



# Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter

PO Box R598, ROYAL EXCHANGE NSW 1225 VOLUME 22, NUMBER 7, AUGUST 1998 ISSN 0314-3767

## Library Literature CD-ROM

*Glenda Browne reviews the Library Literature index on CD-ROM.*

### Background

*Library Literature* is a bibliographic database from H.W.Wilson that indexes 234 library and information science periodicals. Most are from the United States, but others, including non-English language journals, are indexed. Subjects of interest to indexers include indexing, cataloguing and publishing. *Library Literature's* competitor is *Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)* which has similar coverage and scope. *LISA* provides abstracts as well as indexing, and has more specific subject headings.

*Library Literature* is available online (updated twice weekly), on the Web (monthly), on CD-ROM (quarterly) and in print (6 times a year, with an annual cumulation). I reviewed the February 1998 CD covering the period December 1984 to January 1998.

### Items and periodicals indexed

*Library Literature* started at the end of 1984 and by February 1998 contained over 175,000 records; more than a thousand are added each month. Australian journals indexed include *LASIE* (in which *Indexing in the electronic age* conference proceedings were published) and the *Australian Library Journal*. Browsing the results of searches shows other important journals, including *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*. *The Indexer* has always been included; *Key Words* had not yet been indexed by the time the review disc was published.

Most parts of periodicals are indexed, at least selectively, including feature articles, interviews, notices of appointments and awards, and editorials and letters of reference value. In addition, books, chapters within books, conference proceedings, library school theses, and pamphlets are indexed.

### Free-text and controlled vocabulary searching

*Library Literature* allows free-text and controlled vocabulary searching.

To enable controlled vocabulary searching, professional librarians and language specialists allocate descriptors (subject headings) from the *Library Literature* subject authority file. Terms in the authority file are derived from the literature itself; from reference works; from other Wilson indexes; and from *Library of Congress Subject Headings*. The thesaurus feature will not be available until the end of 1998, although cross-references can still be used when doing a search.

### Practical

#### Searching (Search, Search+ and Browse)

*Library Literature* uses the *SilverPlatter™* interface, which is well-presented and relatively easy to use. I have used the DOS™ version before, and found it easy to adapt to the Windows™ version. Online help is available.

The main options are **Search**, **Search+** and **Browse**; these can be selected from the **Views** menu or by clicking the appropriate button.

#### Search

**Search** allows you to type single or multiple searches. Examples of single searches are:

- #1 **book indexing** will find any records containing the word *book*, and the word *indexing*.

*(Continued on page 66)*

### What's Inside

Library Literature CD-ROM review	61, 66-68
News and announcements	62-65
Seattle conference report	69
Executive and newsletter contacts	70



# Noticeboard

## New members

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Robyn Cook, NSW  
Patrick Cullen, NSW  
Steven Mendoza, Vic  
Marianne Piercey, SA  
Libby Robertson, NSW

## Society of Indexers (UK)

### New secretary

Liza Weinkove has taken over from Christine Shuttleworth as secretary of the Society of Indexers. The email address is still: [admin@socind.demon.co.uk](mailto:admin@socind.demon.co.uk)

### SI website

The Society of Indexers' website (with information about their upcoming conference, among other things) is now online at:

<http://www.socind.demon.co.uk/>

## ACT Branch July meeting

We enjoyed a good meal and (for those who were interested) some good wines and an excellent after-dinner dissertation on the joys of old books and the reasons for discovering those joys. Geoff Burkhardt from the University of Canberra shared some quirky tales and some sad stories.

## ACT Branch Seminar: De-mystifying Web Indexing

The intellectual side of Internet, or Web, indexing is simple. If you think of each Web site as an issue of a journal, and every 'page' on the site as an article in that journal, then the task of indexing the contents of each page of a Web site becomes very similar to the work of database indexers.

Every 'article' on the site has to be named (title); the person or group responsible, if known, identified (author); some details given which link it to the URL of the Web site (citation/source); and information provided, usually through keywords, on the subject matter or content of the item (subjects/keywords/descriptors). Other information - like geographic location, language, and even a summary - may also be required for a Web 'article' or page, just as it is for some printed or online information databases.

So if Web indexing is just a variant of database indexing, why is there so much confusion over how it is done? The reason lies in the technical, not the intellectual aspects - there have been few clear-cut and easy methods for standardising the information collected for each Web 'article', and few programs to search for and retrieve that information for users.

