



Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter

PO Box R598, ROYAL EXCHANGE NSW 1225 VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2, MARCH 1999 ISSN 0314-3767

Book Review

Glenda Browne reviews *Computer Support to Indexing* by Gail M. Hodge and Jessica L. Milstead.

Computer Support to Indexing by Gail M. Hodge and Jessica L. Milstead. Philadelphia, PA: NFAIS, 1998. 118 p. Cost is US\$175 for NFAIS members (worldwide) or \$235 for non-members. Standard shipping (which would be relatively slow to Australia) is \$4; express shipment is US\$20 for two-day delivery to Australia.

Computer Support to Indexing gives practical information about the use of computers in database indexing companies. The information was gathered from interviews (in person, by telephone, or by email) with people from 29 NFAIS (National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services) member companies. It is a valuable book because it is highly practical: it describes systems that are currently in use, rather than things which might work if everything fell neatly into place. It follows on from *Automated Support to Indexing*¹ which was published in 1992, but it is not described as a second edition.

The authors are Gail Hodge and Jessica Milstead. Gail Hodge has been involved in the design of production systems for abstracting and indexing services since 1978, working for organisations such as NASA and BIOSIS. When I prepared a talk on automated indexing for the AusSI workshop at Robertson² I found a conference paper by Gail Hodge³ most useful in considering different degrees of automation. She ranked computer support in levels from clerical support up to full automation, and the same structure has been used in this book. Jessica Milstead is Principal of a thesaurus and index consulting company. She has taught at various universities, and held editorial management positions with database publishers. She has also been involved with standards development with NISO. She has written useful pieces about thesauri for the ASI website⁴. Her interest in thesauri is evident in the emphasis given to thesauri throughout the book.

The book is 118 pages long. It has nine chapters, an appendix with descriptions of database producers, a

bibliography and a 10-page index.

The first chapter is the Introduction, and discusses recent changes. These include the ubiquity of the Internet, and the authors note that web browsers are becoming the preferred interface for much information work, including indexing. They also say that the question now is not whether computer support is needed, but what level and types provide the best results. (Nearly all book indexers would agree that some level of support is crucial; few of us would return to the days of cards in a shoebox).

In the second chapter, Database indexing today, the authors discuss the organisations, the materials they index, and the basic technological environment. A recent change is the availability of full text articles, not just surrogates with citation details, abstracts and indexes. There are also changes in the types of organisations doing indexing. This work used to be done primarily by secondary publishers (organisations which develop bibliographic information tools); much more is now being done by primary publishers (such as indexing of full text) and information brokers (as part of customised repackaged products). This is a reminder to look outside traditional secondary publishing organisations when considering the future of indexing work.

The availability of personal computers and client-

(Continued on page 14)

What's Inside

<i>Computer Support to Indexing</i> book review	11, 14-15, 17-18
News and announcements	12-13, 19
Web Indexing First Prize	20
Newsletter and executive contacts	20



Noticeboard

National and NSW Branch AGMs

Remember the National and NSW Branch AGMs will be held at 6.30 pm on 24 March. Details in last months newsletter.

Victorian Branch AGM

The Annual General meeting of the Victorian Branch will be held on 16 March. See last months newsletter for details. There is also a nomination form on page 19 of this issue.

ACT Branch AGM Report

The ACT Branch held its AGM on Tuesday 23 February. Reports were presented to the meeting and accepted by acclamation.

The previous committee was re-elected with one addition, Edyth Bynkowski, and a much regretted farewell from Prue Deacon. Past-President Geraldine Triffitt proposed a vote of thanks for continuing president Lynn Farkas and her impressive first year in that difficult job. This vote was enthusiastically supported and Lynn raised her own toast to the rest of the committee.

This year's after dinner speaker was Frank Thompson, a gentleman with a list of 'formers' in the publishing world that is breathtaking and impressive. His stories about the early years of the development of Australian publishing were entertaining in themselves and entertainingly told. Accompanied by a pleasant meal and lots of conversation this made a very satisfying AGM.

The re-formed committee will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday 2 March.

