



# Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter

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## Software Review:

### CINDEX for Windows 1.0 and SKY Index 5.1 (Professional edition)

*This month we continue Michael Wyatt's review and comparison of the recently released versions of the two principal Windows-based computer software packages designed to assist professional indexers in compiling back-of-book-style indexes.*

*This part of the review discusses printed and machine-readable output, and online and printed documentation. It also lists the prices, makes recommendations for purchase based on users' needs, and provides a table comparing the features of each.*

## Output

Both programs can produce printed and machine-readable output in a variety of formats.

### Printing out

A variety of options can be set in both programs. Although the dialogue boxes look very different, they both do approximately the same things. SKY Index's dialogue boxes display a preview of the effect of each setting.

When you print from CINDEX, what is sent to the printer is exactly the view displayed on screen. To produce a printout for proofing, you choose to display "draft" or "unformatted" view, choose "unsorted", and then click the "print" icon or choose "File|Print" from the menu. To print the final version, you ensure that the various formatting options are set so that the screen displays as you want the printed version to appear, and then choose "formatted" view and "unsorted", and print it as before. All very straightforward. (See Figure 1 on page 84).

SKY Index takes a different approach altogether, based on the probability that you already own and are familiar with a word-processor. To produce a printout for proofing, you ensure the Entry grid is displayed in entry order or page number order and choose "Proofing report" from the menu. The contents of the grid are printed in the order of the grid's display. To print the final version, you set the formatting options, only some of which appear in the Preview panel. When you click the "print" icon, SKY Index generates the index, opens your favourite word-processor and loads the index in the format you have chosen. (Eight standard word-processors are supported directly, but you can use any word-processor that can read RTF files.) At this stage you can print the index, inspect it, and within the word-processor carry out any fine-tuning not possible from within SKY Index. It sounds complex and messy, but in fact it's dead easy and totally hassle-free, and has the added

advantage that you can see exactly what your client will see. (See Figure 2 on page 85).

### Machine-readable output

Now that almost all our clients require us to send out indexes in machine-readable form, this has become a more important issue than the form of the printed output.

To produce files for use by clients, in CINDEX you use the "save as" function, and save your index as rich text format (RTF); plain ASCII text files with or without line breaks; text files containing tags for Quark Xpress, AAP, University of Chicago or HTML; or defining a custom tagging system. Unlike the DOS version, CINDEX for Windows' Quark Xpress files incorporate style tag definitions so that the client is no longer obliged to define the attributes before loading the file.

In SKY Index, you "generate" your index after choosing the output format from RTF (either plain, with page headers or customised); plain ASCII or ANSI text; text files containing tags for University of Chicago or HTML; or customised tags.

You can save customised tagging schemes for use in other indexes in CINDEX. To reuse a customised tagging scheme in SKY Index you have to import the entire index configuration.

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# Noticeboard

## New members

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Renée Amyot, SA  
Ann Cross, Qld  
Joanne Elliot, NSW  
Jane Odgers, Vic  
Margaret Pender, ACT

## WA contact

AusSI now has a local contact in Western Australia.  
Thank-you to Ling Heang for taking on this position.

Miss Ling Heang  
PO Box 728  
Applecross WA 6953  
Work: (08) 9478 3343  
Home: 0418 941 861  
Fax: (08) 9479 7509  
Email: heangsl@bigfoot.com

## Preparing Annual/Cumulative Indexes for Journals

Vic Branch is offering a half-day course on preparing annual/cumulative indexes for journals. The course is designed for indexers/editors/librarians who are responsible for the preparation of annual or cumulative indexes to periodicals. The course has a high practical component and will cover journals from a range of subject disciplines.

The short course is being held at Australian Council for Educational Research, 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, on Tuesday 17 November, 1998, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. Fees: \$60.00 per participant.

For further information or an application form please contact Max McMaster, tel/fax: (03) 9571-6341 or email: mindexer@interconnect.com.au

## UNSW Web Indexing course

The third Indexing Web Documents course will be held on Wednesday 4th November at UNSW. Further details from Maureen Henninger at m.henninger@unsw.edu.au.

### Dates for your diary

WiP Negotiation Seminar	17 Oct
UNSW Web Indexing Course	4 Nov
Annual journal indexes	17 Nov
Victorian Branch speaker meeting	25 Nov

## Web Indexing Prize 1998

To boost interest in the new field of Web indexing, the Australian Society of Indexers is running their annual Web indexing prize again.