Enter Metadata. Metadata is simply a set of internationally agreed-to data 'fields' which will standardise the format for author/title/source/keyword information for each Web 'article'. Computer people, librarians, records managers and yes even indexers from around the world have input ideas and suggestions into this new standard. They've worked on it for years, and now it is being trialed on the Internet.

Metadata is generated using HTML (a widely-used language for creating Web sites), but you don't need a degree in programming to use it. Just recently a number of metadata "templates" have been released onto the Internet so that users can concentrate on what they put into metadata fields, rather than on the technical aspects of HTML use. The Australian Commonwealth Government has created one such template as well as a search engine to find information created in this manner, and intends to use these to attach metadata to every item or page on every federal Government Web site. It is a bold step which should greatly improve access to public sector information. If, as is expected, this becomes a mandatory part of every government Web site, the implications for information professionals (particularly in terms of potential work for indexers) are enormous.

*(Continued on page 64)*

## Dates for your diary

WIP Workshop - Web Publishing	25 Aug
ACT Metadata seminar	26-27 Aug
NSW Seminar - Electronic Haystack	29 Aug
NSW Society of Editors meeting	1 Sept
NSW Soc. Eds copyediting workshop	19 Sept
UNSW Indexing Web pages course	24 Sept
Society of Indexers (UK) conference	9-11 Oct



# Noticeboard

## President's Letter

### The Electronic Newsletter



Dear Colleague,

Receiving this Newsletter is one of the main benefits you get from belonging to the Society. In fact, approximately one-third of your subscription is spent on producing, printing, and distributing the Newsletter to you.

The National Committee wants to ensure that members receive the Newsletter promptly, regularly and in the most convenient form. This year we gave you the option of receiving the Newsletter by email instead of by post, and at present 33 of you (out of 200) are receiving it in this format.

The print Newsletter will of course continue, for as long as members want to receive it.

For the electronic Newsletter, the National Committee is looking at ways of providing the best and most economical service possible. As the number of subscribers to the email version increases, some problems arise in maintaining this form of delivery. For next year, we are considering mounting each issue of the Newsletter on the AusSI website as it is published. Subscribers to the electronic version would be informed by email as each issue is mounted, and could then read the issue by going online to the AusSI website.

Two questions have been raised on which we would like members' opinions:

1. Would the present (or intending) email subscribers be happy with the new arrangement?
2. Do members feel that it is necessary to restrict access to the electronic Newsletter (by password for subscribers), or should the information be freely available to all visitors to the AusSI website?

Do let the Committee know your views.

**Alan Walker**, President

## NSW Branch Seminar:

*The Electronic Haystack: Roles for Indexers.*

**See the enclosed flyer for more information.**

The NSW Branch will be holding a seminar on the multimedia industry and the indexing profession in the Daruk Room at Penrith Library on Saturday 29 August from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Bookings and enquiries to Madeleine Davis on:  
ph (02) 47876277, fax (02) 47876069,  
email:redcliff@hermes.net.au

## NSW Society of Editors

The NSW Society of Editors holds meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at the Rooftop Function Centre, 4th floor, Australian Museum (enter from William St) at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm. Drinks and light refreshments provided. RSVP by the Friday before to (02) 9294 4999 (voicemail). Members \$12; non-members and those who don't RSVP, \$15.

They are also running a copyediting workshop on Saturday, 19 September from 9 am to 5 pm at the State Library of NSW. Cost \$90 for non-members. Ring Tim Badgery-Parker on (02) 9954 8645 for more information. (I have been to their seminar on Scientific Editing and found it useful and enjoyable. **GB**)

## From the editor

We have spent a frustrating two and a half weeks with our new computer away being fixed (for the second time since we bought it in March this year!).

We still have our old computer (thank goodness!) but it is amazing how quickly you move on - we now have software that won't run on the old one, and downloading web pages at two minutes a time with our old modem is just so tedious...

If you have emailed us in the last month and have not received a reply, please send again. It is possible that your message has been lost in the confusion.



There are three web seminars advertised this month - this shows where people's interests and concerns lie just now.

**Glenda Browne.**





# Noticeboard

## Women in Publishing Web Publishing Seminar

This seminar looks at the relationships between content production for print and web publishing. The similarities and the differences between the two mediums will be examined as well as the cultural impact of women writers and producers on the Net. The seminar will also take a practical look at information design fundamentals, including screen layout and interactivity.

### Panel:

**Rosanne Bersten** is editor of *Computer Choice* magazine published by the Australian Consumers Association. Rosanne has been in computer print and web publishing for five years. She was the founding editor of Internet.au. As founder of Women in Technology and Co-founder of Digital Queers Australia she has promoted increased access to the new technologies for women and people in rural Australia.