Victorian Branch meeting: Three coins in the fountain - which one will you choose?

Have you ever wondered what is the difference between an archivist, a cataloguer and an indexer ?

The Victorian Branch of the Australian Society of Indexers is holding a public meeting on Tuesday 4th May on this very issue - how do each of these specialists describe documents, objects etc. whether in printed or electronic format ?

Our panel includes Gavan McCarthy (Australian Science Archives Project), Jane Odgers (Australian Tourism Index) and Margaret Waller (State Library of Victoria, Cataloguing Department).

The evening will commence with drinks and nibbles at 6 pm and members of the panel will be introduced at approx. 6.30 pm. Each panelist has been asked to talk for about 10 minutes and then everyone can participate in a Questions and Answers session.

Usually meetings end round about 8 pm and are followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Our meetings are held at the ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) 19 Prospect Hill Rd., Camberwell, Vic. just up the hill from Burke Rd. and within easy walking distance of Camberwell station or Burke Rd. trams. Car parking available behind shopping centre opposite ACER. There is no admission charge for our meetings.

Further information and RSVP to Jenny Restarick via email Jenny.Restarick@enquiries.csiro.au or tel. 03 9545 2178 or fax 03 9545 2175 (work hours) or at home 9528 2539 fax/tel after hours.

New members

Congratulations to the following newly registered indexers:

Robyn Cook, NSW
Mary Russell, Vic

and a warm welcome to the following new members:

Phillip Borg-Smith, Qld
Colleen Mock, ACT
Jane Purton, Vic
Mary Russell, Vic
Tamsin Sowden, ACT

Dates for your diary

Soc. Editors monthly meetings	usually 1st Tuesday of the month
Victorian Branch AGM	16 March
National and NSW Branch AGMs	24 March
Victorian Branch meeting	4 May
ASI conference in Indianapolis	9-13 June



Noticeboard

China Society of Indexers website

The address of the China Society of Indexers website is <<http://www.yip.online.sh.cn/>>.

This will get you to the Shanghai Yellow Pages home page, on which you will find graphics and text in Chinese, and a column of buttons on the far right. Click on the top button (L-6.jpg) and you will go to the home page of the CSI (/suoyin/sy-sy.htm/).

On the CSI home page there is the CSI logo at top left, a photo of East China Normal University in Shanghai (where CSI has its headquarters) in the middle, and a line of four buttons on the bottom. If you click on the first button (Botton-1.GIF), you will go to a page including a short introduction to the CSI, in English (/sy-sy-1.htm/).

This is the most direct online access I have made. The Chinese government controls Internet access through several gateways. For contacting CSI, the address is:

The China Society of Indexers
University Library
East China Normal University
3663 Zhong Shan Road (North)
Shanghai 200062
China

Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-General, Prof Ge Yong-Qing, whose phone number is (021) 625 757 extension 2317, and fax (021) 6328 2359. The CSI website also gives another fax number: (021) 6257 9196.

Alan Walker

Ausinfo home pages

Graham Byrne from Ausinfo Advice & Education sent the following information about their Internet home pages.

"We manage <http://www.ausinfo.gov.au> for information access and advice - (to be upgraded soon for improved user friendliness), and <http://www.fed.gov.au> - better known as the Commonwealth Government Entry Point. The later also in corporates Government On-Line Directory (GOLD) <http://gold.directory.gov.au/tmpl/s.html> to help users to find people in Commonwealth department and agencies."

Indexers Available on the Web

By the time you read this Indexers Available should be very close to appearing on our Web site. We are aiming to provide a system that allows publishers and other interested users to search for indexers by their names, locations, subject specialities, formats or materials specialised in and additional skills that they have. So a publisher looking for an indexer in Adelaide who specialises in CD-ROMs and has cataloguing experience will have at least a sporting chance of finding one! Garry Cousins and Michael Wyatt are working on the design and layout of the pages, and my role is to convert the information into Web format as painlessly as possible. We have the advantage of having the material in an Access database, which makes it relatively easy to control the various kinds of output. I hope eventually to turn the whole thing into a kind of sausage factory, so that next year the updated information can be fed straight into Access and come out as a string of linked Web pages.

