on the ANZSI website resources pages.

Don't forget that ANZSI members are entitled to the ASI members' price, thanks to the International Agreement between Societies. So build up your professional library!

Mary Russell

Income protection insurance

Income protection, or IP, may be something you need to consider if you set up as an indexer. Like all insurance there are several types, each with special conditions, wide range in prices and oodles of fine print. Where do you begin? Well thank goodness *Choice* magazine has written an article (May 2011, p. 25) that explains it all in simple terms. It is this article I have used as the basis for my article.

There are three types of IP insurance: agreed value, indemnity and policies provided through superannuation. According to the *Choice* article agreed value, ‘which will pay the agreed benefit regardless of your employment status at the time of claiming’ is a useful option for self-employed. These are the most expensive but ‘pays out the benefit agreed to reflect your salary at the start of your policy, and is not affected by any salary fluctuations’.

Indemnity value policies are more common and cheaper, but ‘verify your income at the time of making

a claim and may adjust your benefit accordingly’. This is an obvious problem if your work part-time or your salary fluctuates.

Policies provided through superannuation are the ‘cheapest, are indemnity based, and offer fewer features and less flexibility’.

All policies vary in cost, depending on age, gender (yes cover for women is often more expensive), health and pre-existing conditions and risk factors such as smoking and occupation. I won't go into stepped or level premiums or what happens once you are over 65. Instead I refer you to the website for examples of the types of premiums for the various types of insurance. <www.choice.com.au/reviews-and-tests/money/insurance/personal/income-protection-insurance.aspx>

Mary Russell

ACT visit to the Parliament House Library

On a crisp autumn evening, eight of us from the ACT Region Branch were locked into the foyer of Parliament House after the last visitor had left. We were met by the Director of Database Services, Gaik Khong, and taken backstage to begin our tour in the lending library and newspaper reading room on the ground floor. It is like a miniature public library, and includes non-fiction, magazines, travel guides, and even fiction for the parliamentarians to borrow.

From there we went upstairs to the main Parliamentary Library – a ‘square doughnut’ shape, with the Prime Minister’s courtyard in the centre. It is spacious and well lit, with beautifully crafted solid wood shelves. We saw the serials room with their compactus units, and the support area where bibliographic records compiled.

Within the Parliamentary Library there are two main sections: Information Access and Research. The Information Access section employs twelve indexers! Judy Hutchinson, Assistant Secretary of the Information Access Branch, and Grisoula Giopoulos, Deputy Director of Database Services, showed us how Information Access works. They build resources for the parliamentarians, fed into ParlInfo at <http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/search.w3p>.

Thousands of newspaper clippings coming in every day, via Media Monitors, have to be selected for relevance and archiving. They use an automated indexing tool, called LAST (Library Authoring System and Thesaurus). This scours the thousands of clippings, and uses artificial intelligence to rank each one, ending up with a much smaller list. Only around a quarter of clippings received are archived. The indexers’ main job is quality control – the first job every day is to scan through the clippings selected by LAST, correct any errors and ensure the metadata is correct. LAST learns from this feedback, so it should improve over time.

We were also introduced to the Parliamentary Thesaurus, – a hierarchical thesaurus, with around 43 head terms and 19,000 registered terms. It’s possible to drill down around eight levels when selecting terms. There are around 200,000 unregistered terms, introduced from another thesaurus – there is still a lot of work to be done in cleaning up the database.

We had a fascinating visit, and we thank Judy, Gaik, and Grisoula for taking the time to show us around.

Denise Sutherland

Same publication + many indexers = ???

Victorian Branch has organised its third communal indexing event, and to bring a sense of commercial indexing reality to the task, we are deliberately restricting the length of the index allowed. During previous events we discovered that not only did everyone produce a different index, but the length of the indexes varied greatly. So this time we want to consider the question ‘Given we are all indexing the same publication, should we end up with very different indexes?’