**Brenda Mattick** is a lecturer in the Dept of Social Communication and Journalism at UTS. She specialises in information design and digital publishing. She has recently returned from New Guinea and Samoa where she taught desktop and Internet publishing.

**Kate Crawford** is currently editor of Internet.au and Managing Editor of the Australian Net Directory and CNET Briefs – an online information service. Kate also makes music. Her band Biftek, is Australia's only all-girl electronic outfit.

The training seminar will take place on **Tuesday 25 August 1998**, at The Terrace, the Australian Museum, William Street entrance, Sydney. Cost \$25 members (\$30 non-members/associate members). **RSVP** by cheque to PO Box 1515, North Sydney NSW 2059 by Wednesday 19 August or by credit card to fax 9954 9077 by Thursday 20 August. For enquiries phone Maggie Way 9954 1438. mw@oupanz.com.au

## Indexers Medal 1998

The Australian Society of Indexers is again offering its annual Medal for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

The Medal will be presented to the indexer responsible for the best index submitted, if it is of sufficient quality, and the publisher of the winning index will be presented with a certificate. The presentations will take place at a Society dinner to be held in late November.

To be eligible for the award, the index must be in print and must have been first published after 1995. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere.

For the award, indexes are judged at the level of outstanding professional achievement, thus sufficient material is required, both in quality and quantity, for appraisal. The index should be substantial in size, the subject matter should be complex, and the language, form and structure of the index should demonstrate the indexer's expertise, as well as serving the needs of the text and the reader.

Publishers, indexers and all interested persons are invited to nominate indexes which meet the above criteria, and which they regard as worthy of consideration. Indexers are encouraged to nominate their own works.

Please send recommendations, with bibliographic details, and if possible together with a copy of the book/periodical (which will be returned), to:

Secretary, Australian Society of Indexers,  
PO Box 1251, Melbourne Vic 3001 Australia  
as soon as possible, and no later than  
Friday, 9 October, 1998.

For further information, please contact Max McMaster,  
ph/fax: +61 3 9571 6341,  
email: mindexer@interconnect.com.au

(Continued from page 62)

The ACT Region Branch of AusSI, in conjunction with the Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) Cataloguers Group is offering a 2-day workshop/seminar which outlines the current state of metadata development and provides an opportunity for participants to become familiar with some of the ideas, tools and practices associated with the application of metadata. A feature of each day is an afternoon workshop session which allows hands-on creation of metadata. It is in the interest of all indexers to attend.

*Metadata Unravalled: Developments for the Information Professional* will be held on Wednesday and Thursday 26–27 August 1998 at the National Library of Australia, Canberra. A discounted registration fee of \$90 per day is available to AusSI members. Registrations are open until 15 August. If registrations run over our quota, we may run the workshop again later in the year. Enquiries, programs and registration forms are available from Shirley Campbell, AusSI ACT Region Branch, GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601, phone (02) 6234 2225, fax (02) 6234 2237, email shirley.campbell@radford.act.edu.au



# Noticeboard

## August Indexer Conference

The Australian Society of Indexers will hold its second International Conference at Hobart, Tasmania from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 August 1999 with the theme: *The August Indexer*.

Please contact the Conference Committee to express your interest in presenting a paper or just participating in the conference. Your name will be recorded to receive further details.

Send to: Australian Society of Indexers International Conference Committee, GPO Box 1251, Melbourne, Victoria 3001. Tel / Fax: +61 3 9571 6341. email: [mindexer@interconnect.com.au](mailto:mindexer@interconnect.com.au)

## Clodagh Jones' address correction

Clodagh Jones is the Hobart contact and organiser for the 1999 conference. Her address was printed incorrectly in the last newsletter. Her correct email address is: [jonesc@netspace.net.au](mailto:jonesc@netspace.net.au)

## Victorian Branch meetings

### LAND FOR SALE !!

On Thursday September 10th the ghosts of 1839 will come alive thanks to one man's obsession.

Mr Ken Smith, of the Port Philip Pioneers Society, has been working on the period from the first land sale 1 June 1837, to the day when the Port Philip district became the state of Victoria 1 July 1851.

He has compiled immensely detailed indexes and maps of early Melbourne from property records, rate books and newspapers. Ken is a printer by trade but the historical interest that started as a teenage hobby took over his life.

