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MAY MEETING

The speaker at the meeting on 17 May will be Jeannie Campbell from Oxford University Press who will talk on the topic "Oxford dictionaries - past, present and future". It is hoped that a large number of members and all those who are interested will attend. As usual the meeting will be held at CSIRO, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Committee Room, 3rd Floor, at 5.30 for 6 p.m.

* * * * *

MEETING DATES 1983

17 August	Wednesday
17 November	Thursday

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members :-

Ms. J. Hardwick	82 Harding Street, Coburg, Vic. 3058
Ms. D. J. Joyce	Riverina College of Advanced Education, P.O. Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650
Ms. J. A. Kenyon	"Vynora Hills", Nullamanna, NSW, 2360
Mrs. Lyn Leader	237 Holden Street, North Fitzroy, Vic. 3068
Ms. J. McGrath	6 Hardy Terrace, East Ivanhoe, Vic. 3079
Ms. L. Marsi	160 Faraday Street, Carlton, Vic. 3053
Miss K. O'Connor	15/43 Haines Street, North Melbourne, Vic. 3051
Mrs. J. Uhl	1 Gwenda Avenue, Blackburn, Vic. 3130

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 17th February. Following the election of 1983 office bearers (nominations were listed in the February issue of the *Newsletter*) and the presentation of the Financial Statement, Peter Dawe, the retiring President, and John Simkin, the new President, addressed the meeting.

* * * * *

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

Statement of Income and Expenditure
January - December 1982

<u>Expenditure</u>			<u>Income</u>	
		\$		\$
Affiliation fee to "The Society of Indexers"	35.90		Membership subscriptions	1,300.00
"The Indexer" 1982 subscriptions	574.50		Newsletter subscriptions	114.00
"The Indexer" back issue file	86.71		"The Indexer" 1982 subscriptions	654.20
Newsletter --			RMIT Indexing Course 1982	840.75
Printing	1,149.47		Bank Interest	15.96
Postage	195.80		RESI Interest	122.23
Stationery	57.25	1,402.52		
Hon. Treasurer - postage, etc.	39.25			
Hon. Secretary				\$3,047.14
Postage, etc.	77.90			
Stationery	38.05			
Photocopying	31.00	146.95	Operating deficit	\$273.87
Printing				
Letterhead	51.00			
With Comps. slips	24.00			
Introductory letter	93.00	168.00		
AACOBS membership 1982 (pro rata)	6.25			
National Book Council membership	35.00			
RMIT Indexing Course 1982	670.66			
Meeting expenses	50.82			
G.P.O. Box rental	52.00			
Publications purchased	13.70			
Refunds	15.75			
Rubber date stamp	23.00			
		\$3,321.01		

* * * * *

BALANCE SHEET

Cash in Bank at 1 January 1982	334.75
On call with RESI at 1 January 1982	564.50
	899.25
Plus Income	3,047.14
	3,946.39
Less Expenditure	3,321.01
	\$625.38

ASSETS

Cash in Bank at 31 December 1982	89.31
On call with RESI at 31 December 1982	536.07
	\$625.38

REPORT FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

Tonight we have elected a new Committee and it seems an appropriate time for the outgoing President to review the health of the Society and to mark its progress over the past three years.

I begin with a brief resume of year 1982, but will highlight only those matters which are not discussed later. Four general meetings of the Society were held during the year, the Committee met on 11 occasions, and four issues of our *Newsletter* were published.

General meetings have continued to be held at CSIRO, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, but as an experiment, from the first meeting in 1982, at the earlier time of 5.30 for 6.00 p.m., with pre-meeting refreshments. This innovation seems, generally, to have been successful. Following the revision of the Society's Constitution (referred to later), this Annual General Meeting becomes the first meeting of the year.

The programme for the general meetings for 1982 was as follows :-

16 March :

Ian McLaren spoke about some aspects of his monumental work on the bibliography of C. J. Dennis.

16 June :

Peter Dawe spoke to the title: *Are you well coordinated?* in which he provided a brief examination of some advantages of coordinate indexing.

16 September :

Maurice Downer, Editor of *Index to New Zealand periodicals*, gave an account of his work.

16 November :

Members contributed to a light-hearted analysis of indexes which fitted the description "Indexes, good and bad - funny and sad".

As has been the practice now for some time, all meetings were reported in the issues of the *Newsletter*.

Societies are, by definition, people-oriented. Individuals sharing a common interest and purpose gather together to promote those interests and to develop, collectively, what they would be unable to do, or do only with difficulty, alone. First, then, I must pay tribute to the office bearers who have each in their individual ways done so much to promote the well-being of the Society.

When I assumed the Presidency in 1980 Jean Hagger continued as Secretary for a year. By her industry, experience and dedication few have done more to foster the growth of our still young Society. I and the Society were singularly fortunate to have someone as committed as Jennifer Challis to assume this mantle from Jean. I thank her for the great deal of hard work she has contributed, and I know what it will mean to our new President, John Simkin, that she is continuing in this vital role.

If the Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the body corporate, the Treasurer controls its life-blood. Few societies can be as fortunate to have the skilled and committed services of a Treasurer as we have in Joyce Korn. She not only balances the books, keeping the Society in a sound condition, but has done so much more, some of which I'll comment on shortly.

