ANZSI News

ISC/SCI Conference, 30 May – 1 June

The Indexing Society of Canada/ Société canadienne d'indexation Conference was held at the University of Ottawa, or uOttawa, as it is known by the locals. The University, which has some delightful buildings, is only a short distance from the centre of the city, and sits next to the Rideau Canal, which runs for 202 km between Ottawa and Lake Ontario.

Although the principal reason for being in Ottawa was the conference, I could not resist the opportunity to visit a couple of the major galleries and museums while I was there. I went to the Van Gogh exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada, and visited the Musée Canadien des Civilisations in Gatineau (which is in Quebec Province, on the other side of the Ottawa River from Ottawa). Both were superb.

ICRIS

After reluctantly dragging myself away from the museum, I attended the ICRIS meeting, which was held late on Wednesday afternoon. The two major topics were an update on the International Digital Publishing Forum, and further development of the 'Terms of Reference' for the operation of ICRIS, which was initiated at the ICRIS meeting in San Diego in April.

These and other topics are listed for discussion at the Triennial Meeting of ICRIS being held prior to the SI Conference in Brighton, UK, in mid-July. Mary Russell is attending as ANZSI's representative. Serious talk about indexing and many other topics occurred that evening when around 25 attendees met for dinner at a local restaurant.

Jan Wright

The official conference began next morning with an outstanding keynote address given by Jan Wright, on 'Indexing in ebooks and eContent'. Jan explored the current ebook search strategies, pointing out some of their limitations, as well as considering what readers really would like from ebooks in terms of search behaviours and cognitive mapping. She then discussed how some of the developing multiple navigation methods could be used to meet reader's expectations, and how EPUB 3.0 fitted into the mix.

Names

Noeline Bridge provided an insight into the indexing of names, covering a very diverse range of name issues, many hopefully I will not have to consider. However, if I do, I shall definitely refer to her new book *Indexing Names,* published by ASI, which was launched for a second time (the first time was in San Diego) on the Thursday evening during the conference dinner.
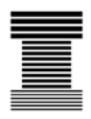
Image Indexing

There were two excellent sessions on image indexing. The first session on building a bilingual taxonomy (French and English) for ordinary images indexing (photos) was presented by Elaine Ménard. We think developing a thesaurus in one language is hard enough, but developing a thesaurus in two languages is infinitely harder, as in many instances there is no "exact" synonym between French and English, so compromises must be made.

In the second session, Katherine Kasirer, from the National Film Board (of Canada), spent most of her time discussing the indexing of some 2500 digitised film titles listed in their online catalogue. Films were classified into a number of broad subject categories. Educational titles were further subdivided using curriculum-based subject headings, and could be filtered by age level as well.

ASI's Digital Trends Task Force (DTTF)

Dave Ream and Jan Wright gave two presentations relating to ebooks. The first outlined the activities of the DTTF, while the second looked at the progress made by the International Digital Publishing Forum's EPUB Indexes Working Group, of which Glenda Browne and Mary Russell are also active members. Most of the

**Australian and New Zealand
Society of Indexers Inc.**

ANZSI Newsletter

Editor: Peter Judge
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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>.

Advertising rates

Full page: $200.00
Half page $100.00
Quarter page: $50.00.
These are all per issue – the former annual rate has been discontinued.

ANZSI contact information

ANZSI's general email address is:
    <ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org>.

    Further contact details in PDF format are available on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.

NSW Branch
Introductory Book Indexing course
Sydney 7–8 July

You can find details about course content and payment methods at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=256>

Indexing Courses in Adelaide

6 August   Basic Indexing Part I
7 August   Basic Indexing Part II
8 August   Web Indexing and Metadata Course

Max McMaster is the instructor for Basic Indexing Parts I and II, and Glenda Browne for Web Indexing and Metadata.

    More details are available on the ANZSI web site at
                <www.anzsi.org/site/dates.asp>.

As there is no South Australian Branch of ANZSI, the courses are being run by the ANZSI Council.

    Applications with payment must be received by 27 July.
    Contact: Jane Oliver, email: <janeoliver@ozemail.com.au>

NSW Branch: AGM
Thursday 23 August 2012
6.30 pm (meeting); 7.00 pm (dinner)

Golden Cinnamon restaurant, first floor,
above Cafe Kasturi, 767–69 George Street, Broadway
(about a block downhill from Central Station).
Cost: $30 per head banquet menu. Drinks supplied.
RSVP by Thursday 20 August to Frances Paterson at
<olivegroveindexing@bigpond.com> or telephone (02) 4274 2600.

We will be electing President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members for the year.

    Details are on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=272> and an online version of the nomination form is available by clicking the link on that page.