Come and hear all about this fascinating slice of early history – now Ken is indexing the Port Philip Gazette by 'anything someone might want to know about' – businesses, people, squatting stations, stud horses, ships and even by vegetables grown.

Check out the antecedents on Thursday September 10th at ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research), 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell Time 6 for 6.30 pm. Dinner afterwards in budget priced restaurant

Parking in side streets or come by train or tram – ACER is just a short climb up the hill from Burke

Road. Further information and RSVP to Jenny Restarick tel 03 9545 2178 (BH) 03 9528 2539 (AH) email [jenny.restarick@enquiries.csiro.au](mailto:jenny.restarick@enquiries.csiro.au)

## WHAT IS INDEXING ?

Close to 30 people attended a very successful evening discussing the skills and training required by indexers and what makes a 'perfect 10'

We were treated to 3 different indexing methods. Dorothy Prescott spoke about the incredible number of aspects involved in map indexing – not just coordinates, and different versions of how to spell geographic place names, but also the human involvement – give details of the mapmakers; famous people who may have passed this way eg. Cook's travels; places which have no modern day equivalent eg. Babylon and Xanadu – fascinating insights into this very specific field.

Next we had Geraldine Suter talking about the *Argus* (Newspaper) Indexing Project which was initiated as one of Victoria's Sesquicentenary History projects. Indexing is done by volunteers under extensive guidelines, inputting, thesaurus control by Geraldine. First 10 years about to be published – a marvellous effort – historians, writers, journalists, students are all flocking to use this wonderful new resource.

Finally John Simkin told us his experiences in using the craft of librarianship to explore other avenues – indexing, compilation of bibliographies, organisation of records including personal libraries etc.

These 3 speakers were so interesting that questions flowed from the floor, whilst we discussed the pros and cons of 'simplistic' versus 'structured' indexing; variation in indexing charges; publishers' impressions of indexers; etc.

**WWWalker**



interactive Web indexing courses  
onsite installation and training in Sydney available  
next courses start 15 Aug, 12 Sep 1998; 4 wks x 3 hrs,  
Sat, Aust. EST; \$200 full course, \$50 notes only  
WWWalker Web Development, Australia  
<http://www.wwwalker.com.au/>  
[dwight@zip.com.au](mailto:dwright@zip.com.au)  
02-98960286 (T) \* 02-97772058 (F) \* 0412-405-727 (M)

(Continued from page 61)

- #2 **Indexing-Books** will find any records containing that descriptor.
- #3 **Whyte-Jean** will find any records containing that name in any field (e.g. author).
- #4 **Whyte-Jean in de** will find any records with that name in the descriptor (de) field (i.e. as a subject).

You can use search statement numbers to combine records retrieved in different searches. For example, after doing the searches above, searching for "#2 and #3" will find records by *Jean Whyte* on *book indexing* (as well, perhaps, as some *about Jean Whyte* and *about indexing books*). The search "Whyte-Jean and Indexing-Books" would find the same records.

In the searches above, hyphens keep first and last names (Whyte-Jean) and parts of the descriptor (Indexing-Books) together so they are searched as a unit.

Words beginning with certain character strings can be found by adding the truncation symbol \* at the end; thus 'index\*' will find the words *index*, *indexer*, *indexing*, and so on. The wildcard ? stands as a substitute for one, or no characters. Thus 'catalog?ing' retrieves *cataloging* and *cataloguing*.

Figure 1 shows the search screen with results of six searches and one record on display.

### Search+

In **Search+** you can easily limit the search using fields such as publication year or article type (this can also be done in **Search** with an extra step). Click on the **Search+** button to open a dialog box; type in a search term, then click on a radio button to select the appropriate Boolean operator (*and*, *or* or *not*). Select options such as year of publication or article type as required.

To search for all items by (or about) Wellisch in 1996 you should be able to type 'Wellisch' as the keyword, click on publication date, and select '1996' from the list of dates. This did not work for me, as the search retrieved records from all years. On returning to the search screen I found that the selection had returned to the default of **All** years. I therefore used **Search**, typed 'Wellisch' and clicked on **Limit**, then clicked on publication date and selected '1996' from the list of dates. Another alternative is to type "Wellisch and py=1996". In **Search+** (and in **Search** using the **Limit** button) you can also limit by article type (e.g. book review) and article contents (e.g. product evaluation).