The level of knowledge about Access and other database systems among indexers in general is, I suspect, quite poor. Even a spreadsheet package like Excel is often regarded with deep suspicion. And yet for people who are in the business of manipulating information both of these are wonderful tools. Tasks that would have taken days using word processing packages can be done in hours with the aid of a little background knowledge. Aside from the gain in productivity, it frees up the imagination to see what can be done in the way of sorting, collating and filtering data.

Partly, I suspect, there remains a lingering feeling that indexing belongs among the humanities rather than the sciences, and that to class it with other forms of information science is rather demeaning. But dedicated indexing packages are simply scaled-down database systems: the real thing can give you the same capabilities and much more besides.

January/February issue

To set the record straight, the last issue was a combined January/February issue, but was wrongly called January.

From the editor

As an indexer I have always enjoyed working with a variety of subjects and formats. This month I am busy editing an Online Help index and have had a thorough look at HTML-Indexer (which has impressed me greatly). More on these in later issues.

Glenda Browne



(Book Review, Cont. from page 11)

server systems has been a major change. Documents with bibliographic citations can be made ready in a few hours, so indexing is a significant delay factor. (However, when information is provided on the web it is possible to update records as new fields of information become available; thus publication of the basic citation details need not wait until indexing is ready. The National Library of Medicine (US) makes Medline data available on the web through PubMed⁵ before records have been completed).

The economics of secondary publishing have been affected by the move to electronic access. In general print subscriptions have declined and electronic access (online and CD-ROM) does not always make up for the decline. It is too early to determine the effect of web access on income.

Computer support has increased productivity through faster work and reduced time on quality control checking, and has led to greater consistency. There is a trend towards standardisation (e.g. using the same format for author names) within organisations, and to aid multiple use of records and cross-database searching.

In the third chapter, the General design of existing systems the authors discuss the indexing process, interfaces, hardware, navigation and add-ons.

Most organisations have some level of online indexing, in which the indexers provide index entries from a controlled vocabulary and free-language terms. They often select authorised terms from a pick list, rather than typing them in. Fields with a limited set of correct values will usually be validated on the fly. In a small but increasing number of organisations the system may provide candidate terms which are edited by the indexer.

Many companies (eg Petroleum Abstracts and CAS) have developed systems internally. This is usually the most expensive approach, however where there has been previous investment in customised systems it might be the cheapest and least disruptive approach. Other companies (e.g. NASA and DTIC) integrate the indexing system into an electronic document management system (EDMS). EDMSs give electronic access to abstracts, full text and document images at workstations.

Text database management systems such as STAR from Cuadra Associates and library systems are being used more frequently, but may still need customisation.

Machine-aided indexing (MAI) has been slow to win acceptance. The use of MAI enables increased indexer productivity without a reduction in quality. There are two types: those which expand [or assess] terms input by indexers and those which process text to suggest index terms to the indexer.

CAS indexers input terms from the natural language of the documents; the system matches these terms against an extensive database of equivalents to derive the correct authorised term. In MedIndEx (NLM) the indexer's terms are evaluated against a knowledge base to assure that Medline indexing policies are followed. This type of MAI is highly specialised to the terminology and policies of a particular organisation.

In the second type of MAI, software processes document text to identify specific types of terms, or to suggest conceptual terms. For example, name finder software recognises company names and name variations. This type of software is used by Reuters Textline service.

Software which suggests conceptual terms may be rule-based (using Boolean logic to process the text) or may use intelligent text processing techniques (natural language text analysis). Both sorts of software are available; the choice depends on the company's needs. Text analysis systems are useful for both MAI and automatic indexing - the only difference is whether the output is revised by a person.

Effective management of indexing operations also requires software for routine maintenance of the thesaurus. Systems such as STAR include a thesaurus; in other cases a standalone package will have to be integrated into the indexing system.

In the fourth chapter, Aids to the clerical aspects of indexing the authors discuss mechanical aspects of indexing such as entry of coded values for index terms (e.g. 'A' for abstract only) and searching for and copying of terms from thesauri.