    The NSW Branch Committee meets by teleconference once a month so if you would like to join the Committee from wherever you live, all you need is a telephone to overcome the tyranny of distance. New members will be very welcome.

NSW and ACT Branches
**invite members to participate in a weekend regional conference
on Saturday and Sunday 28–29 July at Peppers Craigieburn Bowral**

From pbooks to ebooks:
focussing on digital publishing

There will be no cost to members to attend this regional conference except for accommodation should members decide to stay at the conference venue. Accommodation has been reserved for single and twin/double rooms at $179 and $208 per room per night. Details of registering for accommodation together with the complete program are available on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=253>

    Please send expressions of interest if you wish to attend this conference to Sherrey Quinn at
            <sherreyquinn@gmail.com>

activities have been reported previously in the *ANZSI Newsletter* so I won't repeat them here. In the final session the delegates had the opportunity to 'play' with a number of e-readers – Kindles, Nooks and Kobos – definitely a lot of fun.

New Thesaurus Standard – ISO25964:2011

Michèle Hudon, from the University of Montreal, gave an amazing presentation on the development of ISO25964 – Information and documentation – Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies. The Standard gives recommendations for the development and maintenance of thesauri intended for information retrieval applications. Irrespective of the media used, it is applicable to vocabularies used for retrieving information about all types of information resources (text, sound, still or moving image, physical object or multimedia), including knowledge bases and portals, bibliographic databases, text, museum or multimedia collections, and the items within them. Considering how dry a topic it could have been, her handling of it was outstanding.

Other sessions

Cheryl Landes gave an interesting presentation on the future of indexing. Although she sees tablets and smartphones coming to the fore, with less usage of e-readers, she believes that print books will not die, and this view has been confirmed by a number of recent surveys showing increased sales of print books. The second part of her presentation covered career opportunities for indexers.

I was involved in two sessions at the conference. In the first instance I presented a paper called the 'Re-indexing Dilemma', which analysed the issues associated with re-indexing; in particular, deciding whether it is easier to reuse an existing index when preparing an index to a subsequent edition of a text, or just starting from scratch. I also covered indexing of simultaneously produced bilingual documents; converting texts created for one country for use in another; and finally, indexing of government annual reports, and the desirability of reusing the previous year's index.

In my second session I joined Ruth Pincoe (moderator), Christine Jacobs (ISC) and Jan Wright on a panel to provide input to ISC/SCI's deliberations into establishing an indexing award, along similar lines to those currently within ANZSI, ASI and SI.

Jan Wright talked about her Wilson Award winning entry, I gave an overview of the ANZSI Medal process, from both the Medal panellists' and winners' perspectives, and Christine Jacobs gave an overview of ISC/SCI's award deliberations to the present time. Christine indicated that they hoped to have their award bedded down by the time of next year's conference.

There were over 50 delegates at the conference, which made it one of ISC's most successful, as well as being very enjoyable. Planning is underway for the 2013 ISC/SCI conference and preliminary indications are that the conference will be in Halifax. The Canadians are very friendly, so if you get the opportunity to visit their shores, I strongly recommend you do so.

ANZSI Medal

You will have noticed in the June 2012 issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter* the call for nominations for this year's ANZSI Medal. You may think that you need to have indexed some multi-volume tome, or that it has to be on an erudite subject incomprehensible to all but a few academics, but that is not the case. Many winners have submitted indexes to tertiary texts, biographies, histories and letters, so there is plenty of opportunity.

Don't be afraid to nominate your own index! You may be pleasantly surprised to have your name announced as this year's Medal winner. Also, have a browse around your local bookshop. If you find an Australian or New Zealand title with an index, which looks as though it could be a Medal contender, complete the nomination form on the ANZSI website and send it to Alan Walker, Chairman of the Awards Committee. Closing date for nominations is 31 August, 2012.

Max McMaster

The VIC meetings

There will not be a VIC meeting on the first Wednesday of August – instead there will be 'An afternoon with Frances Lennie'. Come along to meet Frances on Saturday 25 August at 2.00 pm in the Seminar Room, State Library of Victoria Conference Centre. Full details are already on the web site at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=258>. Bookings are required to enable us to cater for the afternoon.

The October meeting of The VIC has also been set. Details are as follows: Visit to the ARRB Group (formerly the Australian Road Research Board). The time will be 11.00 am – 12.30 pm on Wednesday 3 October at ARRB, 500 Burwood Highway, Vermont South. Details are on the web site at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=260>. Bookings are required for this visit too.

Ray Price

ACT Region Branch, *Indexing Annual Reports workshop*

Michael Harrington led the workshop, which focused on indexing Commonwealth government annual reports, although the principles apply also to reports from other tiers of government. A basic knowledge of indexing was assumed.