Given our dispersed membership, the *Newsletter* is the continuing public manifestation of the Society, and I believe that its importance cannot be overstated. Our new President was the first Editor who breathed life into the concept of such an organ, nurturing its growth into a state of health and vigour.

When John Simkin relinquished the position of Editor the Society was, once again, most fortunate to see one of its most experienced and able members, Coryl Muntz, assume this important responsibility. Coryl carried the *Newsletter* forward with flair and distinction, commonly contributing imaginative and thought-provoking editorials. We were all shocked and saddened when a serious illness forced her to withdraw. I wrote to Coryl recently in the following terms :

I want to record our deep appreciation for the imaginative, informative and innovative way in which the *Newsletter* was produced under your Editorship, and to express the thanks of all the membership of AusSI for your outstanding contribution.

Meanwhile, Vera Wicks and Joyce Korn stepped into the breach when Coryl was unable to continue, and I am sure all the membership would wish to express, with me, not only our gratitude to these two members for assuming the roles of Acting Joint Editors, but also our pleasure and satisfaction at the way in which they discharged this additional responsibility. It is very pleasing to note that John Thawley has agreed to become our new Editor. Knowing of his accomplishments in this area we look forward to the continuation of a healthy *Newsletter*.

I could go on to name so many who have played an active part in helping our Society to grow and to realise its aims of nurturing the interests and objectives of AusSI. I should, however, also make special mention of the extremely valuable and practical support given by one of our younger members, Mary Kennedy, in acting as Minute Secretary and "back-of-the-house" convenor of our pre-meeting refreshments.

Finally, this part of my report would be grossly incomplete if I did not acknowledge the outstanding pioneering work carried out by my predecessor and our first President, Clyde Garrow. I inherited a young Society in good heart and shape; sound foundations had been laid for future growth and development; and the Society will always be in his debt for the excellent start which he gave it.

In her editorial in the March 1980 issue of the *Newsletter*, Coryl Muntz paid tribute to "the active leadership of our First President"; found the Treasurer's report on Income and Expenditure, then showing a turnover of \$1,006.18, reassuring; and commented on the regional concentration of members around Melbourne. I might begin the specifics of my review, then, by looking at these last two factors.

Finance

From the Treasurer's statement tonight we find that the Society's financial turnover has grown by over 200 per cent to \$3,321.01. I think you will agree that this is a satisfactory situation, enhanced in part by the decision to place some of the Society funds on fixed deposit, thus securing a higher rate of interest. Enrolments in the AusSI indexing course also lifted turnover significantly.

Membership

The following table gives a picture of the growth in membership of the Society over the past three years :-

	<u>January 1980</u>	<u>January 1983</u>
A.C.T.	10	10
N.S.W.	6	13
Queensland	3	3
S.A.	1	3
Tasmania	2	2
Victoria	42	63
	—	W.A. 2
		New Zealand 2
	64	98
	—	—

The increase in membership of 34 or some 53 per cent is very gratifying, including our first "international" members from across the Tasman. Nevertheless, the regional concentration of members in Victoria is still marked. If AusSI is to become a vigorous body nationally, special efforts will be needed to increase the Society's membership in other regions, and this is no doubt a factor to which the new Committee will be giving its attention.

Numbers of innovations have been introduced in the past years both to increase the membership and to encourage more active participation of members. A leaflet "Introducing the Australian Society of Indexers" was produced for promulgation to new and prospective members, and some hundreds of these were distributed in satchels at the combined LAA/NZLA Conference in Christchurch in 1981. New members, and indeed those resigning, also receive a special letter from the President welcoming them to the Society or asking whether there were particular reasons for resignation. I am glad to say that there have been very few of the latter. Arrangements were also made for the publication of lists of new members in the *Newsletter*.

Public exposure of AusSI

One of the steps taken by the Executive Committee has been to increase the circulation of the *Newsletter* to a wider range of Australian kindred associations and societies. Our purpose in doing so was not only to reach a wider audience and thus more effectively publicise the interests and activities of our Society, but also to attract in return, the publications of these other societies. Judging by the publications received in return, this appears to have been a successful venture.

To assist further the public exposure and commitment of the Society, we have become affiliated with such bodies as the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services and the Australian National Book Council, while we now have a G.P.O. box number and, by courtesy of our Secretary, an entry in the telephone directory.

Revised Constitution

Our Treasurer, donning yet another hat, was the principal architect of a complete revision of the Society's Constitution. This was published in the September 1982 issue of the *Newsletter* and adopted at a General Meeting two months later.

I should like to record both my, and our collective appreciation, to Joyce Korn and Jennifer Challis for the very great deal of hard work involved in this redrafting.

Panel of Assessors

Following Coryl Muntz's unfortunate illness, the Panel of Assessors was reconstituted and reorganized. We all recognise that the stature and public

recognition of the Society and its members will depend to a significant degree on the numbers and quality of its "professional" practitioners. It is here that the Panel of Assessors plays such a vital role in setting and maintaining these high standards. The number of our registered indexers is still very small, but we are indebted to George Levick and his panel for the major steps already taken to promote this essential part of the Society's programme.