The authors call the fifth chapter, Support to intellectual decisions, the "key to real support for indexing, since indexing is inherently an intellectual activity."

Intellectual support includes the provision of reference materials to aid in subject understanding and in application of the producer's rules.

Reference materials include previously indexed documents which may be on CD-ROM, disk, or a local area network. Subject-specific reference materials are rarely integrated. CAS provides

(Continued on page 15)

(Book Review, Cont. from page 14)

stereochemistry references online to help in the identification of chemical registry number assignments and the NCBI has an organism database that some indexers use in a separate window. CAS, MLA and NASA encourage the use of reference tools from the web. NASA has identified and bookmarked relevant sites, including dictionaries, glossaries and reference materials.

Most indexers preferred to use the production manual in hard copy format, although the updated version may be kept online.

Computer support is also important to provide efficient ways of searching the thesaurus, including the entry vocabulary (with references from non-preferred terms to the terms that should be used). Online thesauri can be displayed hierarchically or alphabetically. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) provides various views of the MeSH file in a 'print-like' display.

MAI advises the indexer on tags and terms which should be considered. (For example, in Medline if the indexer uses a pregnancy-related term they are prompted to check the *Human* or *Animal* tag.) The DTIC system provides candidate terms to the indexer; the indexer then assigns weights, deletes inappropriate terms and adds others. This MAI system is based on a 330,000 term and phrase lexical dictionary which is processed against a rule base. Although systems like this have been developed since the late 1970s, very few companies have undertaken similar projects, probably because the up-front investment is prohibitive.

Computer support enables the use of indexing from other sources, and the use of term switching to map terms from one thesaurus to another.

Automatic indexing includes automatic up-posting of terms (i.e. the assignment of broader terms of the terms assigned by the indexer). ISI's KeywordsPlus creates additional free text index terms without human review by using terms from titles and abstracts of the references cited in given articles. Another product is Related Records which leads to records which have cited references in common. It is based on the assumption that if articles have references in common they are probably about the same subject (bibliographic coupling).

Automatic indexing without human review based on natural language processing is not used by organisations in this report. However more can be

expected in future, especially for databases which have not previously been indexed.

The sixth chapter covers the use of computers in Quality control. The use of pick lists, spell checkers and automatic validation moves quality control to the place of origin (the indexer) and reduces rework. Statistical and sampling processes are also used, in which the computer compares work with previously indexed documents. This is especially important in a distributed input environment, where the work of many indexers and organisations is combined.

Chapter 7, on Management discusses training on computers, feedback and communication, and workflow monitoring.

Most indexers are trained on production work, but some organisations have special training records which emphasise particular features of indexing. INIS has a training CD-ROM.

Computers make it easy for checkers to correct records when they notice errors. In some cases the records are returned to the indexer to make them aware of the changes. At BIOSIS the system flags entries for quality control checks, and indexers can flag aspects for their supervisor's attention.

Workflow monitoring is important in indexing, particularly when documents are received irregularly. At BIOSIS the system can be queried to find out how much material is at each processing step. This is especially useful for the scanning process, but also for indexing. Computers also allow more sophisticated ways of monitoring productivity than mere document counts.

Chapter 8 is on Implementing system improvements. The authors recommend that you "Start simple and grow the system as it becomes clear where the computer can provide the best support" (p. 65). The first step is analysing the existing system using processes such as data modelling. This often shows ways that the process can be improved. It is also necessary to prepare indexers for change.

The authors reassure us that: "Most typically, the productivity gains of a new system are absorbed by taking on more indexing, possibly with some staff reduction by attrition eventually. Most organisations have wish lists of indexing projects they would like to undertake; the freed time can be used to advance these projects." (p.70) I would like to see some hard data to support this encouraging statement, as recent evidence seems to suggest that staff numbers at secondary publishers are being reduced⁶. There may

(Continued on page 17)

CINDEX™

from **Indexing Research**

Simply the Best Way to Prepare Indexes

Why is CINDEX™ the leading program for professional indexers?

