From the President

Browsing through an early issue of the *Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter*, May 1986, I came across an article extracted from the *IASC Bulletin* of December 1984, by Peter Greig, entitled 'So you want to index?'. One of the topics he discussed was 'Is there a career in indexing?' This is a topic that is just as relevant some 23 years after it was written. Peter, quoting Hans Wellisch (a significant ASI member) pointed out that we now have 'an exponentially growing number of databases, both in printed and in electronic form, that need thorough indexing and abstracting'.

ANZSI has a large number of database indexers among its members showing that there is a career in database indexing, but they by-and-large have been shabbily treated by the Society. Registration of back-of-the-book indexers has been a major responsibility of ANZSI (formerly AusSI) since the early 1980's or possibly earlier. The question of registration for database indexers has been talked about on a number of occasions within the Society over the years, but has always ended up in the too-hard basket. This situation was very analogous to the concept of mentoring, which until a few years ago was seen as being too difficult or impossible. Mentoring now is recognised as having a significant role in the development of indexers, and is highly regarded not only by trainee indexers and the Society, but by organisations outside of indexing. The Institute of Professional Editors (the national body for the various state Society of Editors in Australia) considered the ANZSI mentoring model as a template for developing a mentoring scheme for editors.

Database indexers comprise around 30-35% of the ANZSI membership and so are a significant body within our Society. At the 2007 ANZSI Indexers Conference around 50% of the papers presented were on database indexing-related topics, so therefore, the database indexers themselves see this as an important issue. Registration for database indexers would certainly be a step in the right direction, and would very likely increase the number of database indexers wanting to join the Society.

The question of how registration for database indexers could be achieved is obviously the thorny question and I don't have a magic wand to come up with the answers. However, with very experienced database indexers like Sandra Henderson, Sherrey Quinn, Lynn Farkas, Margaret Findlay and many others within the Society, the problem should not be insurmountable. Let's have some input and see what can be achieved.

The other side of the database indexing debate is who wants registration for database indexers? Is the registration only wanted by the database indexers themselves to provide some personal satisfaction (not a bad thing in itself) or is it wanted by the database developers?

To answer this question I asked Suzie Davies, from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the manager of the REEF database whether registration of database indexers is an important issue. Her reply was that when hiring database indexers it was important to know that the person had both the desired subject knowledge skills as well as having a recognised accredited standard and knowledge of the processes involved. Without registration (or accreditation) there was an increased risk that someone who was not qualified would do an unsatisfactory job. This particularly being the case, as most database indexing is done freelance with either electronic or hardcopy material away from the database producers' premises.

In many instances the database producer never physically meets the database indexer and relies on an electronic *cv*, and the results of their first batch of data entry. Having registration would provide a degree of reliability on the person you were employing.

Max McMaster, ANZSI President

WHAT'S INSIDE

Deadline for the September 2007 issue: 4 September.

ANZSI membership renewal reminder

Members are reminded that the ANZSI financial year is July–June so membership payments are now due. Those who have not renewed become unfinancial at the end of September.

We no longer send renewal notices by post. Instead we are directing you to the membership renewal form on the website at <www.aussi.org/membership/index.html>. This form can be downloaded, completed and returned with renewal payment to the Treasurer at the address indicated on the form. Only those members without email have been sent a printed renewal form.

If you have any questions about the renewal process please feel free to contact the Membership Secretary, Joanna McLachlan, at <memsec@aussi.org>.

Subscription to *The Indexer*

Arrangements for direct, on-line subscription to *The Indexer* are now in place, with a special introductory offer to ANZSI members of 5 issues (October 2007 – December 2008) for the price of 4: £26 (approx. A$62.00 or approx. NZ$69.00). To take advantage of this offer, subscriptions must be taken out by 15 September 2007. The subscription form can be found at *The Indexer* website, <www.theindexer.org> at 'subscriptions' and click on the 'ANZSI Subscription Offer' link.