(Continued on page 67)

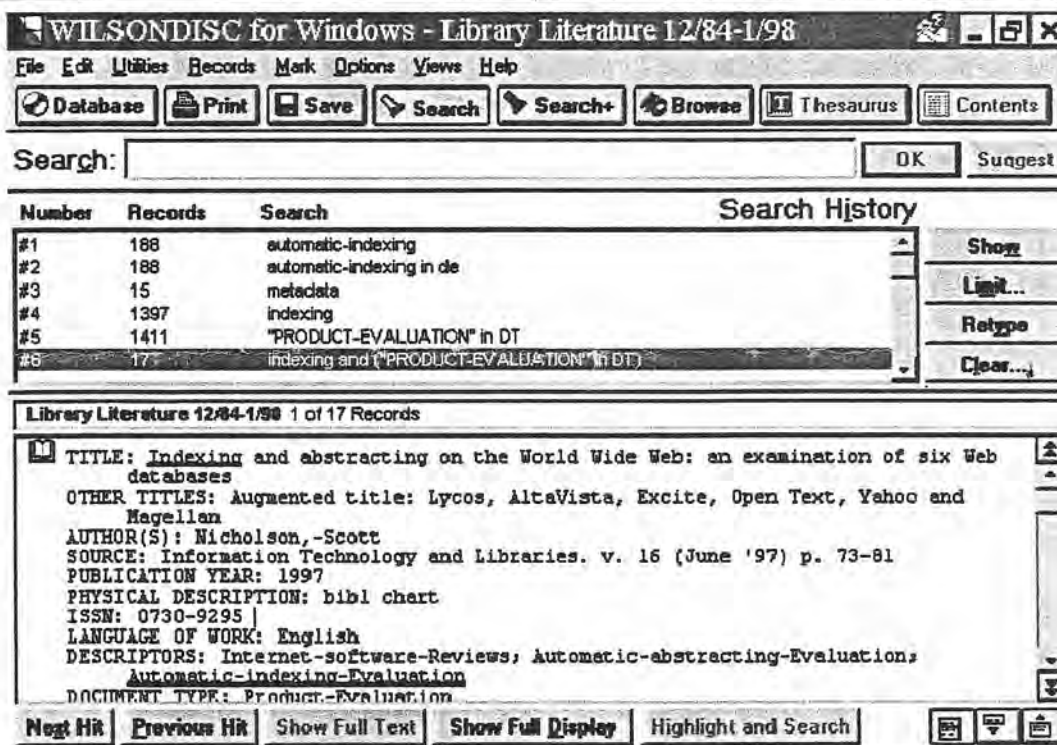


Figure 1. Library Literature search screen showing results of 6 searches, with one record on display.



(Continued from page 66)

Figure 2 shows the Search+ dialog box on the search screen.

### Browse

To find a complex heading, or if you are unsure how to spell a word, select the **Browse** option. As you type the search word in, you are taken to the appropriate position in the alphabetical list of terms. If you want the cataloguing in publication department of the Library of Congress, you can type 'Library of Congress' and then double-click on the exact heading (Library-of-Congress-Cataloging-in-Publication-Division) from the list. Without the **Browse** option most people would find it very difficult to choose the correct format for organisational names such as these.

### Thesaurus

The thesaurus feature for *Library Literature* will be available in late 1998. Before then you can click on the **Suggest** button to bring up a short list of related terms from the cross-references in the Wilson authority file. I typed 'Indexing' and then clicked **Suggest**. This brought up useful terms like *Indexer-publisher-relations*, and specific services such as *MEDLINE-Information-System*, as well as the less useful *Associations-History*. It made no mention of terms such as *Subject-headings* that are closely related to *Indexing*. The thesaurus feature will therefore be welcome (so long as the thesaurus is well-constructed – the suggest lists will need to be improved).

There is little consistency between terms chosen by *LISA* and *Library Literature*. *LISA* tends to have more specific terms (such as *Barefoot librarian concept*) than *Library Literature*. (A free-text search in *Library Literature* for the term *barefoot* also found *Barefoot* as an author.) The less specific headings in *Library Literature* are not necessarily a disadvantage, however, as the indexing and classification in *LISA* have not always been consistent.

In addition to library-related terms, the *LISA: Online User Manual* (i.e. subject heading list; Learned Information, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 1987) also lists subjects that might be collected by information services, such as *Alchemy*, *Army nurses*, and *Aromatic compounds*.

For works on 'agricultural libraries' *Library Literature* uses the heading *Information-services-Special-subjects-Agriculture*; *LISA* uses *Agriculture* alone. Although the *LISA* heading is simpler, it has not been used consistently, and the manual notes: "Occasionally

and incorrectly as: *AGRICULTURE LIBRARIES*". For works on 'library instruction' *Library Literature* uses *Bibliographic instruction*; *LISA* uses *Use instructions* (with a reference from *Bibliographic instruction*). This means the user has to find the best term for each database.