- ✻ Easy to Use
- ✻ Unmatched in capabilities
- ✻ Elegant in design
- ✻ Unsurpassed in performance
- ✻ Legendary for customer support

Quite simply, CINDEX™ does everything you would expect, and much more. You don't have to look far to find features unique to CINDEX. Here are just a few:

- ✻ Built-in spell-checker, with multi-language capabilities.
- ✻ Work on multiple indexes at the same time—for example subject and author indexes to the same volume.
- ✻ Outstanding search and replace capabilities: full pattern matching and Boolean searching.
- ✻ Seamless handling of complex locators: format and sort complex multi-part locators in any way you want.

Add to this our outstanding documentation and unlimited free customer support, and you have an unbeatable package! Try CINDEX and see for yourself why CINDEX is the foremost indexing software for professional indexers and publishers. Visit our web site to download a free demonstration copy of CINDEX, together with its acclaimed User's Guide, or contact us to order a demonstration kit.

We offer editions of CINDEX specially designed for each of the following platforms:

- ✻ Windows 95, 98, NT4.0
- ✻ Macintosh (OS7.0 and higher)
- ✻ DOS (3.1 and higher)
- ✻ Special student version available for each platform

For full details and ordering information:

<http://www.indexres.com>

or contact

Indexing Research

100 Allens Creek Road ♦ P.O. Box 18609 ♦ Rochester, New York 14618-0609

Tel: 716 . 461 . 5530

Fax: 716 . 442 . 3924

E-mail: info@indexres.com

UK and Europe

Australia, New Zealand and Asia

E-mail: europesales@indexres.com

E-mail: pacificsales@indexres.com

(Book Review, Cont. from page 15)

be other reasons for this, but in times of declining revenue it is hard to believe that staff would not be vulnerable.

Development and maintenance of systems includes upgrading of hardware and software. Often an EDMS (electronic document management system) is implemented and bibliographic data is acquired from primary publishers using SGML as a common language.

MAI packages require substantial customisation for specific policies and vocabularies. A well-designed controlled vocabulary or thesaurus is needed, as is a rule base or a large number of well-indexed documents to train the system. MAI can upgrade the indexer's job by reducing routine analysis and can contribute to indexing quality by reminding indexers of terms they had not considered. An MAI system also needs to be maintained.

In Chapter 9 the future of computer support is discussed.

The authors write: "The single most important factor affecting the future of indexing is the future information retrieval environment. Crystal ball gazers seem to be in two camps. The first camp believes that subject indexing will not be necessary, because the search engines will be able to support the user's search for any subject by the automatic indexing and natural language support they can provide. The second camp believes that indexing and knowledge organisation will be even more important in order to help people hone in on what they need in the chaos of the Internet." (p. 79)

This neatly sums up the conflicting views. The compromisers suggest that automatic indexing will be needed to cope with the huge amount of information available, while human indexing will still be done on items of proven or potential value. I also feel that since this book was written it is becoming more apparent that human indexers will be needed. There are certainly a number of indexes to websites popping up, and no reason to think that this trend will stop.

Internet search engines have adapted quickly; for example with the introduction of sophisticated Boolean searching, relevance ranking, and the use of thesauri and vocabulary aids.

Cataloguing of electronic resources may depend on automatic methods for harvesting relevant websites and for automatically extracting metadata from the

source. Some organisations such as Ei (Engineering Information) index web resources in less detail than scholarly print publications, and automatic indexing may prove adequate in these cases.

Metadata (data about data) is usually created by the people who create the content, thus perhaps moving indexing from professional indexers to the primary producers of information. Web-based forms for metadata creation make it easier for creator/indexers, sometimes using thesauri.

Indexing forms on the web will provide portability across computer platforms for use by external indexers, experts and authors. These web-form interfaces are currently unable to handle complexity of DOS and GUI-based interfaces but the advent of XML (Extensible Markup Language) as an extension of HTML will provide additional capabilities.

The Appendix contains Descriptions of database producers which were interviewed for this book. The Bibliography is up to date, and includes a number of websites.

The Index

The index is ten pages long.