AusSI/RMIT Indexing Course

To address the first two objectives of the Society; viz :

- (a) to improve the quality of indexing in Australia
- (b) to promote the training, continuing professional development, status and interests of indexers in Australia

and in so doing to meet a known wish of numbers of our members, arrangements were made with the School of Librarianship of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology to conduct an indexing course under the auspices of AusSI.

The first of these courses conducted by the Head of the School and also an AusSI member, Michael Ramsden, was held for two hours per week over an eight week period in June/July 1982. A "Certificate of Attendance" was issued to each participant at the conclusion of the course.

Conceived as something of an experiment, the AusSI/RMIT Indexing Course must be adjudged a success. It was oversubscribed and preparations are already in hand to repeat the course in mid 1983. Jean Hagger filled the position of Course Registrar, and we express our collective thanks to her for undertaking this task most effectively. It is my personal hope that this course becomes a regular annual event. There is clearly a demand for training in indexing, both obvious and latent. We are greatly indebted to RMIT and to Michael Ramsden in particular for facilitating this important Society objective.

Fees for freelance indexing

A seemingly intractable problem with which it was felt the Society should come to terms was the question of remuneration for freelance indexers. Various overseas models existed but none seemed to fit adequately the Australian situation. One of our senior members, Robert Croll, prepared the paper "What's an indexer worth?" for publication in the December 1980 issue of the *Newsletter*. The first meeting of 1981 was devoted to discussing this paper with a view to determining both the principles and a methodology for arriving at suitable rates for freelance work.

The paper did, indeed, prove to be seminal and laid the foundations for the statement "Fees for Contract Indexing" which the Society was able to issue. It is our intention that figures given in this document be updated at least annually in line with cost-of-living movements and promulgated in the *Newsletter* regularly. From reports we have received this has been a service much appreciated by members who are freelance indexers. It has also proved to be of value in giving enquirers and prospective clients a realistic guide to the cost of contract indexing work.

List of freelance indexers

A further service introduced for our members interested in undertaking freelance work was a list of names and addresses arranged by subject field derived from a questionnaire circulated to all members. This was compiled by Coryl Muntz and again has proven to be most useful in putting prospective clients in touch with appropriate members.

A Library for the Society

It was resolved in 1982 that a Library should be established formally for the Society. AusSI is receiving an increasing number of publications. These are predominantly newsletters of affiliated or kindred associations, but some books and pamphlets are represented in the collection. It was agreed that "Publications Received" should be promulgated in the *Newsletter*; that there should be a display of new and other relevant publications at each general meeting; and that a loan and/or circulation system to members be introduced, especially for those living outside the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Matters of professional concern

The Society has continued to make its voice heard in the public arena on matters affecting or related to indexing. Letters were sent to four Victorian Senators at the time of the threatened introduction of a tax on books; and numbers of other letters have been written to book review editors of the metropolitan daily newspapers when matters of indexing interest have arisen. We would like to think that we also had an influence on the Grolier Society when it finally reversed its decision not to produce an index for the *Australian encyclopaedia*.

Conclusion

My term as President has been an interesting and rewarding one and I express my thanks to the membership generally, but especially to the Committee, for support always most willingly given. I also express my appreciation for the opportunity of serving the Society as its President and look forward to its continued growth in the years ahead.

I close by wishing our new President, John Simkin, and his Committee, as interesting and rewarding time as I believe I have enjoyed over the past three years.

Peter DAWE.

* * * * *

TALK FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

A FUTURE FOR AusSI

Back in 1975, Mr. Green, who had guided the Society of Indexers in Australia since 1972, announced that he was going up the country and passed to Jean Uhl the job of calling together the members to decide the future of the group. The meeting at Win Mills' flat on 12 November 1975 decided to form an interim committee to prepare for the formation of an Australian society which would take over from the earlier group. I was a member of that committee and in the papers which we prepared for the inaugural meeting on 27 April 1976 were a set of suggested activities for the new Society - the Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI).

From these activities, the Society has put in action a programme of general and committee meetings, a panel of assessors, a register of indexers; it has sponsored the first of what we are confident will be a series of courses in indexing; it has the machinery for recommending fees for indexing and has made a first listing of indexes in progress. As our annual reports indicate, most, if not all, of our initial goals have been achieved or are a continuing part of our work.

Therefore, I thought I would like to look forward again to a further set of tasks which we might undertake in the next few years. I have listed eight topics, each one of which could form the basis of a talk.

I do not possess the knowledge or experience to go into all of them in depth, but I hope that I can make some useful comments.

1. Relations with other bodies

I have listed eight groups with whom we could and should have closer ties - librarians, editors, authors, information scientists, bibliographers, historians, genealogists and publishers. These will do for a start. To plan approaches and interchanges with these groups could be the job of a working party. Its aim would be to make our expertise known and available to them through the services already offered and through others which may develop. At the same time, we could gain from the expertise of these groups.