Anyone may enter. Entries close on 30 November 1998.

Entries are welcome for a number of different forms of Web indexing including Web site indexes, topical indexes to the Web, online book indexes and Web databases of bibliographies or genealogical information.

For further details and to register please go to:

<http://www.speakeasy.org/~dwight/aussiwebprize98.html>

or email your URL with details of author, tools and purpose of the index to [dwight@speakeasy.org](mailto:dwight@speakeasy.org)

### Prizes:

- a year's membership to the Australian Society of Indexers including monthly Newsletter
- a year's free subscription to *The Indexer*, the premier indexing journal

### Judges:

- Dwight Walker, WWWalker Web Development, past Webmaster of AusSI, corresponding editor of *The Indexer*
- Maureen Henninger, Coordinator, Continuing Education, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies, University of New South Wales

## ACT Branch News

The regular Committee Meeting was held on 1st September 1998. As well as matters discussed we had an information exchange with AusInfo, established early 1998 after the re-alignment of the Australian Government Publishing Service. It is hoped that in the future these two groups, and other related organisations, will be able to repeat this exercise.

Also discussed at the meeting was the forthcoming Varied Indexing session where back-of-book indexers and database indexers will demonstrate their skills on the same text. This will be a members only session in its initial stage of development.

Projects under consideration for the coming year include a workshop introducing database indexing.

Also discussed was the success of the Metadata Unravelling seminar – two days of exciting developments and future possibilities for 'word' people.

Report by **Barbara Edwards**.



# Noticeboard

## Women in Publishing negotiating and presentation skills seminar

Communication skills are skills which all of us (in-house or freelance, editorial or production or sales and marketing) need to get more out of our working and social lives. The seminar will focus on outcomes – put simply these are: that you will be able to read people better and present accordingly. With this knowledge you will feel empowered before starting a negotiation, or before presenting yourself, in any situation. The seminar will give you the tools to do this – in an afternoon seminar specifically designed for Women in Publishing. Included in the fee is a copy of Yvonne's book *LAFFE to Success: A practical guide to getting along with others*.

Yvonne Gregory is the Director of Maddison Training, and a long standing WiP member. She is a speaker, trainer and self-published author. She has been editor and helped to launch and run *Good Weekend* and *The Australian* magazines.

This seminar will be held at the Mercure Hotel Lawson, 383 Bulwara Road, Ultimo on Saturday 17 October, 1998 from 1.00 to 5.00 pm

Cost: \$35.00 members (\$40.00 associate members and non-members) afternoon tea included. Participants are invited to gather after the seminar for drinks and dinner. Venue to be announced.

**RSVP:** By Wednesday, 14 October, 1998 either by cheque with booking slip to PO Box 1515 North Sydney 2059 or by credit card to fax (02) 9568 4880. Enquiries Caroline Colton ph. (02) 9568 4880 or email [index@ozemail.com.au](mailto:index@ozemail.com.au)

## Victorian Branch: Next meeting

Historian and indexer Elizabeth Wood-Ellem will speak at the next meeting of the Victorian Branch, to be held at ACER on Wednesday November 25th, 1998. More details in the next newsletter or from Jenny Restarick on (AH) 9528 2539 or (BH) 9 545 2178.

## Victorian Branch: Our Early Settlers – Port Phillip Colony 1837-1853

On Thursday 10th September Ken Smith of the Port Phillip Pioneers Society entertained a group of enthusiastic indexers, historians and genealogists with his sojourn into the history of Melbourne before the gold rush – who was making money, who wasn't, who was fined for drunkenness etc. Ken has compiled detailed plans of land sales in the colony and shown how one lot of land could, in a very short space of time, be subdivided again and again, thus earning the original buyer a tidy profit. One city block which was purchased for 150 pounds was sold two years later for 30,000 pounds after subdivision.

Research into his own area of Doncaster/Templestowe started Ken off on his hobby – tracing land transactions (noting names, lot numbers etc in notebooks which he laboriously typed up at home at night) and then drawing up meticulous plans.

Realising that this was a very time-consuming practice of double entry (and that the notebooks were filling up without any good searching tool to find names of buyers, sellers, etc) Ken resorted to entering details on tiny home-made index cards. On these cards he has a complete directory of the city of Melbourne 1839-40 – there were four wards – Bourke, Gipps, Latrobe and Lonsdale. Rate books give names and addresses of owners; the original property deeds are still held by the Registrar General's Office – on parchment!