By restricting the length of the index to a maximum of 240 lines, you will be forced to consider the audience for the publication and hence consider your entries more carefully. We plan to write the process up and would appreciate your comments on the decisions you were forced to make in preparing your index. We will also produce a combined index based on the submitted entries, which will also be limited to 240 lines!

- The book to be indexed: *Discovering Portarlington’s History: A Driving Trail*, by Lorraine Stokes. Portarlington History Group, 2007, 84p.
- Index requirements: The index will be limited to a maximum of 240 lines (three pages in two columns of 40 lines each).
- Decisions made: Please keep notes on the decisions you made in preparing the index.

- Who can participate: Anyone can participate. If you are unable to attend The VIC meeting, send your index and notes to Nikki Davis and we shall ensure your index is displayed.
- Date due: The VIC meeting, Wednesday 6 July.
- Cost: \$15 for the booklet including postage. Orders through ANZSI website www.anzsi.org.
- Feedback: There will be no formal feedback provided, but each participant will receive a copy of the combined index, so you can compare your index with the final version.

If you are attending The VIC meeting on 6 July, please bring along a hard copy of your index for display, and be prepared to discuss it to compare with other indexers. Whether this is your first index or your 100th, we value your involvement. We all learn from these sessions. As mentioned earlier, if you are interstate or out of Melbourne, send your index along, and we shall ensure your index is given pride of place. Don’t forget to put your name on it!

Portarlington visit – join us on a visit to Portarlington during a weekend in October to look at some of the historic buildings mentioned in the booklet. Date to be finalised.

Mary Russell

The American Society of Indexing conference

Providence, Rhode Island, 28–30 April 2011

The theme of the ASI conference was ‘Providential Transformation’, which reflected not only the conference location (Providence) but changes in the publishing industry. Both keynote speakers focused on digital topics (ebooks and online dictionaries) and many of the seminars were about new indexing tools or techniques (dynamic indexing, taxonomies, cloud indexing).

The conference spanned four days, beginning on Wednesday afternoon with a table talk session with the ASI Digital Trends Taskforce, followed by an international representatives meeting in the evening (unfortunately, I was not scheduled to arrive in Providence until Thursday evening and so missed the international meeting). Optional workshops on Cindex, SKY, basic indexing principles, and taxonomy/thesaurus creation were offered on Thursday, and the conference proper kicked off that evening with chapter leaders/SIG leaders meetings, a new members/first-time attendees orientation and the welcome reception.

Friday and Saturday programs both started bright and early at 8.00 am with keynote speeches during breakfast. Thirty seminars were then packed into the two-day program, which often meant a choice of up to five sessions during any one time period. Seminars included topics as diverse as history indexing, Spanish language indexing, legal indexing, online help indexing, embedded indexing tools, work-family balance, ergonomics, and marketing. Lunch breaks included speeches from the Wilson Award winner and international updates. Friday finished with SIG meetings and the Wilson Award presentation. Saturday afternoon provided an optional trolley and walking tour of Providence. All in all, it was an exhausting but very informative conference!



Joshua Tallent of eBook Architects (www.ebookarchitects.com) was the first keynote speaker. Joshua noted that sales of ebooks are steadily increasing and enhanced ebook readers are coming on to the market, such as Nook Color and Kobo eReader. Ebook applications, such as Bluefire Reader and Adobe Digital Editions, are also available for personal computers or mobile

phones. Dynamic indexes are not included yet in many ebooks, but they will be needed as the range of material increases. In addition to his own conversion service, Joshua mentioned Sonar Bookends Activate, an automatic hypertext-link generator that can create links from an index in a PDF document. Joshua thinks that advocacy by indexers is important and that we should be actively campaigning for useful ebook indexes. I was interested to

learn that Harlequin romances are the best sellers in the ebook market – unfortunately, no indexes needed though!