Michael took participants through the 2011 version of *Requirements for annual reports* for departments, executive agencies and FMA Act bodies (published by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at <www.dpmc.gov.au/guidelines/index.cfm>). Indexes are compulsory in the annual reports for such bodies. The 2012 version of the *Requirements* is expected to become available during July.

In the first session the group worked through the *Requirements*, with Michael explaining sections of an annual report which should be indexed, and identifying terminology from the *Requirements* which would form index headings. He illustrated his remarks with examples from previous annual reports. Reference was also made to the provisions of the *Style Manual* (6th ed, Wiley, 2002), for guidance on format and presentation of locators, locator ranges, and related editorial matters.

Traps for the indexer, which may make the work take longer, include poor layout of the annual report, incorrect spelling and late changes. A well-edited report is much easier and more pleasant to index. After lunch discussion focused on quoting, contracts and work practices. The eight participants in this useful session included indexers new to annual reports, and experienced indexers who enjoyed a 'refresher'.

Sherrey Quinn

IDPF EPUB Indexes Working Group update
Glenda Browne's report for July 2012.

This is a follow-on from my initial report on the IDPF EPUB Indexes Working Group published in the May 2012 issue of this newsletter. The group is now meeting by telephone weekly (rather than fortnightly) so that we can make decisions more quickly. Email discussions continue throughout the week.

Terminology

The main task in the last few weeks has been to finalise definitions of concepts that will be needed when the specification is written. There have been a few challenges in this process, including deciding what terms have to be included. For example, we added the terms 'child', 'parent' and 'level', but later it was agreed that definitions were not needed for these terms as 'everybody knows what they mean'.

Other terms were excluded on the grounds that the software will be able to work out these components, eg, no term is thought to be needed for 'subentry' as the software will just look for a term at the second level of the index. The list of agreed definitions is at <https://code.google.com/p/epub-revision/wiki/IndexesTerminology>.

When deciding these questions, we have to remember that EPUB is a facilitator, and that decisions about the content that is provided and the way it will be displayed depend on publishers and ebook reader device manufacturers, and ultimately on users. The focus of EPUB is defining the coding that will allow people to achieve the goals the Working Group has decided to pursue. The definition of terms therefore focuses on the parts of an index that will be encoded, rather than necessarily on the parts of an index we consider during the creation process, or the parts of an index that are important in display.

Use Case prioritisation

The current task of the Working Group is setting the priorities for features of the four Use Cases that were presented in the Charter. The Work in Progress is at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Aq6qpIrc9ksVdE9jZzhEV25pelNZQnNRZDZ2cnJ5NVE#gid=0>. We have shared emails visualising how these different Use Cases would work, and have set priorities for the Chapter-like index. There is fairly strong consensus among Working Group members about the priority areas thus far.

Other ebook indexing news

InDesign unfortunately strips out embedded indexing tags when it exports content in EPUB format. This has not been fixed in the latest version, but there is a workaround by Ole Kvern, made available by Jan Wright, which indexers should be aware of. The scripts, information about how to use them, and documentation are at <http://www.wrightinformation.com/Indesign%20scripts/Indesignscripts.html>.

Mary Harper (ASI DTTF member) has started a YahooGroup mailing list for the discussion of issues to do with indexing in InDesign. Details at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/indesignindexing/>.

Sanet le Roux (an ASAIB member) is editing a new column in *The Indexer* called 'Around the Digital World'. This column will gather news related to ebook indexing.

This international cooperation, and involvement with groups outside the indexing community, makes it a very interesting time to be an indexer.

Glenda Browne

The VIC – An introduction to philatelic indexing

Annual worldwide stamp catalogues are produced by just two publishers, Scott Publishing Co in USA and Stanley Gibbons Ltd in UK. The 2012 catalogues come in 6 large volumes, 9,000 letter size pages for Scott and 6,500 A4 pages for Gibbons. Both have just announced applications for the iPhone and Scott experimented with DVD versions several years ago. Gibbons also offer a crippled free version of their catalogue at <www.allworldstamps.com> and subscriptions for an online version cost £29.95.

Both catalogues are arranged in alphabetical order by the English country name, and the country listings are mostly in chronological by date of issue. This sounds simple, but countries ...

- change their names, e.g. Rhodesia to Zimbabwe,
- fragment themselves, e.g. Yugoslavia to Serbia, Bosnia, Slovenia and Croatia,
- combine with others, e.g. the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah combined to form Malaysia.

Brief political notes and cross-references are usually used to resolve these difficulties for users.