Other indexes Ken has compiled (or is still compiling) include the Port Phillip Patriot (newspaper) Feb 1839 to Dec 1839 and Port Phillip Gazette Oct 1838-1843. In the latter case Ken has not only drawn up index entries, he has transcribed the full text of the newspaper article for each story he has indexed.

Although insolvencies have not been indexed officially, Ken has come across many in his research and can assist people who contact him. Prior to 1842 insolvencies were registered in Sydney and only in Melbourne after the 8th April 1842.

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## From the editor

This issue we finish Michael's thorough review of SkyIndex and CINDEK. I have a number of other reviews in the pipeline including BEAT Thesaurus software, Maureen Henninger's book on effective web searching, and a directory for writers. I am just waiting for some space...

Many people contribute to the regular appearance of this newsletter. Thanks to all contributors, both regular and sporadic. As well Tricia pays all the bills, Garry maintains the address list and members of the NSW Branch help with the enveloping. Thanks to you all.

Happy Indexing, **Glenda Browne.**





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RTF output sounds like a good idea. Firstly, just about all word-processors and desktop-publishing software can read RTF files; and secondly it can be sent by email with fewer problems than almost any other format. But it's surprising how many editors and desk-toppers either believe they can't read RTF files or can't be bothered finding out whether they can. Macintosh users, in particular, tend to get flustered when they click on a file name and nothing happens.

## Documentation

Both programs have good online and printed documentation.

## Online help

The online help of both programs is context-sensitive. Because CINDEX's features are so comprehensive the explanations can be overwhelming, but they are clearly written. Illustrations of the features being described would make the explanations easier to follow. Many help screens are very long, and you have to scroll extensively to read them. Excellent use is made of the Windows 95 "What is?" interactive help feature.

SKY Index's help is well-designed and easy to use. The information is digestibly "chunked" into shortish screens. Longer screens begin with a summary containing hyperlinks to sections within the screen. The help facility is heavily illustrated; you can click on part of an illustration of the menu bar or a dialogue box for an excellent explanation of how to use it. You have to have some idea where to look first, and it is possible to get lost. An online tutorial

introducing you to the basic concepts encourages you to get up and running right away. Right-clicking on a toolbar icon, or pressing the F1 key with a menu item highlighted, brings up help on how to use it. When you open SKY Index, a "Tip of the Day" appears (it can be disabled if you wish) — a very useful device when you're still learning how to use the program.

## Printed manuals

CINDEX's manual covers absolutely everything in great detail. Although all the basic information you need to know is covered early in the manual, there is no introductory tutorial, so getting started on your first index can be frustrating. Because of the detailed explanations and many illustrated examples, it is possible to read and understand the manual without actually having CINDEX running on your computer. But as a result (I'm afraid to say) it can be difficult to find what you're looking for in the incredibly detailed index!

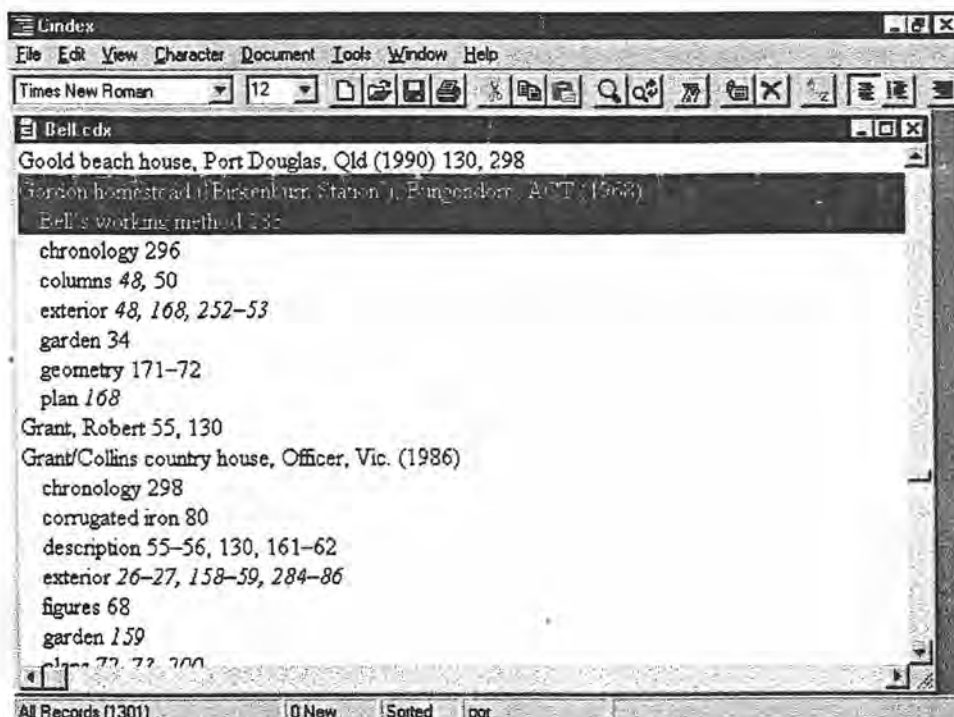
SKY Index's manual, while fairly comprehensive, does not repeat information you can see by looking at the screen. This makes it simpler to use, but unlike the CINDEX manual, for it to be really useful you need to have SKY Index actually running on your computer. I have discovered a few undocumented features, so if something's not in the manual it doesn't mean you can't do it. A whole chapter is devoted to a tutorial, making it very easy to be productive right away.