Max McMaster

Newspaper and magazine indexing
Training course, 3 October

ANZSI Vic Branch will be conducting a newspaper and magazine indexing training course on Wednesday, 3 October 2007 at the Holmesglen Conference Centre.

This course is designed for indexers and library/information staff who are interested in learning how to index popular magazines and newspapers.

You will learn about what to index and what to leave out; the importance of photographs, drawings and cartoons, either as an adjunct to the text or in isolation; the role of subject headings; and the use of abstracts / summaries of newspaper items. You will set up a newspaper / magazine database.

For further details contact Max McMaster:

email: <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com> or

phone: 61+ 3 9500 8715.

ANZSI Victorian Branch

Walking and talking Melbourne's 20th century heritage
Thursday, 11 October

Starting and finishing point: corner of Nicholson Street and Albert Street, East Melbourne

Walkers should meet at 3.00 pm. in the foyer of the DSE Building – non-walkers should meet from 5.00 to 5.30 pm in the foyer. There are both short and longer versions of the walk, so depending upon the weather and our levels of fitness we can be either 'athletic' or lazy (heading for Mt Latte in the event of rain or weariness).

Check out the route at <www.heritage.vic.gov.au>, Walking Tour Map, and start training now!

The meeting will commence at 5.45 pm at Heritage Victoria on Level 7, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, when Joanne Boyd, Assessments Coordinator, will talk about the role and work of Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Register; how they store and categorise the information about the various places on the register, including those we have visited and gazed upon in the walking tour, and those we might view during our visit to Colac later in the year.

After the meeting we plan to have dinner together at a local restaurant.

RSVP by 8 October to:
Jenny Restarick tel. 03 9528 2539
Email: <cliffres@connexus.net.au>

Calendar of forthcoming activities

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Thurs, 30 Aug	NSW Soc Eds	Freelancers' lunch Details on p. 5	Exchange Hotels, Balmain	All ANZSI members invited
Tues.,11 Sep 6.00 pm	Vic Branch	DIY Index Mark II Details on p. 6	Kew Public Library	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Mon, 1 Oct 9.00 am – 4.45 pm	Vic Branch	Introductory indexing workshop	Holmesglen Conference Centre	Max McMaster <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
Tues, 2 Oct 9.00 am – 4.45 pm	Vic Branch	Intermediate indexing workshop	Holmesglen Conference Centre	Max McMaster <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
Wed, 3 Oct 9.00 am – 4.45 pm	Vic Branch	Newspaper / magazine indexing workshop	Holmesglen Conference Centre	Max McMaster <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
Thurs, 18 Oct 3.00 pm (walk) 5.30 pm (talk)	Vic Branch	Heritage walk and talk Details above	Heritage Victoria, East Melbourne	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Wed, 24 Oct 7.00 pm	ANZSI & Vic Branch	AGM Dinner	Elsternwick Club	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Mon, 29 Oct 6.00–9.00 pm	NSW Branch	AGM	Golden Cinnamon/ Cafe Kasturi, 767–69 George Street, Sydney	Lorraine Doyle <lorraine.doyle@thomson.com>
Fri, 16 Nov – Sun 18 Nov	Vic Branch	Visit to Colac and District		Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539

From the literature and other thoughts

Citations

In 'on name dropping' (*The Weekend Australian Review* 3–4 March 2007, p. 2), Michael Wilding wrote of an 'extraordinary publishing story' he had heard, in which a scholarly book was published without an index to cited authors. He recommends the inclusion of name indexes to books so that scholars' work will be ranked more highly due to inclusion in citation indexes (which he calls a 'bizarre phenomenon'), and so that colleagues and reviewers can find references to themselves. He notes that 'Much like the FTSE and the Hang Seng and Nasdaq stock market indexes, the citation index records market value'.