2. Interstate members

The list of members in the February 1983 *Newsletter* shows that there are 10 members in Canberra and 11 in the Sydney region. I would like to arrange meetings in these two centres with representatives of the two groups. I believe that, especially in Sydney, one or two enthusiastic organizers may be able to bring together a "chapter" of the Society from the many potential members who live there. With this in mind, I expect to discuss the strategy and timing with Peter Dawe and other members since there may be times throughout the year when at least Peter and I have occasion to be in Sydney or Canberra at the same time. We could then arrange a meeting with members there to test the feeling about forming a formal group.

3. Register of indexes in progress

This is not an entirely new task since the 1979 survey began this work. However, I believe it would be possible to develop a continuing register of work in progress and completed. One can draw comparisons with other registers in the areas of bibliography and librarianship, each of which has gathered in some indexing projects. There would be advantages, however, in a separate register of indexes which would, among other purposes, serve to prevent duplication of effort and to encourage a high standard of work.

4. Indexes needed - Desiderata

The establishment of the above register, by a kind of process of elimination, could lead to a listing of indexes needed. This should be a project under the direct control of the Society whose function it would be to develop proposals and negotiations to fill the perceived gaps.

5. Grants for indexing projects

Some of the gaps identified by the above process could be filled by the application of grants to specific projects. With the desiderata identified, the Society would be able to present well-documented submissions to sponsoring bodies as opportunities arose.

6. Relations with AACOBS

In pursuing the proposals in items 3, 4, and 5, the Society could benefit from its association with the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS), and in particular with that Council's Working Party on Bibliography.

7. The profession of indexing

So far the Society's interest in the work of practising indexers has been in the identification, registration and development of the basic skills of the indexer working in isolation. However, we need to look forward to the fostering of skills on a broader basis in those whose work will expand to include consultancy, planning of indexes, automation, staff supervision, the creation and implementation of standards, etc.

I have listed a range of subjects which could be covered in formal courses for indexers to a more professional level than at present. There would be overlap with courses in librarianship and information science, but there is sufficient to identify an indexing course as a separate entity. They are as follows :-

- (a) Organization and communication of knowledge
- (b) Indexing techniques
 - (i) history
 - (ii) current practice
 - (iii) thesauri
- (c) Planning an index
 - (i) standards
 - (ii) guidelines
 - (iii) computer applications
 - (iv) filing arrangements
- (d) Professional practice
 - (i) within an organization
 - . relations with library, information science, publishers, etc.
 - . departmental structure
 - (ii) records management
 - (iii) freelance work
 - . estimating
 - . contracts
 - . fees
- (e) Advanced studies
 - (i) consultancy
 - (ii) planning of indexing services
 - (iii) staff supervision, in-service training
 - (iv) relations with other staff - management, library, information, etc.

The course could be broken into two levels. The basic level would include sections (a), (b) and (c) with an introduction to section (d). The advanced level would cover sections (d) and (e).

8. Registration of members

The present Register based on decisions of the Panel of Assessors aims to identify one of the areas of skill needed for someone to work as a freelancer. This supplies only part of what will be needed if we are to designate members as Associates or Fellows. Such designation should be based on recognition of a wider range of professional competence as shown through some form of testing and some period of practice. We should begin now to prepare the way, albeit a long way, to becoming the accrediting body in our field in Australia.

I am aware that this list of items may seem formidable, but since the first list of tasks has been achieved by an organization which began from almost nothing, this second list can be tackled and undertaken by this well-established, healthy organization with a known record of cooperation among its members.

John SIMKIN.

(The two papers above are based on talks given at the Annual General Meeting).

DISCUSSION :

Commenting on John's suggestion for meetings with other societies, Peter Dawe pointed out the advantages of combining these with meetings of Society members in other states. One of these advantages was that it might act as a catalyst towards the establishment of regional groups and lead to the Society's essentially Victorian base being extended. He added that the question of education for indexing was a difficult although important issue.

While commending John on the ideas which he had presented to the Society, John Thawley expressed the view that it might be wise for members and the Committee to concentrate on one or two of the proposed projects. If this were done there was a likelihood that something positive could be achieved. He emphasised the need to establish priorities and, drawing attention to the Society's limited resources, suggested that it would benefit the Society greatly if one or two projects were adopted, acted upon and carried through to their completion professionally.

In reply, John Simkin commented that the Society had, at its first meeting in April 1976, identified perhaps eight projects ; in the seven years since then most of them have been achieved. He agreed that the Committee might select several of his ideas and follow them through in some detail.

Referring to several recent advertisements by Victorian Government Departments for "Information Managers", Ann Burgin and Sue Harvey emphasised the need for people who fill such positions to have at least some basic training in the principles of indexing. Peter Dawe added that training in the indexing of correspondence was important and that such indexing is sadly neglected in most institutions.

Clyde Garrow related this part of the discussion to the fact that technology has suddenly changed the whole system of thinking about information ; the Library profession, this group, and information managers are developing a new profession of information management and we are a chapter of this development. In his view it would be a great pity if this were not coordinated into something like the traditional professions and all of us did the same thing in different ways. The Society may well be a catalyst in bringing these people together.

Clyde went on to acknowledge the work done by Peter Dawe during his term as President and commended John Simkin on the stimulating ideas which he had put forward.