## Customer service

The prompt, courteous and unfailingly helpful service from both suppliers is nothing short of astounding! Would that Microsoft could study their ways, and learn.

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Figure 1.  
Cindex for  
Windows



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Frequent updates of both products are available free to registered users via the Internet.

## Buying software

### Price

The price of both programs is similar, but actual prices vary depending on discounts, upgrades and cross-grades. Don't make your decision on the basis of price alone. As a professional indexer, the software you use is your income-generator. If you are indexing full-time, even at full price each of these products costs less than a week's income and is tax-deductible, and you can expect it to pay for itself in a matter of weeks. The investment in the time it takes to become fully proficient in either of them is a greater cost than the cash outlay, so choose on the basis of what you need and what you feel most comfortable with.

Prices quoted are in US dollars. Postage to Australia is extra.

The full cost of CINDEX is US\$525.00. Upgrade from the DOS version is US\$295.00. There is also a Macintosh version. There is a cross-grade offer from other DOS-based programs of US\$425.00. The full cost of SKYIndex is US\$535.00. Upgrade prices from the Standard edition are available. There is a cross-grade offer for users of CINDEX and Macrex of US\$195.00.

### The future

The vendors have provided a list of their plans for the next editions.

The next version of CINDEX is expected to feature:

- Toolbar buttons to switch between alphabetical and page order.
- Auto-entry.
- The ability to record at least 10 macros.
- Full authority control.

SKY Index Professional 5.1 NT (the 32-bit release of SKY Index 5.1) is expected to feature:

- The ability to save acronyms, macros, auto-entry lists and output format codes individually.
- The ability to specify working directories.
- Improved HTML output.
- "What is?" help.
- More flexible formatting for cross-references.