The information contained in the index is painstakingly divided, yet it would have been much more useful to have had more information, presented more densely. The problems with missing information and inadequate cross-referencing or double posting are demonstrated by an examination of the entry for *World Wide Web*.

The entry *World Wide Web* takes 6 lines to note 4 page numbers and one cross-reference, yet significant information has been left out completely. For example, the index doesn't include page 86 which has several paragraphs about the web. There is no reference from *World Wide Web* to *metadata* or to *HTML*, nor is the information indexed directly at *World Wide Web*.

The section headed Internet Web-Form Interfaces (pp. 85-87) is not indexed under *Internet* or *World Wide Web*. It is indexed at *Forms*, *Web-based* and *Indexer interfaces*. *Indexer interfaces* leads only to pages 85-87; *Web-based forms* leads also to page 83 where the creation of metadata by "creator/indexers" is discussed. "Creator/indexers" should have been included in the heading *Indexer interfaces*.

World Wide Web has a *see also* reference to *Electronic resources*. At *Electronic resources*, *indexing* there is only one locator, 81-82. As these

(Continued on page 18)

(Book Review, Cont. from page 17)

pages discuss web-based resources they should have been indexed directly at *World Wide Web*. (The first sentence of the section reads, in part: "...to catalog more electronic resources, whether electronic journals, Web-based documents or Web sites" (p. 81) and page 82 mentions "The advent of more Web indexing...")

There are entries for both *World Wide Web* and *Internet*, but there are no cross-references between them, and different locators are listed at each heading. For example, page 80 is indexed at *Internet, need for indexing*, but also discusses "...the ability to provide themes or categories under which Web sites can be classified."

The heading *MedIndEx project* leads to pages 25 and 46. The heading *NLM, MedIndEx project* leads to only page 46, although page 25 is included at the main heading *NLM*.

The index has a long introduction which includes the note that US agencies are indexed under their acronym or name, yet all six of them also have a specific reference, for example "U.S. Defense Technical Information Center, see DTIC" (taking a total of 12 lines).

This index could have been enhanced greatly by the addition of many more entries and references, taking no more space, saving the time of the user and giving a more useful collection of locators. Perhaps a professional book indexer should have been hired for the job (as even Nancy Mulvany did for her book *Indexing Books*⁷).

Editing - General comments

This book is well-written, and makes a technical subject accessible. It needed a bit more editing, however. Abbreviations are used without being spelt out in full, with the assumption that readers already know the subject. Thus *CAS* is used on page 19 without being spelt out, although later of pages 38 and 45 it is written *Chemical Abstracts*. These pages were all indexed under the heading *CAS*, so it is not that the authors were distinguishing between the company and its product.

On page 24 the heading *MAI Technologies* is used; on page 43 the heading is spelt out as *Machine-Aided Indexing (MAI)*. The term *metadata* was used on page 80, but was not defined until page 82.

Four pages of detailed information from page 43 should have been broken up with subheadings. The

heading *Rule-based systems* on page 26 and the heading *Text analysis systems* on page 27 should have been lower level headings than the previous heading *MAI technologies*.

I winced whenever I read the verb to grow used transitively. For example: "Start simple and grow the system..." on page 65, and "it is possible to grow the knowledge base ..." on page 69.

These editing gripes are relatively minor, however.

This book is practical, realistic and readable. I recommend it to anyone working in database indexing, particularly those envisaging enhancements to their computer support, or those wondering what the future will hold for them.

Endnotes

1. Hodge, G.M. *Automated Support to Indexing* Philadelphia: NFAIS, 1992
2. Browne, GM. Automated indexing and abstracting. <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/resources/conferencepapers/browneg.htm>
3. Hodge, Gail M. Computer-assisted database indexing: the state-of-the art. *The Indexer* 19(1): 23-27. 1994. Paper presented at the ASI conference 'Indexing, providing access to information: looking back, looking ahead', Alexandria, Virginia, 21 May 1993.
4. Milstead, Jessica. *How do I build a thesaurus?* <http://www.asindexing.org/thesbuild.htm> and *Thesaurus management software*. <http://www.asindexing.org/thessoft.htm>
5. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>
6. The May 1998 issue of the *NFAIS Newsletter* (Volume 40, number 5) noted on page 72 that BIOSIS had "completed a new organizational structure" which included "a workforce reduction of about 10 percent" and that when Dialog Corporation was configured from the acquisition of Knight-Ridder Information, Inc. by M.A.I.D. 330 employees (largely from marketing and sales) were dismissed after the first week of operation.
7. Mulvany, Nancy. *Indexing Books*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994. Indexed by Carolyn McGovern.