Alan Walker's reply was printed two weeks later (*The Weekend Australian Review* 17-18 March 2007), fittingly, during the ANZSI conference. He wrote:

Michael Wilding (Review, March 3-4) reports that a scholarly publisher refused to include the names of critics in an index. I know of two recent cases where respected Australian publishers deleted useful, detailed entries from indexes of biographies they published. Of course this didn't stop the reviewers from finding the information in the text; it only made it harder for them. But to me, as an indexer and reader, that defeats the whole purpose of a good index. Why do publishers make such decisions? Do publishers want something that looks like an index but is really a cheap relation? Or are they afraid that they'll index and be damned?

Alan Walker, Potts Point

I recently received an email message from Jane Greenberg, who was pleased to have been cited in an article I wrote on faceted classification at <www.webindexing.biz/articles/FacetedClassification.htm>. She was mentioned not as an author in the field, however, but as an example of a value in a facet in the online proceedings of the DC-2002 Dublin Core conference (no longer on the web). She is, however, also an author, and has recently edited a book with Eva Mendez about the link between librarians/indexers/information organisers and the semantic web:

<www.catalogingandclassificationquarterly.com/ccq43nr3-4.html>.

I have also just noticed that the example of a wiki index, IAwiki, <iawiki.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?action=index>. we used in *Website Indexing* includes the name 'Mark Bernstein': I met Mark at the ozIA06 conference in Sydney last year.

Even if you don't browse citation indexes, there are always colleagues with eagle eyes to find the odd mention… Thanks to Dwight Walker for letting us know that *Website indexing* (Auslib Press, <www.webindexing.biz>) had been quoted on the IBM DeveloperWorks website. It took us the best part of half an hour to get logged on for free access to the site. The bit that was cited was our definition of 'ontology' – interesting, because this is not our special area of expertise. The concept is defined in so many ways, however, that perhaps it needed an outsider's view to digest the conflicting definitions and bring out the core concepts.

Glenda Browne

Write a letter!

In recent issues of the newsletter we have published a couple of letters from ANZSI members who felt strongly about some aspects of the Society and wanted an opportunity to make their views known. This is great. It is your newsletter and you should be able to use it for constructive comment about your professional Society – both praise and criticism, where you believe that these are justified.

But why don't more of you do this? Is it that you are completely satisfied with everthing that is happening within ANZSI and its Branches? Or do you feel that anything you say will have no effect? Or is it that you just don't care? When you joined ANZSI – or AUSSI – you must have had expectations about what professional and personal benefits you might obtain from it. Have these been realised?

Write and tell us!

If you write, it will help to ensure that you get your letter into the next issue if you keep the length below 250 words. Check the publication deadlines, and make sure you are in good time. If you are paying compliments, give enough of your reasons to ensure that your readers will understand *who* is the lucky target and *what* they have done that is so special. If you have a grumble, say *why* and *how* as well as *what*.

But, do it!

Editor

Filing prepositions and conjunctions in subheadings
ANZSI conference example extended

In the June 2007 issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter* (pp.4-5), Mary Russell reported on the book indexing birds-of-a-feather session, in which Max McMaster had presented the group with two alternative approaches to filing an index extract in which a number of subheadings started with 'and'. In Version 1 'and' was ignored in filing, while in Version 2 it was taken into account.

Mary reported: "Version 1 was the most popular method of filing…Several people suggested leaving 'and' out. This would solve the filing problem, and 'and' was not necessary as the entries are pointers to appropriate page numbers. Others disagreed and said 'and' linked two nouns together…"

Last month I spoke about indexing at a meeting of the NSW Society of Editors, and took the opportunity to expand this example to include (see the top table) the suggested approach of

Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
growth	growth	growth
effect of deprivation	and mental retardation	effect of deprivation on
emotional	and puberty	emotional
intellectual	and reading	intellectual
and mental retardation	and walking	mental retardation and
and puberty	and writing	puberty and
and reading	effect of deprivation	reading and
reflexes and	emotional	reflexes and
retarded	intellectual	retarded
sex differences in	reflexes and	sex differences in
social	retarded	social
species differences in	sex differences in	species differences in
spurt in	social	spurts in
and walking	species differences in	walking and
and writing	spurt in	writing and

Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
storage	storage	storage
in bathrooms	in bathrooms	bathrooms
in bedrooms	in bedrooms	bedrooms
of disks and tapes	in home offices	disks and tapes
in home offices	in kitchens	home offices
in kitchens	in living areas	kitchens
in living areas	in small areas	living areas
in small areas	of disks and tapes	small areas
under stairs	of wine	under stairs
on walls	of wood for fires	walls
of wine	on walls	wine
of wood for fires	under stairs	wood for fires

In indexing classes that I teach I present the students with an index excerpt that has been structured and filed in these three ways.

In this second example (the lower table), the entries contain prepositions rather than 'and', and the prepositions are deleted rather than inverted in Version 3. The preference for Version 3 is less marked when using this sample, although it is usually still the preferred version, followed by Version 2. The prepositions provide more meaningful groupings than 'and' does, thus providing advantages to both Versions 2 and 3.

I had been using this example for a few years before I noticed that I had one remaining preposition in Version 3. Some students think we should be consistent and use 'stairs' as the subheading, a few suggest using 'stairs, under', but many think that the subheading 'under stairs' is necessary to remove confusion.

leaving 'and' out (although I inverted 'and', rather than omitting it). While people's preferences don't directly relate to best practice, they can give us insight into user's attitudes to index features. The editors much preferred Version 3.

Glenda Browne

Freelancers' lunch in Sydney

The next Society of Editors' freelancers' lunch will be held upstairs at the Exchange Hotel, corner of Beattie and Mullens streets, Balmain, at noon on Thursday, 30 August. Mains cost about $10 to $14.

Buses to Balmain leave stand B, behind the QVB, every 10 to 15 minutes. Hop on a 441 or 442 then alight outside the hotel. The invitation to lunch is cordially extended to indexers and other freelancers who work in the publishing industry. There is no need to RSVP. See you there!

Glenda

DIY mark II - stage 2

Do we all index the same way? Of course not, so come along and prove it! The Victorian Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) is planning a Mark II 2007 version of the very successful 'Do It Yourself' indexing project that we held in 2004, which we encourage you to participate in, either as DIY indexers or commentators.

The plan is for interested people to all index the same publication which currently lacks an index, and then to hold a meeting where we can compare our finished indexes and hopefully learn from, or further train ourselves, in the noble art of indexing. This is a great opportunity for anyone keen on having a try, as you can come along and see the many submitted entries displayed on the walls and hear comments and constructive advice from our most experienced members

The publication we are planning to use for our second exercise is *The historic homes of Colac and district*, produced by members of the Colac and District Historical Society (CDHS) in 2006. At only 60 pages this is not a huge task, and indexers may complete a full or a partial index. Holdings for this title can be found in the online catalogues of the National Library of Australia or our State Library of Victoria.

We have obtained a batch of copies from the CDHS, which can be purchased from ANZSI for the cost of $10.00 each. Please send cheques or money orders to the Vic Branch address at our new PO Box 1006, Caulfield North, Vic. 3161.

A meeting to compare the submitted indexes will be held on 11 September at the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, corner of Cotham Rd and Civic Drive, Kew from 6.00 pm. As is our usual practice, all those attending are invited to share dinner at a medium-priced nearby restaurant.

Following this meeting, we shall compile a homogenous 'best effort' index to the publication which we shall present to the CDHS on Saturday, 17 November.

As some of the properties listed in the booklet have been turned into B&B accommodation, we are planning to make our trip to Colac a 2–3 day event, staying 1 or 2 nights at one of the gracious old homes or in cabins in caravan and camping parks and visiting as many of the other attractions in the Colac and Birregurra district as we can fit in over the duration of our stay. More details on that to follow, but keep the weekend of Friday 16 – Sunday 18 November free for this exciting outing. Day trippers will be very welcome, particularly for the Saturday afternoon tea get-together with our Colac colleagues for the formal handing over of the combined Index.