There are more serious problems with identifying the country of origin of a stamp. How do you cater for all national languages and scripts? Middle Eastern and Asian countries often issue stamps without any Latin script. The Scott catalogues have design indexes which show typical examples of stamps with no obvious country name because of the script used e.g. Cyrillic, Arabic, Greek, Hindi.

Within the chronological listings, only one stamp in each set is shown for more recent issues to save space. Finding a stamp in these catalogues requires the date of publication and identification of design and perhaps colour and value. Descriptions of designs and stamp colours are inconsistent, a major problem in location of stamps in the listings. While electronic formats claim that they offer 'full text searching' they appear to be reproductions of the print versions. Inconsistent use of accents such as the umlaut, the cedilla, and acute and grave accents means that searching is not a simple matter. Scott uses hard hyphens in descriptions to make full use of columns and they are also present in their CD files. A word with a hard hyphen cannot be found by electronically searching for the word e.g. search for a Tanzania stamp with the inscription 'Growth monitoring' gives a nil result because the word monitor-ing contains a hard hyphen. Thematic designs are also treated inconsistently e.g. a Czech stamp showing a flower and inscribed Podbel Obecny and Tussilago Farfara is described as Coltsfoot and a Medicinal plant. Searching under either of the stamp's inscription gives nothing.

Looking more closely at recent Scott catalogues, the Index and Identifier takes up nearly 6 pages of my 1230 page Classic edition covering stamps issued to 1940. There are a further 4 columns listing pre-stamp postal markings, and stamps of parent states used in colonies and other nations. Some of these entries are in the main index but not all, and there are errors e.g. a locator for Valparaiso leads to entries for Central Lithuania and the C30 postmark for Valparaiso is not listed in the index. There are many *See* references in the listings which should be *See also* references too. In the full 6 volume catalogue, many index references are to another volume and there are curious entries like:

> B ……….Vol.1, Vol.4, Vol.5
> T………..Vol.1, Vol.2
> Two Cents (Confed. 53X5)… .Vol.1
> Two Pence………….…………..Vol.1

Of interest to indexers is an attempt by members of the Royal Philatelic Society of London to provide a comprehensive index to articles in philatelic journals. Their web page is at <www.rpsl.org/catalogue.asp?tab=searches&>.

A small task for members: identify the country of origin of the following postage stamps:

Ray Price

[The Editor apologises to readers of the print edition, who are seeing the stamps in greyscale. Those who receive the newsletter online will see the colour and can tinker with the magnification. But ... *small* task, Ray?]

Indexing Indaba

On your feet

In the April to June 2012 edition of Key Words, Becky Hornyak examined the issue of how an indexer's health might be affected by the sedentary nature of their work. Potential hazards include weight gain, heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, back-ache, neck-ache and deep vein thrombosis. If this isn't bad enough, the article doesn't mention the significant finding that came out of the 2011 American Institute for Cancer Research Conference in Washington DC - sitting for long periods has now joined that long list of things that might cause cancer.

One indexer, Carol Reed, is acting on this and seems to have taken a leaf out of the book of that most famous of standing-desk enthusiasts, Ernest Hemingway (*seen at left*). His needs were fairly basic, just a bit of room for a typewriter and some paper, so you have to wonder what he would have made of Carol's working arrangements:

'I'm really enjoying the standing workstation, as long as I can alternate it with sitting as needed. Here's my low-cost setup: I have an 8-foot, very sturdy desk to begin with. I placed an old 4-foot coffee table on top of it, so more than 1/3 of the desk is at normal height. The coffee table is pushed to the back of the desk so there's about 8 inches of desk remaining in front of the coffee table. On top of the coffee table is my Mac and second monitor, as well as the minimal keyboard that comes with the Mac. Below and in front are two paper boxes (ugly but free and right height); on top of these are my ergonomic keyboard and mousepad. On the wood floor is a gel pad I bought for $75 and could use in the kitchen if this didn't work out. To the right of the coffee table is my laptop, which is on a stand, and my office chair. When I want to switch from one machine to the other, I just unplug the keyboard and mouse and move them.

'I'm enjoying it so well I will ask my husband to make a keyboard/mouse platform for the desk and stick with this arrangement. Aside from the boxes, it doesn't look too bad, since the desk and the coffee table happen to both be the same wood.'

[Photo of Hemingway standing, from *Life* magazine <http://kottke.org/12/05/ernest-hemingways-standing-desk>]

Some things never change

While indexing a book recently about the Arab Spring, I consulted Heather Hedden's article 'Arabic names'. It struck me what a different place the world would have been when this article first appeared in the Centrepiece to *The Indexer* Vol. 25 No. 3 April 2007. The author could not have foreseen just what a valuable resource this would become to those now indexing the numerous books being published about the uprisings. Besides being prescient for its inclusion of names connected with recent events in the Middle East-North Africa region, like so many other 'old' articles from *The Indexer*, it has a timeless quality about it. Digital technology is making its mark on the way that indexers work, but it's good to be reminded that the art of indexing in essence always remains the same.