Erin McKean, founder of Wordnik.com, was the second keynote speaker. She was previously editor in chief for American Dictionaries at Oxford University Press. She noted the limitations of the print medium and the unlimited space in the digital dictionary. Instead of having to write very specific, limited entries for a word,



which often don't capture all of the meanings or context, she can now create very complete, detailed entries that more accurately capture the ‘aboutness’ of a word and its actual use in the language. If you have not yet visited www.wordnik.com, you may want to take a look. The ‘Word of the Day’ feature is especially entertaining. I've learned a few new words there lately, including ‘catawampus’, ‘loppet’, and ‘tulipomania’ but haven't yet found a way to work them into conversation...

Many of the seminars reinforced the ‘brave new world’ concept for indexers. In his Cloud Indexing seminar, Seth Maislin urged us all to ‘think outside the book box’ and consider the many areas of the online world that we could be indexing. He suggests that in the future, the content of books will be fragmented as digital pieces that can be reassembled in various combinations and that indexers will be more important than ever, as readers struggle to find what they want in a growing world of information. The ebook roundtable (Joshua Tallent, Stephen Ingle, Jan Wright) also suggested that indexers could be in demand as ebooks offer a vast dynamic ‘body of knowledge’ that will present navigational challenges for readers. Indexers should perhaps think beyond the ‘static’ world of print and consider how their skills can apply to ebooks and the digital world in general. Again, we were urged to be advocates for indexing and to move beyond the ‘tyranny of the page’. Taxonomy was also a buzzword for the conference. The legal indexing panel (Chuck Knapp, Lori Murphy, Joanne Rhoton, Mary Wendt) told us how they have had to ‘be nimble and able to change’ as they transferred their indexing skill sets into taxonomy, using software such as MultiTes. Locator specificity was also discussed and indexing to the paragraph level or to section numbers was acceptable – again, moving beyond the very specific print medium.

There were approximately 160 delegates, almost entirely from the US. Three international representatives (ANZSI, SI, ISC/SCi) were in attendance. I spoke with several

(continued on next page)

(The ASI conference, continued from previous page)

ASI members who are planning to attend the ANZSI conference in Melbourne, which should provide more opportunity for collaboration between ASI and ANZSI. I am a dual Australian-American citizen, working in both countries, and I am always happy to see other indexers cross the Pacific!

ASI rotates its conference locations around the US. Providence was on the northeast coast, and the 2010 conference was in the Midwest, which means that next

year's conference will be on the west coast in San Diego, California (19-21 April 2012). If you are at all interested in attending an ASI conference, I would highly recommend the San Diego meeting. It is an easier trip from Australia or New Zealand to the west coast of the US, the weather in southern California is usually fantastic, and San Diego is a beautiful city. Hope to see you there!

Mary Coe, ANZSI Representative

Thinking about words: the disappearing adverb?

I am a great fan of Professor Kate Burridge, who always gives good value in her segment, 'Wise words', on the ABC TV program 'Can we help'. Even when the questions seem quite inconsequential she provides a scholarly response with a light touch. One such question recently was 'Why is the adverb disappearing from our language? The suffix '-ly' is not used by sports commentators these days.'

Kate began, 'In Modern English our adverbs usually have this -ly ending. When it's left off, it's usually condemned as "bad English" as in "Drive slow".' But she went on to examine the medieval origins of the adverb, where a simple 'e' on the end of the word could turn it from an adjective to an adverb: *glaed>glaede* (glad>gladly). The '-ly' was once a separate word *lic* meaning 'body' or 'shape'; it was added to a noun to make an adjective, and then an 'e' was added to make an adverb. Kate's example was *craeft*, meaning skill, then *craeftlic*, 'skilful', and so *craeftlice*, 'skilfully'. Later the '-e' was lost and the '-lic' was whittled down to 'ly'. But the -ly isn't always there, and the adverb without the -ly in 'Drive slow' has a long and respectable ancestry.