For further details or expressions of interest in attending, please contact :

Jenny Restarick

Tel. 03 9528 2539

Email: <cliffres@connexus.net.au>

Jenny Restarick

Indexers celebrate their new image

It's official – the Society of Indexers now exists! The Society was established in 1957 to raise awareness of–indexing and promote improved standards in all forms of indexing. It has just celebrated its 50th birthday with a splendid conference, 'Golden Retrievers', at Roehampton University in London, and is now a company limited by guarantee.

This 'rebirth' of the Society also coincided with the unveiling of a new logo. 'There was a lot of affection for our old logo', said Ann Kingdom, the SI's marketing director. 'But in the twenty-first century we felt it was high time to jettison the rather old-fashioned image created by those quill pens. We've gone for a simple typographic design, emphasizing the word 'indexers' and featuring a strapline ('information from A to Z'). We wanted to highlight the fact that indexers are basically in the business of making it easy to access information in whatever form it happens to be. And we hope that the strapline will also subliminally help to conjure up the idea of an index with its typical A to Z format.'

Further information about the Society can be found on its website, <www.indexers.org.uk>.

Vale Robert Hyslop, 1918–2007

Robert Hyslop was born in New South Wales in 1918. He grew up in Kurri Kurri, a mining town, spending holidays at his mother's family vineyard in the Hunter Valley. His family and community gave him a strong belief in the value of education and an appreciation of literature, art and music. He attended Maitland Boys High School from 1931 to 1935.

He joined the Commonwealth Public Service in the Department of Defence (Naval) in Sydney in 1936, then moved to Melbourne in 1941, continuing his long association with the Navy Department. He married Dorothy Fleming in 1946 and lived in Upper Fern Tree Gully at the foot of the Dandenong Ranges, where his two daughters, Gabrielle and Deirdre, were born.

The family spent 1958 in England where Robert attended the Joint Services Staff College before spending several months at the Admiralty. Back in Australia, the Hyslops moved to Canberra in 1959 and Robert was appointed Assistant Secretary, Department of the Navy.

He was a Public Service Fellow at the Australian National University (ANU) in 1968–69 and wrote his first book, *Australian naval administration 1900–1939* (1973). From 1970 to 1974 he was Deputy Secretary-General of the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) in Bangkok and he later served as Secretary of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, 1974–76. He concluded his career heading the Honours Secretariat in the Department of the Special Minister of State, retiring in 1981.

After his retirement he graduated with a Diploma of Art from the Canberra School of Art, majoring in sculpture. A Visiting Fellowship in the Department of Political Science, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU (1987–92) resulted in *Aye aye, Minister: Australian naval administration 1939–59* (1990), the sequel to his first book. Other books include *Dear you: a guide to forms of address* (1991); *Australian mandarins: perceptions of the role of departmental secretaries* (1994); *First encounter: communicating with institutions and organisations* (1994); and *A very civil servant: an Australian memoir* (1998). He has also published 17 articles, 14 entries for the *Australian dictionary of biography*, 43 book reviews for the *Canberra Historical Journal* and other periodicals, and 21 oral history interviews for the National Library and War Memorial.

He was a founder member of the Canberra Society of Editors and also a member of AusSI, now ANZSI, both of which he joined in 1992, working as a consultant editor and indexer. Robert served as a valued member of the AusSI National Committee 2002–04, and was equally valued as a member of the ACT Region Branch Committee 1993–2004. He was also a member of the AusSI Registration Panel 1999–2004. He passed away peacefully at the Canberra Hospital on 5 July.

ANZSI offers its sincere condolences to the family, who kindly prepared these biographical notes and provided the photograph. The list of Robert's publications is reproduced with permission from the National Library's website.

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