It was therefore a delight to read editor Maureen MacGlashan's announcement in the June 2012 edition of *The Indexer*, that the journal intends to publish an *Indexer* collection series of themed past articles. The first in the series is likely to be 'Indexing for trainees, newbies and would-be's' and 'Names and the indexer'. These would be made available through Lulu, the print-on-demand firm.

Failure, coping with

A few years ago, UK librarian Jacqueline May began the SI course but found that 'the shift from user of indexes in my daily work to compiler proved more taxing than I had supposed'.

Her failure to complete the course didn't however diminish her sense of humour, nor did it deter her from indexing one of her favourite books, Jane Austen's Mansfield Park. Her index includes an apology to indexers and you can find it at: <http://www.completelynovel.com/books/an-index-to-jane-austens-mansfield-park--1/read-online>.

Lucky you, if you own a copy of the 1986 Penguin edition that May used.

It's all in the details

While ebook sales are growing, publishers now find themselves lamenting an associated decline in bookshop browsing. In the old days, browsing was a trusted method for moving stock, and quite simply, social media and e-store algorithms ('customers like you also bought…') haven't been able to replicate those serendipitous and irresistible finds that come out of perusing physical books on physical shelves.

It's probably not surprising therefore that quite a few publishers have started to take notice of and support Californian internet entrepreneur Valla Vakili and his website <smalldemons.com>. Vakili likes to see himself as the publishing industry's 'partner in promoting the discoverability of books'. He confesses to being obsessional and having a fascination with the small details in books (the makings of a good indexer perhaps?). His brainchild

is a growing electronic index (which he calls a Storyverse) that aims to tag and cross-reference the occurrence of almost every person, place and thing mentioned in almost every 'narrative' book ever written. Vakili's hope is that he'll be able to appeal to the obsessive side in all of us, and if we play along and get hooked on little details it will lead to a new and widespread means of discoverability in books. So for example, it will be able to tell you which cars James Bond drove in which movies, and from there you can see which other characters (real and fictional) drove the same types of cars.

In an interview with Toronto's *Globe and Mail*, Alison Cairns, online manager of Vancouver-based D&M Publishers said: 'Small demons is particularly interesting as it works on a micro level of discoverability…Anyone interested by these things might stumble across the book and be hooked enough to make a purchase…It's early days, but the project is promising and we're excited to be part of it.'
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/how-small-demons-aims-to-turn-books-into-the-storyverse/article4101419/>

Success with Asian Names!

Do you need to understand the cultural background of Asian colleagues and acquaintances? Are you indexing unfamiliar Asian names?

Success with Asian Names: a practical guide to everyday usage, by Fiona Swee-Lin Price, is a hands-on guide for anyone who works with people of Asian background. Names from China, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Indian sub-continent are covered in this detailed 244-page reference guide.

'Especially helpful for indexers in discerning the meanings of … longer names, especially those containing words not immediately recognizable as given or family names; … a handy guide for indexers encountering a name used without reference to its origin; … of much value in the information provided about so many different Asian names; … The ten page index is skilfully constructed, detailed and user-friendly.' Noeline Bridge (*The Indexer*, June 2012)

Published by Allen and Unwin in Australia (ISBN 9781741148480) and Nicholas Brealey in UK and USA (ISBN 978-1-857883-78-7).

Copies are available from good booksellers in the US or UK or from the author at <tamagoconsulting@internode.on.net>, at A$30 post paid.

Out with the print and in with the digital

Henley High School in Adelaide is the first Australian School to dump print books from its library. Its entire collection of 10,000 books has been donated to charity and replaced with 16,000 ebooks. Principal Liz Schneyder took the decision to go digital after noticing a decline in interest in the library's print collection, and says that she has the backing of the school community.

<http://weekly-times-messenger.whereilive.com.au/news/story/community-behind-henleys-no-books-policy/>
[Henley High School's library without books. Picture by Kelly Barnes, The Australian]

Nikki Davis

News from Queensland Branch

On 24 June Queensland Branch had a social gathering at historic Ormiston House, at Cleveland in the Redland Shire. The colonial architecture of the House and the important botanical specimens in the garden were a delight for the members who could attend on the day.

The House was built in 1862 for the family of Captain the Hon. Louis Hope, a former Captain in the Coldstream Guards. His wife Susan bore him eight children.