I wondered whether the occasional suffix '-like' was also involved in the '-ly' story. The Oxford dictionary considers that while these two suffixes resemble each other, they come from different origins: compare the Middle English adverb *gredilike* ('greedily') and modern Scots adjective *greedy-like* (with a hyphen). Other adjectival examples, such as *gentleman-like/gentlemanly*, point up the nuanced difference between the two forms.

The *lic* had me intrigued. In German the same word often does duty for both adjective and adverb: *gut* can serve for both 'good' and 'well'. Many adjectives (and hence adverbs) in German end in the suffix *-lich*, as in *freundlich*, *herzlich* (friendly, hearty) and looking back to the origin of this suffix we come to the noun *Leiche*, meaning a body or shape—just like that Old English *lic*—so that when added to a noun it has the meaning of 'in the form of'. The OED gives various spellings under its entry *lich*, including *lic* and *lych*, and like *Leiche*, the word *lich/lych* was once used to

mean a corpse. The lych gate of the church, at the entrance to the cemetery, is where the coffin was carried through to the grave site.

Just like the German, '-ly' could turn an English noun into an adjective—'scholarly, friendly, lovely'—but although many of these may look like adverbs they don't necessarily behave as adverbs and can be quite confusing. And how then do we form the correct adverb from a '-ly' adjective? Not by using 'scholarlily, friendlily, lovelily'! It has to be reworded, perhaps as 'he gave me a friendly handshake', not 'he shook my hand friendlily'. I have to admit that both the Oxford and Macquarie dictionaries admit 'friendlily' and even the MS Word spellchecker allows it, but I don't think it's something we should encourage! Many adjectives of time, like *daily*, *hourly*, *weekly*, *monthly* also serve as adverbs, compounding the problems for the hapless learner of English as a second language.

What about the very many adverbs in English that don't have a '-ly'? Pam Peters, in *The Cambridge Guide to English Usage*, lists five kinds of 'zero adverb': those that double as prepositions like *above*, *after*, *before*; negatives like *not*, *never*, *no*; some adverbs of time like *often*, *soon*, *then*; focusing adverbs like *also*, *even*, *only*; and modifying adverbs like *rather*, *quite*, *very*. Some can come with or without a '-ly', like *right*, *wrong*, *close*, *flat*, all of which may be used in different contexts with or without the '-ly'. Peters says that where there is a choice, the zero form tends to be the more colloquial and the '-ly' version the formal or academic. But she notes that in American writing the '-ly' form tends to predominate (they like 'rule-governed forms'), while in English it is the zero form.

So, to sum up, while it may not be the 'disappearing adverb', it is perhaps the diminishing '-ly'. And the younger generation of avid txtrs aiming to minimise keystrokes will doubtless tend to accelerate this process ...

Peter Judge

(Abridged from its first publication in *The Canberra Editor*, February 2010)

News from NZ Branch

The first orders are coming in from libraries for the New Zealand Branch's mentored indexes. These are indexes to books that were unindexed when first published. Most are 19th century books, but a couple (alas) are 21st century.

New indexers with ANZSI training compile the indexes through the Branch's mentoring scheme. They are offered to libraries with holdings of the books and are printed in A5 form with a light card cover and ISSN number.

The mentoring scheme and index publication do involve considerable work by several Branch members – particularly scheme coordinator Susan Brookes, mentor Tordis Flath and various committee members, two of

whom review each index before publication. However, we see it as worthwhile in giving real experience to new indexers. Copyright and income rights are held by the Branch, so there will be a small ongoing income for the Branch too.

The project also spreads the ANZSI profile among people in a related profession.

We have identified Australian libraries with holdings of the books and will soon approach them too.

We also tell libraries that professional indexers are available to carry out similar indexes on other books they hold, and point them to the ANZSI website.

Robin Briggs

Looking for ANZSI contact details?

These are now on our website at <www.anzsi.org>.

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