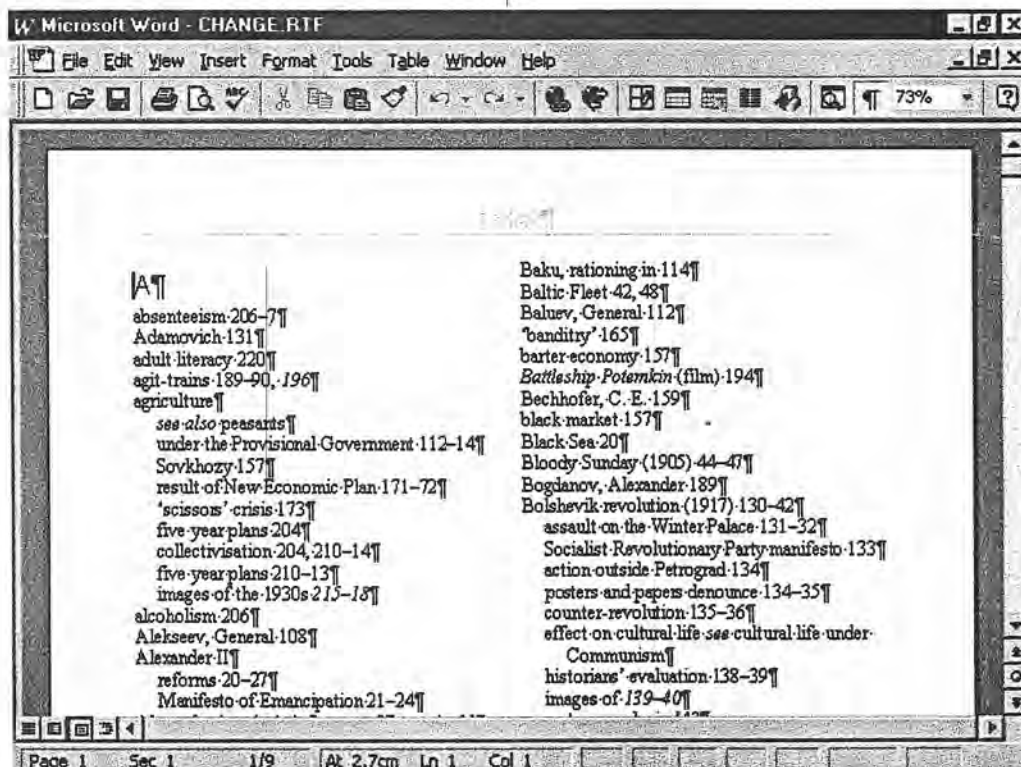
### Choosing which to buy

Which system you choose depends on what your requirements are. Various versions of CINDEX are already used widely, particularly in New South Wales, so if you often collaborate with others you will probably find that CINDEX files are more acceptable. The power of CINDEX is phenomenal: whatever you want to do, there will be a way to do it in CINDEX. But the speed of data entry and editing in SKY Index are clearly superior.

If you work with a wide range of material in a variety of formats, or collaborate with a variety of other indexers, and functionality and flexibility are more important to you than the speed of data entry and editing, I recommend CINDEX.

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Figure 2.  
Sky Index



(Continued from page 85)

**If you work on your own or in a static team, chiefly with a limited range of material with straightforward formatting requirements, and speed of data entry and editing is of primary importance, I recommend Sky Index.**

If you are a part-time indexer, or producing indexes isn't your main work, but you foresee a time when you may decide to become a full-time power-indexer, I suggest you look closely at Sky Index Standard Edition. At \$US99 it is exceptional value. Then if you do decide to turn later to full-time indexing, you can upgrade to the Professional Edition confident that you already have the skills to operate it.

For goodness sake, don't buy on the basis of which version

of Windows you're using. If you're still using Windows 3.1, why? "It does what I want it to" isn't true if what you really need is CINDEX. If your reason is "Windows 98 won't run on my computer" then how will you compete in tomorrow's marketplace with yesterday's technology? What are you running, a museum? Conversely, don't decide against Sky Index because it doesn't take advantage of all the capabilities of Windows 98; if it suits your needs better, you'll be kicking yourself when a 32-bit version is released.

Which do I use? Well, I have both, and I use them both. For most indexes I use Sky Index, because I am a slow typist and the extra speed it provides is important to me. On the other hand, I index a wide range of material, some of whose indexes require sophisticated formatting, and for these I use

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Figure 3. Comparison table.

- not available
- adequate
- good
- excellent

Clearly some of these features are more important than others.

	CINDEX	Sky Index
Presentation	●●●	●●●
Viewing records	●●●	●●
Data entry	●●	●●●
Keyboard shortcuts	●●	●●●
Special characters	●●●	●●●
Subheadings	●●●	●●●
Page references	●●	●●●
Provisional page references	●●	●●●
Multi-volume works	●●	●●
Record size	●●	●●
Multiple indexes	●●	○
Editing	●●	●●●
Proofing report	●●	●●
Navigation	●●●	●●
Find and replace	●●●	●
Duplicating and flipping	●●●	●●●
Splitting and joining	●●●	●●●
Sorting	●●●	●●
Multi-volume works	●●	●●
Setting defaults	●●	●●
Templates	●●	●●
Importing and exporting indexes	●●	●●●
Spell check	●●	●●
Backing up	●●	●●
Error trapping	●●	●●
Statistics generation	●●	●●
Merging indexes	●●●	●●
Setting macros	●●●	●
Number of macros	●	●●●
Cross-reference management	●●●	●●
Authority control	●	●
Formatting	●●●	●
Printing out	●●	●●
Machine-readable output	●●	●●
Online help	●●●	●●●
Manual	●●	●●
Tutorial	○	●●
Customer service	●●●	●●●
Overall value	●●●	●●●



(Continued from page 86)

CINDEX. I also use CINDEX when collaborating with others. Sometimes I have had a huge index with a lot of repetition and complex formatting requirements; on these occasions I have entered and edited the data in SKY Index, and then exported it to CINDEX for formatting. However, unless collecting indexing software is an interest of yours, I don't recommend this solution to anyone – not only is the cost doubled, but so is the time required to acquire and maintain operating skills.