Sue Harvey noted that continuing education bodies have courses in genealogy, historical research, etc., and might like to add a broader one on indexing. Win Mills advised that the genealogical institutes were concerned about the shortage of competent indexers, and the frequent lack of any thought about including indexes on the part of writers of local and family histories. She pointed out that there is a bibliography of bibliographies of local history compiled by Featherstone and that unpublished as well as published indexes have been listed by the Public Records Office in Great Britain. The number of unpublished indexes to genealogical work which is always in progress, in Australia, shows that people would be very interested to learn more about indexing. It was noted that a very useful guide for beginners was prepared by Dorothy Prescott and appears in an early edition of the Society's *Newsletter* (Vol. 2, Nos. 2 & 3, pp.5-11). Win added that there were retired people in the community who have an appropriate background and may never have considered indexing as an occupation, but who would appreciate, for example, a CAE course on indexing.

The discussion then turned to the question of consultancy by members of the Society and John Simkin stressed that it was important for the Society to develop this particular role. Agreeing with this, Peter Dawe proposed

that discussion papers on this and other topics raised by John be prepared and form the basis of future meetings.

Before closing the meeting, John Simkin added to Clyde's earlier comments on Peter's Presidency and stated that all members owe him a great debt for the way in which the Society has moved forward during the previous three years. Responding to John's congratulations on his achievements, Peter remarked that his efforts were only possible because of the marvellous support which he had received from the Committee and other members.

* * * * *

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER INDEX

The recent announcement of the launching of *Australian newspaper index* is an event worthy of some note. Australia has long lacked such an index and, until now, access to newspapers has been a piecemeal affair. Since the demise of the *Sydney morning herald index* in 1961, the only current index to an Australian newspaper published has been due to the stalwart efforts of the staff at the Newcastle Public Library. Their index being based on the *Newcastle morning herald*, although not without merit, cannot possess much more than regional interest.

Access to other current newspapers is limited to the partial coverage offered by APAIS, ABIX, and the Australian Financial Review Information Service. Until very recent years, the most comprehensive access to an Australian newspaper was through the American business index *F & S index international*, which provided reasonably extensive access to the *Australian financial review*. Other forms of access to newspapers available include clippings files and the card indexes which are maintained in several state libraries. Indexes to various newspapers have been issued over the years and these are listed in H. Mayer's ARGAP.

Since then, as well as those indexes mentioned above, Mayer's list could be supplemented with a number of photo-reproductions of clippings files and card indexes. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to suggest that most searching of newspapers has been carried out by endless searching either of hard copy or microform. The amount of time spent by researchers in history and other disciplines in searching newspapers reaches staggering proportions. This will be acknowledged by reference librarians and by others who work where old newspapers and microform collections are available.

In this context, the decision by Information Pathways to publish an index covering *The Age*, the *Sydney morning herald*, and *The Australian* must be seen as a decisive one. Yet this new venture does not arise in a vacuum. Those concerned with bibliographical control at the highest level have long been aware of this major gap in Australian bibliographical services. As early as 1968 attempts were made by the Australian Advisory Council of Bibliographical Services (AACOBS) to gauge the level of interest in a newspaper index. Over the years, AACOBS has discussed the possibilities and discussions have been held with newspaper proprietors. In 1978 it was decided to commission a feasibility study which would examine the issue and the ensuing report* recommended the establishment of a cooperative, selective index to a range of capital city and national newspapers. The proposed system would have required the cooperation of the various state libraries and the National Library and allowed for provision of on-line and other copy. Although this report was accepted in principle and discussions have been held between the proposed participants, the

likely costs of operation, coupled with the uncertainty of the market, were sufficient to defer any action in the immediate term.

The reluctance of the Australian library community, and indeed until now of commercial interests, to publish a newspaper index may be deemed somewhat inexplicable, particularly in the light of overseas practice. In USA for example several indexes to the same newspaper may compete. One major reason why Australia has not had a national newspaper index is undoubtedly because Australia does not have a national newspaper of record. A relatively low population, dispersed over a large area, and a federal system of government together combine to ensure that a great deal of what newspapers report varies from state to state and from newspaper to newspaper. The one non-specialist national daily newspaper currently being published, *The Australian*, has really not succeeded in becoming a newspaper of record, of what the other major newspapers deem to be news.

The publishers of *Australian newspaper index* have recognized the consequent necessity of providing access to a range of newspapers. Although, initially, as mentioned above only three newspapers are to be covered, it is planned to extend coverage to include major dailies from each of the capital cities. Consideration will be given to including other newspapers in the future.

Potential users of the *Index* may be roughly divided into two categories, and the nature of the access required by each category to newspaper articles is likely to differ accordingly. The first group may be said to comprise such users as researchers and students in history and the social sciences as well as general public library users who are seeking to find a record of specific events. Such users do not require instant access to the most up-to-date issues. The second potential group of users, who may indeed require this kind of access, includes those involved in commerce, industry and politics, where decisions cannot be taken on the basis of last month's information. For this category of user, information ages very rapidly and newspapers published even ten years ago would be of little interest.