### Showing, Printing and Saving

The records from your search are automatically shown when you double click on the search result. You can then select records and fields for printing or saving. The print and show options include *All*, *Citation*, and user-selected fields. You can also save and reload searches.

### Indexing

To assess the indexing I went to the subject I know best -- **indexing**. I found a few errors and inconsistencies, but believe this to be inevitable.

### Title augmentation

Title augmentation and translations are a useful feature of *Library Literature*, giving extra keywords when the original titles are more poetic than pragmatic. For example, the title "*My say: much ado over birth dates*" is augmented by "*inclusion by Library of Congress in publishing data violates authors' privacy*".

### Square pegs in round holes

The descriptor *Automatic indexing*, which to me means the use of computer 'brainpower' to create an index, has been used a few times to mean indexing related in some other way to computers. Thus an article of mine called *Indexing: the ideal cottage industry* in the

(Continued on page 68)



Figure 2. *Library Literature* search screen showing the Search+ dialog box.

(Continued from page 67)

electronic journal *LIBRES* is indexed under the heading *Automatic indexing*. I can see no reason for this except that the title includes the information that the article is a computer file (that is, it has not been printed). Similarly two articles on the AusSI Web Indexing prize by Dwight Walker (*The Indexer* April '96 and April '97) have the heading *Automatic indexing*, presumably to emphasise the electronic environment of the indexes, ignoring the fact that they were not necessarily automatically generated (one used some automation). The article *How to index online* by Jan Wright (*The Indexer* April '97) also wrongly has this heading. These examples highlight a problem with controlled vocabularies – they cannot be expected to provide the perfect term for every subject. A section in the record in which indexers can add free-text terms is needed.

### *Incomplete indexing*

Some other indexing seems incomplete. An article on *Professional liability of indexers* has the sole heading *Indexers*, although the heading *Publishers-and-publishing-Legal-aspects* exists, and would be appropriate.

### **Hardware, software, installation and documentation**

The minimum requirements to run the *Library Literature* CD include Windows 3.1 and an 80386sx PC, but an 80486 is recommended. You need *WILSONDISC for Windows* for the search software, and the *Library Literature* CD for the bibliographic content. Installation was fairly simple once I worked this out – initially I was only sent the *Library Literature* disc. Documentation is very good, although some information from the Web (e.g. about specific fields) seemed to be inappropriate for this database. Technical support is available via email, and I have found the staff to be very helpful.

### **Conclusion**

As a librarian not currently working in a library I enjoyed reviewing this CD. I like the power of searching thousands of records, and finding the right one or two. I like finding work by people I know, and knowing that this database helps make it accessible around the world.

The coverage of the database suits our needs. The indexing is generally good and can be supplemented by free-text searching. The *SilverPlatter* interface is easy to use, and gives alternative approaches for refining searches. I can recommend the *Library Literature* CD to anyone doing research in the

indexing field.

For other information including cost and local suppliers look on the Web at: <http://www.hwwilson.com> and email tech support at H.W.Wilson.

## **CINDEX™**

FOR WINDOWS, MACINTOSH AND DOS

CINDEX™ provides unsurpassed performance in the indexing of books, periodicals, and journals, handling time-consuming operations such as sorting, formatting, and checking cross-references, freeing you to concentrate on identifying the facts and ideas developed in the text.

Inexpensive demonstration versions that let you explore the program's rich capabilities are available for all platforms. Special student demos are also available.

For full details and ordering information:

<http://www.indexres.com>

or contact

**Indexing Research**

*The full-service indexing company*

100 Allens Creek Road • P.O. Box 18609 • Rochester, NY 14618-0609

Tel: 716.461.5530 • Fax: 716.442.3924

E-mail: [pacificsales@indexres.com](mailto:pacificsales@indexres.com)

### **From the Webmaster**

Firstly a reminder that those who want their announcements listed on our Web should send them to me at [aussi@zeta.org.au](mailto:aussi@zeta.org.au). I update the site about once a week, so it may take that long for them to appear – the sooner you can get them to me the better! You can go directly to the Events page at

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/events>

Secondly, in view of the increasing interest in metadata for Web page indexing (cataloguing?) I have added a section about metadata to the Web site. At the moment this is mainly links to other sites, but I would be interested in anything that has a bearing on the use (or rejection!) of metadata by AusSI members. JJ





## Index-L report correction

In the last issue I published the wrong address for subscription to Index-L. You should send the message: *Subscribe Firstname Lastname* to:

LISTSERV@BINGVMB.CC.BINGHAMTON.EDU

replacing *Firstname Lastname* with your name.

i.e. not BINGHAMPTON

Sorry if you had problems with this.