### Demonstration versions

Both CINDEX and SKY Index have a host of other great features that I don't have room to describe here. You can download demonstration versions of both programs for free. Play with them both until you are confident which one suits you best.

Download CINDEX from Indexing Research's Web site at <http://www.indexres.com>.

Download SKY Index from SKY Software's Web site at <http://www.sky-software.com>.

### Kingsley on Beazley

*The Indexer* regularly pays tribute to good indexes and their makers, and takes to task lax publishers and bad indexes. That culture has been lost in Australia, though it was once a regular feature of our *Newsletter*. I wish to revive it by paying tribute to a recent Australian index\* by two young indexers whose work is a delight. The text of most subjects is often of assistance to an indexer; not so in biography or other literature where the indexer has to be master of the game.

Biography calls for different arrangement and presentation, for this it requires constructive thought and continuous development of the theme under review. Carey once wrote that stories of lives call for the indexer's highest skill of all. This means the ability to analyse and rephrase the text.

I am aware that Madeleine Davis and Caroline Colton had the advantage of Hazel Bell's instructive text on biographical indexing and its special requirements. (This book should be in every indexer's library, whether they index biographies or not.) They are to be commended for seeking such assistance where it is available. This book helped me in my first attempt at indexing the life story of another interesting Australian who occupied one of the highest positions in the land.

\**Beazley* by Peter Fitzsimons (Harper Collins). The interesting life story of Kim Beazley who, at the time of writing, is in the race for next PM. His political education started in early childhood. It is also good to see that the publishers include the indexers in their list of acknowledgments.

by Kingsley Siebel.

## 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.

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(Our Early Settlers – Continued from page 83)

Proceeds from the sale of crown lands were used for the "assisted passage" of emigrants from Great Britain. Between 1839 and 1941 huge numbers of people were assisted in this way and consequently the money sent out of the country to pay for the bounty immigrants drained the economy. Land in the colonies was advertised in Britain at one pound per acre to encourage emigration – selectors could buy parcels up to 8 square miles anywhere in Port Phillip. These regulations were formulated in Great Britain. Mr Dendy was one who came out having pre-purchased land. C.J. La Trobe was unaware of the policy when Dendy was awarded his papers; they were known as 'Special surveys'.

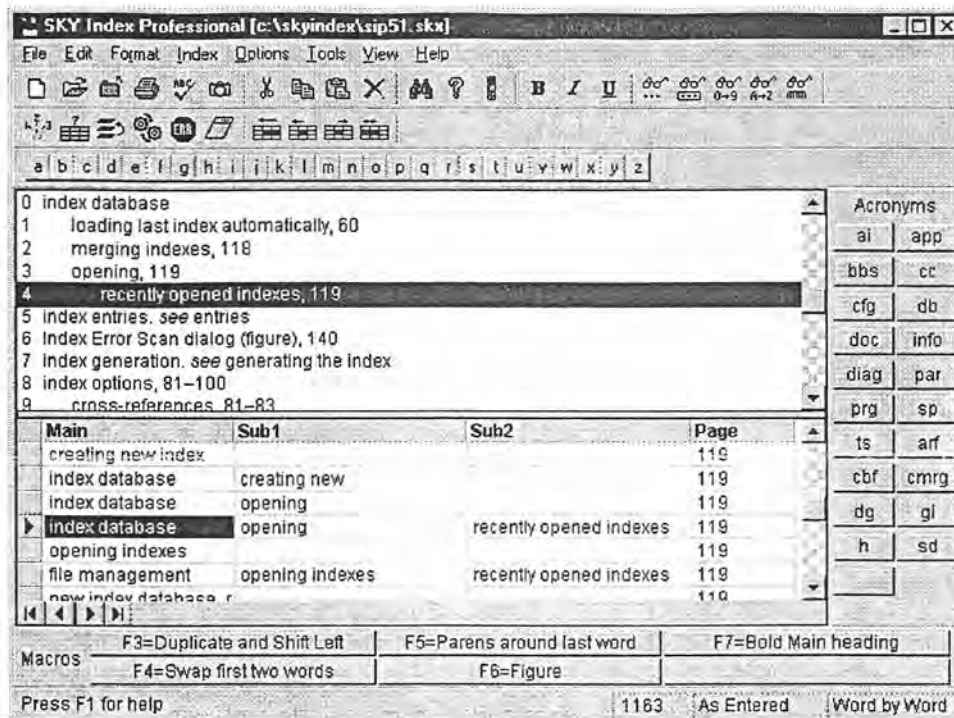
Governor Gipps reserved all land up to five miles from the centres of townships—they were exempted from the 'special surveys' – 8 or 9 of these 'special surveys' land sales went through before they were cancelled. By then Dendy had bought up most of Brighton, Unwin had purchased Doncaster and Elgar was the proud owner of North Box Hill.