The publishers of *Australian newspaper index* are clearly attempting to maximise its appeal by offering the *Index* in a range of forms including on-line, microfiche and hard copy. The microfiche format, costing \$185 p.a., will be issued monthly on standard COM fiche 48X with each issue cumulating all entries from the current calendar year. The hard copy edition will also appear monthly although each issue will only contain entries from the current month. It will cumulate annually and cost \$295. On-line the *Index* will be updated weekly and should be available via dial-up computer facilities in most Australian capital cities. The publicity leaflet announcing this new *Index* makes no mention of whether or not it will be available on AUSINET. Presumably such a decision will depend on the demand for on-line access. The annual subscription, including four hours connect time, will cost \$240 with an hourly connect time fee thereafter of \$70. Further information is available from Information Pathways, 25 Central Avenue, Black Rock, Victoria, 3193.

Cognizant of the fact that many potential users will not retain, or have easy access to, the original source material, Information Pathways are also offering a full text supply system, at an extra cost. While this service is unlikely to be required by many librarians or indexers, the concept is of considerable interest given the copyright implications.

It is to be hoped that the venture meets with success comparable with its boldness. Certain questions are to date yet to be answered; these include the quality of indexing and abstracting, the level of selectivity in the various newspapers indexed and the thesaurus to be used. Nonetheless, such is the nature of access to newspaper articles in Australia, that the pattern of coverage consists of a great deal of "Gap"

with only a suggestion of "Ferguson". In such a situation, any index must be welcomed and supported by libraries. However, given the extremely large labour content of indexing, the success of the venture will probably not depend solely on their response. Considerable inroads will need to be achieved in other markets for access to current and very recent newspapers if the *Index* is to be viable in the long term.

Robert STAFFORD.

* STAFFORD, Robert. *Australian newspaper index feasibility study : report*. By Robert Stafford, prepared for the AACOBS Working Party on Bibliography. Canberra, National Library of Australia, 1980.
(Development of resource sharing networks: networks study, no. 13)

DEVINDEX AUSTRALIA

This index to Australian literature on social and economic literature published between 1975 and 1979 stems from an endeavour by the International Development Research Centre to design an international cooperative information system for development studies. The publication, prepared by Robert Stafford, will no doubt be of interest to many members of the Society both because of its subject coverage and because of its method of compilation. The following extract from its Introduction is therefore provided:

We have created a pilot multi access index to the literature on development studies published, or otherwise made available, in Australia from 1975 to 1979. This index has been created according to the specifications recommended by the original DEVSIS Study Team which was sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the ILO, the UNDP, the OECD and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to design an international cooperative information system for development studies. The system employed has been designed specifically for the recording and exchange in machine readable and other forms of literature on development. Both the subject scope and the arrangement of the index have been created to serve the information needs of policy makers and planners in developing countries and in development-aid organisations. The DEVSIS Study Team report, which was published as *DEVSIS: preliminary design of an international information system for the development sciences* in 1976 by the IDRC, recommended that national centres be established in both developed and developing countries to record and organise the relevant literature generated on Third World development.

Whereas the design called for a global network of national participating centres with a DEVSIS Central Unit based within the United Nations, what have emerged over the years are regional DEVSIS-type systems servicing Latin America (INFOPLAN-CEPAL, Santiago, Chile); the Caribbean (CARISPLAN-ECLA, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago), and Africa (PADIS-DEV — ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) with efforts underway to establish similar systems in Western Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. DEVSIS also seems to have established a foothold in the UN with the Development Information System of the Information Systems Unit located in the UN-Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DIESA/ISU). In addition, DEVSIS-type information systems have existed in several countries, including India, Pakistan, Tunisia, the Philippines, and the Netherlands.

While to date no such international centre has been established, the IDRC has attempted to bridge this gap by the publication of indexes, in the specified format, to an increasing proportion of the literature of development studies. Commencing with an index to the 1975 Canadian literature, *Devindex Canada*, the IDRC has consistently expanded national coverage to the extent that their most recent index *Devindex 1981* covers the literature contributed and indexed by centres in the Federal Republic of Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the USSR, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

The index covers journal articles, monographs, chapters in books and conference proceedings published in Australia between 1975 and 1979 and dealing with development studies. Theses accepted for higher degrees in Australian universities are also included. The main bibliographic index, which is organised in categories according to the purpose for which the document was produced, is followed by subject, geographical, institutional and author indexes. Headings in the subject indexes have been taken from the *Macrothesaurus for information processing in the field of economic and social development* published by the OECD.

The records, many of which include abstracts, were prepared in Australia and processed by the IDRC in Ottawa using MINISIS software developed at the IDRC on a Hewlett-Packard 3000 computer.

Devindex Australia; index to Australian literature on social and economic development: 1975-1979, by D. H. Borchardt and R. Stafford was published by the Borchardt Library, La Trobe University, Bundoora Victoria in 1983. It appears in that University's *Library publication series*, costs \$9 and should be ordered direct.

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BOOK REVIEWS - INDEXES MENTIONED

CANNON, Michael (editor). *Historical records of Victoria: foundation series, volume 2A, The aborigines of Victoria, 1835-39*. Victorian Government Printing Office. Reviewed by Rex Harcourt, *The Age*, 12 February 1983.