## Seattle, by Max McMaster

**New Frontiers in Indexing: American Society of Indexers (ASI) Annual Conference celebrating its 30th Anniversary with the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada (IASC), May 13-16, 1998, Cavanaugh's Inn, Seattle, WA**

In a nutshell this was a fantastic conference. About 270 indexers attended the conference at Cavanaugh's Inn in Seattle. Most of the attendees were from the States as to be expected, but with a good contingent from Canada, four participants from the UK and three of us from Australia.

The conference was held over four days. The one big difference between the format of the American conference as distinct from our Australian ones, and the SI one I attended in Bristol, was the strong emphasis on continuing education/professional development. Some two and a half days were dedicated to half-day workshops, and there were additional roundtable discussion sessions over the luncheon breaks. Because of this high continuing education profile a lot of the participants were relatively inexperienced indexers. Workshop sessions and roundtable discussions covered a wide range of topics. Everything from using popular indexing packages, indexing images, editing indexes (co-presented by Alan Walker), content analysis, mentoring, finding work, networking, web indexing (presented by Dwight Walker), database indexing (my session) and many other topics. I must admit the sessions I attended either as a participant or presenter were very rewarding.

The general sessions of the conference were held over one and a half days, and they were excellent. A

variety of topics were covered. Some of the more memorable covered a novel approach to training year 6 students to construct indexes; effectiveness of regional newspaper databases; indexing as a career; the effect of a book index on re-publication as a CD-ROM; indexing in multilingual/multicultural environments; the International Panel with the presidents of all four Societies (a first for any indexers' conference anywhere); a panel discussion on certification (accreditation) which is a contentious issue in the States (I was one of the panellists), and a number of other papers.

The conference was superbly managed by Lori Lathrop (the new ASI President), who some of you would remember from the Katoomba conference. Entertainment covered a couple of cocktail functions, as well as an official murder mystery dinner theatre, incorporating the awards banquet. The murder mystery involving a video and some creative dramatics by a number of ASI personalities was memorable. The awards section included the presentation of the Wilson Award (similar to our AusSI Medal). The award is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson company and includes a cheque for US\$1000 for the successful indexer.

Cavanaugh's Inn, where the conference was held, is near the centre of Seattle, right in the middle of the major shopping district. Seattle's claim to fame is its location right on the water, with its famous 600+ ft Space Needle to provide views of the water on one side and snow covered Mt Ranier (14500 ft) on the other. The view would be great if it ever stopped raining. Seattle has only 70 days of the year when it doesn't rain!! During my 5 days in Seattle it rained off and on for 4 of them, and the weather fined up on the day I left! Although I wasn't inspired by Seattle itself I was fortunate enough to be taken on a short tour by Dave Lathrop (Lori's train-buff husband) out into the Washington countryside to admire some old railway engines, then on to a couple of national parks with magnificent Douglas firs, superb waterfalls, fast flowing shallow rivers and then up Mt Ranier to about the 5000 ft level where we encountered heavy snow. My best memory however was seeing a pair of elk grazing just on the side of the heavily-forested road. Wonderful!

For me however the highlight of the conference was the networking and meeting fellow indexers. It's nice to know that indexing problems and issues here in Australia are just the same issues and problems overseas. Also, being able to place faces to names who I have either corresponded with, or read their writings on Index-L was a big plus.

## Newsletter and Webmaster contacts

**Editor:** Glenda Browne

**Immediate past editor:** Dwight Walker

**Webmaster:** Jonathan Jerney

email: [aussi@zeta.org.au](mailto:aussi@zeta.org.au),

web: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi>

ISSN: paper: 0314-3767

electronic: 1326-2718

This newsletter is sent free to all members of the Australian Society of Indexers. It is published 11 times a year, with a combined issue for Jan/Feb. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.

Copy should be sent to the editor by the last day of each month for publication in the middle of the next month. I would be delighted to receive contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact me if you have any questions about suitable items for publication. The editor reserves the right to cut and edit material.

If greater than one A4 page, please send files on a disk or via email in Rich Text Format, Word for Windows, or plain text (ASCII).

### Graphics

Please send image files in Windows Metafile (WMF), JPEG, or PCX format. Photographs and camera-ready copy can be scanned at high resolution by the editor.