Ken's fascinating talk had to be wound up eventually but we all went off to dinner and quizzed him some more. Ken is willing to assist historians, writers, genealogists, and family history searchers with their investigations.

Report by **Jenny Restarick**.

# SKY Index™ Professional

New Release!  
Version 5.1



20% Discount for  
ASI, AusSI and SI  
members

## A Serious Indexing Program for Serious Indexers

**AutoEntry** - SKY Index remembers everything you type. When you start a new entry SKY Index will try to anticipate what you are going to type. Sometimes all that is needed is one keystroke. This can be a huge time saver.

**Preview Pane** - See your formatted index as you make index entries. You can go directly to an entry visible in the Preview Pane by clicking on it.

**5 Ways to View Your Index** - View your index As Entered, Page Ordered, Sorted, Grouped or Filtered.

**Automatic Sorting of Dates and Numbers** - SKY Index can automatically recognize and sort dates and numbers (including decimal fractions). Simply enter then number or date and SKY Index sorts it.

**Macros** - Create macros that will perform several actions with just one keystroke.

**Powerful Editing** - Many powerful editing functions are included to make indexing faster and easier.

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(410) 374-3484  
[sales@sky-software.com](mailto:sales@sky-software.com)

Minimum System Requirements: 486 - 66 MHz or higher computer with Windows 3.1 or higher, 8MB of RAM, a high density floppy drive and a word processor.  
SKY Index is a trademark of SKY Software. SKY Software logo is a registered trademark of SKY Software. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.



## Book Review. Careers in Electronic Information: An insider's guide to the information job market.

This book was published by NFAIS (National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services) as a companion to *Guide to Careers in Abstracting & Indexing*, and provides an interesting snapshot of the database industry. Most of the examples are from NFAIS members in the United States, with a few from Europe. It includes information about long-standing organisations such as BIOSIS and ISI, many of which are developing sophisticated systems for database management. I was a bit disappointed, however, that although there is lots of information about new ways of doing traditional work, there is not any information about totally new areas of work, such as indexing the Internet.

The first chapter, *Where the jobs are*, is based on information from 22 responses received from an NFAIS member survey. The organisations represented range in size from 3 to 1381 employees. The salary survey found that indexer's salaries ranged from US\$20,000 to US\$60,000 a year, with an average about US\$40,000 (a bit higher than the average for abstractors). Marketing staff earned up to US\$105,550 – clearly it is more lucrative to sell databases than to create them.

This chapter also covers future staffing needs, workplace features, skill and experience requirements, training, and part-time and freelance opportunities, and gives sample advertisements for a range of jobs. About half of the companies hire freelancers, and telecommuting is on the increase (p. 19).

Chapter 2 takes nearly 60 pages to list addresses, objectives, career opportunities, and other details about *The Employers*. This information is of general interest for Australians, but would be particularly useful for people thinking of working in the United States.

Chapter 3 comprises "A Day in the Life" Profiles of a variety of people working in the information industry. The interviewees for this section were enthusiastic and intrigued about the future. The profiles describe the work done, the hardware and software used, workday

timetables and lifestyle issues (such as flexitime), and prospects for the future. Past and future change are prominent features of these workers' lives.

By comparison with the examples given here it is obvious that the Australian database industry as a whole is much smaller, and that individual companies are smaller. In a company such as DTIC (Defense Technology Information Center) with 370 staff overall there is lots of room to move to related jobs (p. 112) – that range of opportunities just doesn't exist here.

Some general advice I liked: At the job interview "never fall for the 'tell me about your weakness question'" (p. 98); other advice encouraged working hard and long – I prefer the "work smarter" approach (which is also evident in the examples here).

Chapter 4 covers *Next Generation Databases: A Changing Workforce*. Again 'change' is the main theme as organisations such as PAIS, Engineering Information, and Chemical Abstracts Service describe their approach to automation and workforce organisation.