Earlier he had settled in Kingaroy in 1848, farming and grazing cattle. But he then moved south and settled in Moreton Bay on some 800 acres, which he called Ormiston after a village on his family estate. It was here that he grew sugar cane, for which he built a Sugar Cane Mill. He so fostered the industry that he earned the title of the Father of the Sugar Industry.

Queensland Branch members enjoyed a tasty Devonshire Tea and scones and then a tour through Ormiston House, learning a little more of its history from volunteers in every room. And then off to Branch member Beryl Macdonald's nearby home for more much-appreciated hospitality.

Our next Branch meeting will be our AGM on Tuesday 24 July, with a Mystery Guest Speaker.

Moira Brown

(Left to Right) Catherine Tully, Moira Brown, Beryl Macdonald and Cate Seymour-Jones, all Queensland members at Ormiston House on 24 June.

Dragon Indexing

Bendigo, Friday 19 – Sunday 21 October

To mark the Chinese Year of the Dragon, the Victorian Branch has organised an indexing seminar with an Asian flavour. The highlight will be sessions by Max McMaster on indexing numbers and indexing (or reindexing) a new edition of a book that already has an index, and by Fiona Swee-Lin Price, whose short session on indexing Asian names at the 2011 ANZSI Conference was such a success that we wanted MORE.

The seminar venue is Bendigo Golden Dragon Museum, and Bendigo is such an interesting place that we have decided to mix the indexing sessions with historical walks and tours around the city and to conclude with a Yum Cha lunch.

The cost is $190.00 (inc GST), which includes seminars, tours and dinner on the Friday night.

Partners/friends are very welcome to join in the tours and the dinner on Friday night for $80.

For further details see <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=259>.

Queensland, Kanakas and the ASSI Index

At the May meeting of the Queensland Branch, one of our members, Lesley Bryant, spoke about the Australian South Sea Islanders or 'Kanakas' and the 'ASSI 150 Project', which celebrates 150 years of Australian South Sea Islanders in Queensland.

Lesley began thinking seriously about 'Kanakas' only recently, when she realised that her mother, who grew up in North Queensland and is now 90, had hidden her Samoan heritage because she feared being identified and treated as a 'Kanaka'.

Historical facts show that of over 60,000 labourers who were recruited from 80 Pacific Islands near the coast of Queensland, under 10% were females. In 1847 these labourers were used as shepherds near Deniliquin in NSW. Then in 1863 Captain Robert Towns (after whom Townsville is named) used Islanders on his cotton plantation 'Townsvale' near Beaudesert. There were cries of kidnapping and slavery, but Towns and his supporters strongly disagreed.

Islanders were contracted to work for £6 per annum for three years, but as they did not speak English, how could they have understood the contract they had signed (or rather, marked with a cross)? They had no immunity to local diseases and some were recorded as dying of 'homesickness'. Theirs was largely a miserable lot in the beginning, but some managed to make the best of Australia and wanted to stay on. As cotton growing declined most Islanders then worked on sugar plantations or pastoral properties in Queensland.

The 'White Australia Policy' of 1901 required that all Islanders be deported after 1906. About 1500 were officially exempted from deportation, but there were probably at least as many again who managed to evade deportation. There are estimates that a population of between 10,000 and 30,000 descendants of these labourers are living in Australia today, but precise details are not available. Lesley named a few current descendants, among them Mal Meninga, coach of Queensland's State of Origin team. However, many have integrated with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities and have lost connection with their roots and culture.

Some deportees were lucky enough to be returned to their home islands – and with goods that were valuable to their communities – boxes filled with cloth, tobacco, fish-hooks, axes, guns or simply trinkets like glass beads. Others were not returned to their home islands at all, but were dumped where convenient by unscrupulous sea captains – for example on Torres Strait islands. Some were eventually returned to their homes only to find that their wives had been killed, as was the custom when the husband was presumed dead.

In 1994, the Keating Government recognised the Australian South Sea Islander community as 'a distinct ethnic group in Australia with its own history and culture'. So now these people have an official identity as 'Australian South Sea Islanders' but some still prefer to use the once derogatory term 'Kanaka' because it allows no ambiguity about their origins.

The ASSI 150 Project kicked off in 2010 in readiness for commemorative activities in 2013. Plans under way include displays at the Queensland Museum and the Anthropology Museum at the University of Queensland, an archaeological dig on an old cotton plantation in the Gold Coast area, a collection of descendants' stories by the Logan and Tweed Councils, an Arts Festival planned for Beaudesert in August 2013 and research by Ipswich Council of diaries and the first landing site. It is believed that Islanders landed at Redbank on the Brisbane River and then walked about 45 km to 'Townsvale' in two days. There is a possibility of a re-enactment of that walk and ultimately a heritage walk.