### Advertisement charges

Full page: \$80; Half page: \$40; Quarter page: \$20.

### Send copy to:

Glenda Browne

PO Box 307

Blaxland NSW 2774

ph: (02) 47 398 199; fax: (02) 47 398 189

email: [Diagonal@bigpond.com](mailto:Diagonal@bigpond.com)

### Membership charges

Melb, Sydney, ACT: \$50

Rest of Australia: \$40

Overseas: \$40

### The Indexer (International indexing journal)

Janet Shuter, Hon. Editor

email: [Shuter@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:Shuter@cix.compulink.co.uk)

Corresponding Editor Aust/NZ: Dwight Walker

ph (02) 98960286, fax (02) 9777 2058,

mobile 0412 405 727,

email: [dwight@zip.com.au](mailto:dwight@zip.com.au)

Cost: \$28 for AusSI members.

## National Executive

PO Box R598, Royal Exchange NSW 1225,

ph: (02) 9560 0102,

email: [gcousins@onaustralia.com.au](mailto:gcousins@onaustralia.com.au)

**President:** Alan Walker ph (02) 9368 0174,

fax (02) 9358 5593, email: [alan.walker@s054.aone.net.au](mailto:alan.walker@s054.aone.net.au)

**Vice President and Membership Secretary:**

Garry Cousins (02) 95600102,

email: [gcousins@onaustralia.com.au](mailto:gcousins@onaustralia.com.au)

**Secretary:** Lorraine Doyle (02) 8587 7229 (w)

(02) 9876 4218 (h), fax (02) 9888 2229

email: [Lorraine.Doyle@lbc.com.au](mailto:Lorraine.Doyle@lbc.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Tricia Waters (02) 9416 7664 (h),

(02) 9438 2399 (w) (Tue-Thu)

**Committee Member:** Carolyn Kearney

### NSW branch

PO Box R598, Royal Exchange NSW 1225

**President:** Michael Wyatt (02) 9331 7764 (w),

fax (02) 9331 7785, email: [keyword@ozemail.com.au](mailto:keyword@ozemail.com.au)

**Secretary:** Madeleine Davis (02) 9438 5354 (w),

fax (02) 9436 0026, email: [redcliff@hermes.net.au](mailto:redcliff@hermes.net.au)

**Treasurer:** Pamela Johnstone phone/fax

(02) 4757 3045, email: [pnj@pnc.com.au](mailto:pnj@pnc.com.au)

**Committee Members:** G. Browne, N. Towart

### Victorian branch

GPO Box 1251, Melbourne Vic 3001

**President:** Margaret Findlay, ph. (03) 9277 5555,

email: [findlay@acer.edu.au](mailto:findlay@acer.edu.au)

**Vice President:** Max McMaster ph/fax (03) 9571 6341,

email: [mindexer@interconnect.com.au](mailto:mindexer@interconnect.com.au)

**Secretary:** Jenny Restarick ph/fax (03) 9528 2539 (h),

email: [Jenny.Restarick@enquiries.csiro.au](mailto:Jenny.Restarick@enquiries.csiro.au)

**Treasurer:** Joyce Gillespie (03) 9654 8527 or

ph/fax (03) 9710 1270

**Committee Members:** G. Levick, E. Wood-Ellem,

J. McGovern, M. Ramsden, J. Simkin

### ACT region branch

GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601

**President:** Lynn Farkas, ph (02) 6286 3529, fax (02) 6286 6570

**Immediate Past President:** Geraldine Triffitt

ph (02) 6246 1177; fax (02) 6249 7310,

email: [grtriffitt@hotmail.com](mailto:grtriffitt@hotmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Shirley Campbell

ph (02) 6234 2225; fax (02) 6234 2237,

email: [Shirley.Campbell@Radford.act.edu.au](mailto:Shirley.Campbell@Radford.act.edu.au)

**Committee Members:** R. Hyslop, S. MacDougall, L. Tunks,

H. Kent, P. Whitten, B. Edwards, P. Deacon

### Qld group with Soc. Ed. (Qld)

Contact: Julie Forrest (07) 3353 0120 (h)

email: [J.Forrest@mcauley.acu.edu.au](mailto:J.Forrest@mcauley.acu.edu.au)

### SA group with Soc. Ed. (SA)

Contact: Susan Rintoul (08) 8235 1535 (h), fax (08) 8235 9144

email: [seaview@seaviewpress.com.au](mailto:seaview@seaviewpress.com.au)