"Some headings are misleading: more internal cross-referencing is needed; in parts the sequence of presentation is puzzling; and it is inexcusable that no index is included".

FIRTH, Stewart. *New Guinea under the Germans*. Melbourne University Press. Reviewed by Francis West, *The Age*, 12 March 1983.

"It may be significant that one of the things actually open to the Germans at the time - scientific work - finds no place in the index. Nor do the names of scientists like Richard Thurnwald and Carl Schrader, although they appear all too briefly in the text. The index, it should be added, is a disgrace in a book whose chief merit is its careful detail".

GREENWOOD, Douglas. *Who's buried where in England*. Constable. Reviewed by Rosemary Dobson, *The Age*, 26 February 1983.

"(The author) includes a map of the counties of England, and a geographical checklist arranged by counties as well as a general index".

KEARNEY, Patrick J. *A history of erotic literature*. Macmillan. Reviewed by John Tranter, *The Age*, 5 February 1983.

"The present volume...comes complete with notes to the text, a bibliography, a list of illustrated sources and a comprehensive index".

LEDWIDGE, Bernard. *De Gaulle*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Reviewed by Peter Ryan, *The Age*, 12 March 1983.

"This is a good book, detailed and mostly accurate, and with an index worthy of a work of reference".

LOFTHOUSE, Andrea (compiler). *Who's who of Australian women*. Methuen. Reviewed by Irene A. Greenwood, *Australian book review*, No. 48, February-March 1983.

"The Index provides the guide to major involvements of the women included and lists alphabetically the names under their categories of occupations, some forty in number and startling in implication. ... If there is a criticism, and it's the only one, it would be that the lists of names and categories in the Index do not always carry page numbers. But then, it is my habit to turn first to an Index, or Appendix for guide. So much for the excellent organization of the tremendous amount of information".

McNICOLL, Ronald. *The Royal Australian Engineers 1919-1945*. Corps Committee of the Royal Australian Engineers. Reviewed by A. J. Sweeting, *The Age*, 12 March 1983.

"The illustrations are well chosen, there are useful biographical notes... an extensive bibliography and an index, heaven be praised, that works".

McPHEE & GRIBBLE. *An Australian gardener's anthology*. Rigby. Reviewed by T. Garnett, *The Age*, 18 February 1983.

"I would ask for the addition of an index, for it is a practical book".

MANN, Thomas. *Thomas Mann diaries; 1918-1921; 1933-1939*, selected by Hermann Kesten, translated by Richard and Clara Winston. Macmillan. Reviewed by Clement Semmler, *The Australian*, 19-20 March 1983.

"Kesten, a distinguished German scholar, has made this selection for English readers, notable for its magnificently complete annotations, references and indexes".

QUENNELL, Peter. *Customs and characters; contemporary portraits*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Reviewed by Jill Kitson, *The Age*, 26 February 1983. "The further merits of 'Customs and Characters' include useful source notes, a thorough index, and its appearance: it is a book designed for the bibliophile".

SYMONS, Michael. *One continuous picnic: a history of eating in Australia*. Duck Press. Reviewed by Nancy Keesing, *Australian book review*, No. 48, February-March 1983.

"...it has a good index (and these are rare today)".

Members and readers are encouraged to forward the Editor copies of reviews which refer to indexes. An attempt is made to cover *The Age*, *The Australian* and *Australian book review*, but contributions from other sources would be most welcome.

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MISSING INDEX

References to indexes are often found in unusual places, and the following may be of interest to members, more especially if they are genealogically, sociologically, economically and in any other way inclined.

The work of *Archiv für Wohlfahrtsabflegel* was to collect and index. The Index was said to have four million entries, an immense variety of information upon social, economic and industrial conditions, not only in Germany but throughout the world. During the war the Index had been evacuated to East Germany and in 1947 it was in the hands of the Poles.

This information came from a footnote in *Which is the justice: reflections of a juvenile court magistrate* by John Watson and published by Allen and Unwin in 1969.

Does anyone know where this Index is now?

Jean UHL.

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OBITUARY

CORYL ISABEL MUNTZ

Coryl Isabel Muntz graduated in Science from the University of Melbourne in 1949, with a major in botany. She then was appointed as a taxonomic botanist to the staff of the National Herbarium of Victoria under the direction of the then Victorian Government Botanist, Mr. A. W. Jessop. In 1955 Coryl obtained a botanical appointment at Kew Gardens, London. Subsequently she obtained a position at the Rijksherbarium, Leyden, where she edited J. J. Barkham's doctorate thesis on the ecology of Netherland mosses. Coryl's interest in botany extended far beyond the scientific. She, in the great tradition of botanists, enjoyed every aspect of her discipline, particularly the aesthetic. She was very fond of flowering plants and was a keen gardener. Returning to Australia, she married and for some time lived in Canberra.

Coryl first joined CSIRO in November 1963 as a part-time Assistant Divisional Editor, Division of Land Research and Regional Survey, where she edited and indexed many publications including *Grasses of Central Australia* by M. L. Lazarides, ANU 1970. In addition to her CSIRO work she became part-time editorial assistant with the Australian National University Press.