ASSI groups gathered last Easter for 'Wantok 2012' in Bundaberg, to create a national ASSI body and to find a national voice. No doubt there will be commemorative events in 2013 in places like the Tweed, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Mackay where the larger ASSI communities are and the ASSI 150 Project hopes to be able to send a touring arts exhibition to those events.

In 2009, the Queensland State Archives launched the ASSI Index. Lesley spoke of difficulties with the spelling of Islander names and how they might have been originally recorded by the Anglo registrar.

All in all we had a very fascinating and educational evening learning about the Kanakas of Queensland's past. Best wishes to the ASSI 150 Project's celebrations of 150 years of Australian South Sea Islanders influence in Queensland.

Lesley Bryant and Beryl Macdonald

Embedded Indexing

NSW Branch will offer an 'Introduction to Embedded Indexing' course, conducted by Jon Jermey, Mary Coe and Glenda Browne, on Tuesday 11 September from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm. It will be held in the Henry Lawson Room at the NSW Writers Centre, Rozelle.

You can find all the details of cost, bookings and course outline at

<www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=273>.

You will have to provide your own laptop with a USB slot, and you should be familiar with the basics of both word processing and indexing.

Jon Jermey will introduce students to LibreOfficeWriter and Mary Coe will demonstrate the use of CINDEX in embedded indexing projects and introduce a range of other useful tools. Glenda Browne will finish by leading a discussion on the use of embedded indexes in ebooks.

Quiet achievers – Tricia Waters

How did you come to an indexing career? Who has been the greatest influence on your career?

'I'll do it,' I declared when the editor of the magazine publishing company I was working at needed her book indexed. I promptly enrolled in the University of NSW indexing course and knew straight away that indexing was for me.

Alan Walker, Michael Wyatt and Garry Cousins have been a great influence in my career. As presenters of the UNSW course, not only did they teach me the basics of indexing, but also they kindly continued to assist me as a novice indexer at AusSI (as it was then) Committee Meetings when I was the National Treasurer.

Having connections in the publishing industry gave me a head start to a career in indexing.

What do you see as your greatest achievement?

There are two ways I can answer this. Starting an indexing business and still enjoying it after 15 or so years is a professional achievement I'm proud of. Riding a surfboard in Hawaii at a very advanced age for a beginner would have to be one of my best personal achievements! I have indexing to thank for this too, as I was stopping over in Hawaii on my way home from the 2003 American/Canadian indexing conference.

What has been your biggest challenge?

Mastering all the software tools required for indexing. Fortunately I am married to the Help Desk – my husband, Ian is an IT expert.

How do you try to achieve work–life balance?

It's amazing how much can be achieved when working from home with flexible hours, no commuting time and no office meetings to attend. Indexing takes priority of course, but travelling, yoga, tennis, aquafitness, book club and bushwalking can be fitted in as well. A refreshing dip in our pool works wonders too.

What do you like most about your work? What do you like least?

Words, words, words! As a graduate of linguistics, what better career could there be? I love encapsulating, into relatively few pages, all the information contained in a book so that the contents are easily accessible. Every indexer knows the satisfaction of coming up with a succinct subheading, or finding just the right word with the help of dictionaries, thesauri and the Internet.

The variety of subjects I've indexed keeps things interesting, from accounting to art, biographies to business, caving to cookbooks and democracy to diets. I like the fact that each project has a beginning and an end. There is such a feeling of satisfaction when an index has been completed and I have signed off on the job.

There is always something new to be learned in the art of indexing, and I've enjoyed attending workshops and conferences not only in Australia but also in England and Canada.

Tight deadlines and low budgets are the least satisfactory aspects of indexing.

What advice would you offer to indexers just starting out?

Go to as many indexing and publishing functions as you can and network, network, network. There you will meet fellow indexers, publishers and editors who need your services. When starting out, much of my business was attributed to my attending a book launch where I gave my business card to the publisher. She subsequently engaged me to index many books for her company.

Indexing colleagues are very generous in referring other indexers when they are too busy to take on a particular job. If I can't accept a contract I always suggest the names of other indexers to editors and authors.

Also, list your name on 'Indexers Available' on the ANZSI website and let the publishing world know of your existence.

If you could dine with a famous historical figure, who would it be?

Melvil Dewey, the American librarian who devised the system for classifying books. What a fascinating person he must have been to have created a timeless method used internationally in so many libraries. Cataloguing and classifying books have featured largely in my career as a librarian at CSIRO, Macquarie University, the National Measurement Institute and several private companies.

If you were a letter of the alphabet, which letter would you be and why?