Chapter 5 focuses on the Internet (at last!), but only as a means of finding a traditional job. The Internet is mentioned occasionally in other parts of the book (the summary to Chapter 3 notes that most information organisations have begun to launch 'fledgling' services on the Internet (p. 115), and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) home page is discussed).

Chapter 6, *Closing the Deal, Getting the Job*, gives general advice about getting any job including skills assessment, market research, resume writing and interview tips.

Appendix 1 is a directory of online information organisations, some of which are featured in the text. Appendix 2 lists professional societies, organisations and publishers (including AusSI) and Appendix 3 is a directory of Internet resources.

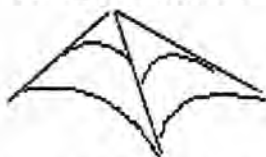
The book contains 184 A4-size pages with a fairly open display. The soft cover curves upwards – because the material is ephemeral the publishers probably decided against expensive production. There is no index.

Australia has no organisation comparable to the publisher, NFAIS, although ADDA (Australian Database Development Association) was active a few years ago. (If anyone has current information on ADDA I would be glad to hear of it). This book is therefore a valuable resource for Australians as it broadens our experience of information databases. Also information work is going to become more and more transferable – maybe some of these organisations will employ Australian indexers when international telecommuting comes of age.

The book costs US\$39 plus shipping and handling. To order: Call NFAIS at 215 893-1561, Fax us at: 215-893-1564, e-mail [nfais@nfais.org](mailto:nfais@nfais.org), or write The National Federation of Abstracting & Information Services, 1518 Walnut St., Suite 307, Philadelphia, PA 19102 USA.

Wicks, Wendy K. *Careers in Electronic Information: An insider's guide to the information job market*. Philadelphia, PA.: NFAIS, 1997. ISBN 0942308492. Review by **Glenda Browne**.

**WWWalker**



*Introduction to Web Indexing* (online book)  
for Librarians, Webmasters, Researchers,  
Search Engine Developers

WWWalker Web Development  
<http://www.wwwalker.com.au/>  
[dwright@speakeasy.org](mailto:dwright@speakeasy.org)

## From the literature

The May issue (Vol 40:5) of the *NFAIS newsletter* contains three presentations from company representatives to the 40th Anniversary NFAIS conference. These reports appear to have been written by marketing staff, and I had to work a bit to get the substance from the hype.

For example, 'Disclosure has positioned itself for the future by leveraging its brand equity, investing in Web-based technology, and aggressively pricing services to meet customer needs.' (I think this last part means they made their product cheaper). 'Leverage' is obviously the word of the month: Dan Wagner of the Dialog Corporation hopes to 'see that we can drive new customers to leverage the content' (p. 73); says the company will be 'focusing purely on leveraging additional third-party opportunities' (p. 73); and is 'looking to leverage these sort of partners' (p. 75).

On a positive note, Ron Akie from SilverPlatter is confident of the future of secondary publishing, believing that 'the ability to sort out the cream in the Internet world will become evermore important.' (p. 71) SilverPlatter is launching a new set of services called SilverLinker which provides links from bibliographic citations to the resources that already exist in libraries (library holdings, interlibrary loan or document delivery, and the full text on the publisher's website).

NFAIS members are often pessimistic about the future of their services, and it appears they have good reason for this. M.A.I.D. has just acquired Knight-Ridder Information, Inc (which included Dialog and DataStar) to form the Dialog Corporation. In the rationalisation that followed they dismissed 330 employees (nearly one quarter of the total).

And BIOSIS has 'completed a new organisational structure', with a workforce reduction of about 10%. *G.B.*

## From the Webmaster

After simmering away quietly in the background for a while, Web indexing is starting to come to the boil. The 1998 Web Indexing Award competition is in full swing (see page 82 in this issue), Dwight Walker's online training continues, and Glenda Browne, Alan Walker, Maureen Henninger and I have been involved in a course on Web indexing at UNSW which is attracting a steady stream of applicants.

To encourage matters I have set up a new mailing list specifically for Web indexers. Here Web indexers can discuss issues related to what they do and how they do it. The more members we get the more lively and helpful the discussion is likely to be. You can join the newsgroup via the Web at:

<http://WINDMAIL.listbot.com> or via the AusSI page  
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/webindex/webindexmlist.htm>. JJ

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