In 1970 Coryl, who had moved to Melbourne with her family, was appointed to the Central Library and Information Service as a Scientific Services Officer to assist with scientific and technical abstracting and indexing. Over the next eight years she became a leading member of the information science profession in Australia. In CSIRO she developed *CSIRO thesaurus* and with distinction edited first *CSIRO abstracts* and then *CSIRO index*. Her expert advice was frequently sought both by colleagues and others, and she was something of the doyenne of abstractors and indexers, particularly in the biological field. In 1978, owing mainly to a very sad personal situation, Coryl resigned from CSIRO believing that she could not give her full attention to her work. And this was a very typical response by Coryl in that she maintained the highest personal professional standards and was meticulous in everything to which she put her hand.

Coryl was a very private person with a great strength of character and enormous courage. She was greatly respected by her colleagues for her personal generosity, her intellectual ability, her impeccable taste and style; all of these characteristics were reflected in such little things as her handwriting or her tastes in wine and food. She once said that the perfect meal was dry sherry with avocado.

For us who inevitably ponder on the mysteries of life and death, it is comforting to know that Coryl, who had such great intellectual honesty, came to the end believing, and with a calmness that all who knew her will recall as one of her great traits.

Clyde GARROW.

Coryl Muntz's passing leaves a void in the Australian Society of Indexers which, because of her characteristic efficiency and professionalism, will not be filled. She gave of her time and talents unstintingly from the time when she first joined the Society in June 1974. As a Committee member she organised those perhaps less important parts of a meeting which others may have left undone but which added to the smooth running when the Society was in its difficult infancy as a wholly Australian Society. She was also a co-member of the Panel of Assessors for Registration of Indexers.

I was first made aware of Coryl as a person when, in the era of H. Godfrey Green, the monthly meeting was held in my home and I also had to be the speaker. After that meeting, Coryl stayed behind to help clear up and we continued talking - not a difficult thing to do for either of us. By chance, I discovered that I knew her father and brother and that she was one of the Skewes family, so well-known in the Mitcham district for many years, where she grew up and from there went to Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School. Her career there was remarkable only for a passion for Australian wildflowers. She was unusually forceful in discussions with another enthusiast, a teacher, Miss Winifred Waddell, who later founded the Victorian Native Plants Preservation Society.

Our acquaintance grew and flourished into friendship. I found her one of the rarer people with whom I could discuss the knotty problems of indexing, exchange news and views on books and have a laugh over the foibles of the human race. I realised she was, as the Reverend Hugh McCartney said at her funeral service, "a private person" - but it was possible to dissolve her reserve. I became full of admiration, tinged with awe, for her many talents, her scientific and botanical knowledge, her professional experience overseas and in Australia and especially for her love and appreciation for "things of beauty which are a joy forever". I also came to realise that she did not suffer fools gladly - which made her all the more interesting.

Coryl went through much anxiety and trauma just before she moved from Deepdene to Vermont but remained stoical and philosophical in the face of personal trials and difficulties. Not so long before, she had lost her mother and was conscientiously caring for her father (another independent soul!) while still maintaining her busy work schedule at CSIRO.

Our mutual love of gardens and gardening always peppered our conversations and she was a great help to me with her knowledge of botany and in keeping me on the right track scientifically while writing a History in My Garden book. It is hard to realise that I shall not now be able to let her "vet" my MS and take note of what her editorial skills would undoubtedly have led her to express in kind but critical terms.

Her efficiency in book indexing after she retired from CSIRO was a measure of her adaptability and conscientiousness and it is to be much regretted that the Index she compiled for the prize winning book by Eric Rolls *A million wild acres* (1981) was not acknowledged anywhere as her (arduous) work.

Her terminal illness was very hard for her friends to bear as it was for herself though she remained "herself" to the end, independent and courageous. She knew too much medically to ever make a good patient but knowing herself brought a dignity and serenity to her in her last days.

Her memory will remain green among members of the Society to which she contributed so much, allowing others to draw on her expertise.

The tree she gave me to plant in my garden because she knew she herself would never see it blossom is a constant reminder of her and her philosophy of life; a symbol, in its growing and blossoming in the Spring, of her belief in a life hereafter. Vale Coryl.

Jean UHL.

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FEES FOR CONTRACT INDEXING

The last recommendation on fees for contract indexing was issued by the Society in June 1982, being a minimum rate of \$1.50 per 1000 words for texts of low information density. This rate had been increased from the original rate by the percentage rise of the Consumer Price Index from December 1980 to December 1981. From December 1981 to December 1982, the Consumer Price Index, as published in the Australian Bureau of Statistics Bulletin, rose by 11 per cent. Applying this percentage to the rate of \$1.50, the Committee now recommends that the rate should be a minimum of \$1.65 per 1000 words of low information density.

On this basis, the suggested upper limit of \$4.00 per 1000 words would be increased to \$4.45.

It is emphasised that these rates apply to general works. Anything of a particularly technical or unusually demanding nature would probably require higher rates.

Details of the method of estimating the basic rate were given in the September 1981 and June 1982 issues of the *Newsletter*.

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NEWSLETTER - 1983 ISSUES

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Closing date for copy</u>
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