I can't choose any particular letter. Rather, I see colours in all the letters of the alphabet. 'A' is always red, 'M' is always blue, etc. This ability to see colours in letters and words is called synaesthesia and occurs in 1 in 23 people according to Wikipedia. Days of the week have colours for me too, e.g. Saturday is yellow and Sunday is red. It's pleasant waking up on Saturdays because yellow is my favourite colour.

The photo shows Tricia with Elena and Jeremy, two of the grandchildren who keep her life balanced and busy.

News from New Zealand

We were pleased to attract another new member in May: welcome to Timothy Vaughan-Sanders. Now-only-newish member Deirdre Hambleton has got stuck in and researched the idea of annual report indexing in NZ. She reports:

'There is a unit within Treasury that provides guidance to government departments on preparing their annual reports. Their guidance document does not mention the inclusion of an index, and my contact within the unit confirmed that departments are not required to include one. They advised me that the planned revision of the guidance document is on hold while a "fundamental review of (NZ's) public management legislation" is under way. They have logged the society's interest in the technical guidance document and will be in touch when the document is under review.

In looking at NZX-listed companies it is clear that an index is not standard practice. Only one of the companies included in the NZX20 Index includes an index in their annual report, and that is ANZ Bank!

I have also looked at the annual reports of NZ's largest city councils and for the most part indexes are not included. The ones that do might possibly benefit from some professional assistance, however (take a look at Horizons Regional Council's 2011 annual report).

The Australasian Reporting Awards require annual reports to have an index, and there are some NZ companies included in the awards each year. I think it would be worth approaching those companies to assess who is currently doing the indexing for them.

So, as Max indicated, the market is wide open for us as indexers to approach NZ corporations and departments and councils and offer our services. I will definitely be pursuing this as a source of work, and will be starting with organisations in my local area.'
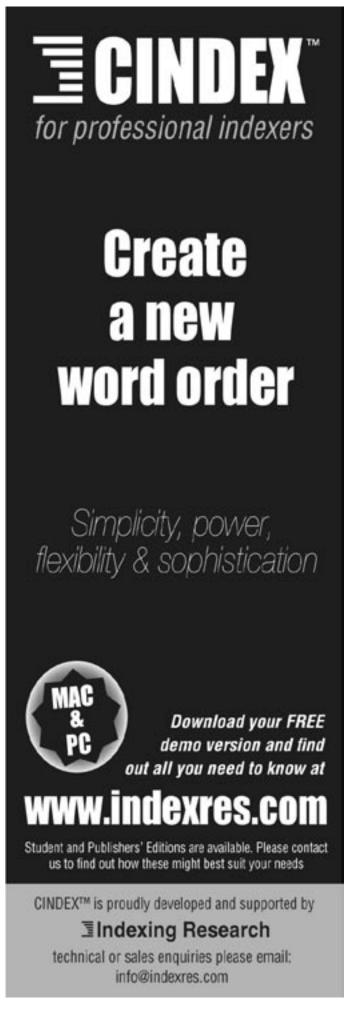
Good luck Deirdre!

Julie Daymond-King

Commit it to paper!

Do you have a BEE in your bonnet? If so, why not get it off your chest by sending it to your newsletter!

It should be a bee with some professional indexing relevance, but the Editor is always looking for good meaty articles that will interest your colleagues – and perhaps trigger a little politely heated discussion – there's nothing quite like a really juicy (but civilised) *controversy.*

Think about it. You have three weeks to the next deadline on 27 July – ample time to dash off 800 to 1000 words and find a suitable image to enliven them. Or there's August ...

Branch events

Date and time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Sat–Sun 28–29 July	NSW & ACT Branches	From pbooks to ebooks – digital publishing	Peppers Craigieburn Bowral	Details on page 2 and at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=253>
Mon – Wed 6–8 August	ANZSI Council	Indexing courses in Adelaide	Details are on page 2	Details on page 2 and at: <www.anzsi.org/site/dates.asp>
Thurs 23 August	NSW Branch	AGM	above Cafe Kasturi, 767–69 Broadway	Details on page 2 and at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=272>
Sat 25 August	Vic Branch	An afternoon with Frances Lennie	Seminar Room State Library of Victoria	Details on page 3 and at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=258>
Tues 11 September	NSW Branch	Embedded indexing course	NSW Writers Centre Rozelle	More on page 9 and details at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=273>
Fri–Sun 19–21 October	Vic Branch	Dragon Indexing	Bendigo, Golden Dragon Museum	Details on page 8 and at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=259>
Wed 3 October	Vic Branch	The VIC – visit to ARRB	ARRB, 500 Burwood Highway, Vermont South	Details on page 3 and at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=260>

Newsletter schedule

The next Newsletter will appear in August 2012.
The contribution deadline is Wednesday, 27 July.
The editor welcomes your contributions submitted by email to <peter.judge@bigpond.com.>

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