Pigs and Paul Keating

I have a cutting from Column 8 in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (16/2/94) which says that *Guidelines - A subject guide for Australian libraries* has the reference:

PIGS See Also Keating, Paul.

This, of course, is because of his interest in pig farming, but I expect the reference writer had fun writing this.

Victorian Branch Annual General Meeting Nominations for 1999 Committee



7.30 pm on 16th March 1999 at Carlton

Nominations for 1999 Committee

PRESIDENT:.....

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

VICE-PRESIDENT:.....

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

SECRETARY:.....

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

TREASURER:.....

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

COMMITTEE:.....

.....

Y2K Humour

(Heaven knows we need it)

I hope I haven't misunderstood your instructions, because this Y to K problem makes no sense to me. Be that as it may, I have completed the conversion of the corporate calendar for the year 2000, per my understanding of the instructions. The months now read as follows:

Januark
Februark
March
April
Mak
June
Julk

(The rest of the months appear to be okay.)

Please let me know if there is anything else that needs to be done in preparation for the year 2000. (Received via Index-L).

Want to learn more about indexing?

If you're serious about indexing, train with the Society of Indexers. Our training course gives a comprehensive introduction to indexing principles and practice. It comes as five open learning units so you can progress at your own pace.

For more information about the course, and our other services to indexers, editors, authors and publishers, contact:

**Dept AS, Society of Indexers
Globe Centre, Penistone Road
Sheffield S6 3AE, UK**

Tel: +44 114 281 3060

Fax: +44 114 281 3061

Email: admin@socind.demon.co.uk

Visit our website at <http://www.socind.demon.co.uk>

Web Indexing Prize - First

The winners of the AusSI Web Indexing Prize were announced in last month's newsletter. Full details are available at <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/prizes/webindresults98.htm>. This issue contains more detail about the prize-winning entry.

Tasmania Online (<http://www.tas.gov.au>) was created by the State Library of Tasmania. Lloyd Sokvitne is the manager and worked on metadata and the search engine. Liz Holliday is the editor and created the manual subject index and javascript for business. Elizabeth Loudon is the cataloguer.

Purpose and Audience

Tasmania Online is a geographical/State-based index that provides access to all World Wide Web sites which either reside on a Tasmanian server, or which have substantial Tasmanian content or Tasmanian authorship. This includes government and non-government information. The intended audience is local, national and international, with specific options also provided for clients interested only in Government or only Education domain based information.

Techniques:

Tasmania Online now fully indexes over 1600 Web sites and 100,000 web pages. Individual sites are identified both through a process of active searching by Tasmania Online staff and by Web authors notifying the service about their Web site or page. Alphabetical and subject indexes are generated and maintained manually and a specific search engine that utilises Dublin Core metadata is also provided that runs off a seed file provided by Tasmania Online staff. The subject index provides access to 23 major categories of information. A further 483 sub categories are used.

Hardware and software:

Tasmania Online operates on a DEC Alpha UNIX server running Apache WWW server software. The Tasmania Online index pages are static HTML pages, created using HTML text editing software. The search engine is based on Microsoft Site Server 3.0 and is used to both gather and index Tasmanian Web sites. Specialised metadata entry forms have been created by Tasmania Online staff for use with desktop text editors and a special set of macros has been written for use within Word.

Provided by Dwight Walker(shortened by G.B.).

Newsletter and Webmaster contacts

Editor: Glenda Browne
Webmaster: Jonathan Jermy
email: aussi@zeta.org.au,
web: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi>

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.

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@hermes.net.au

The Indexer (International indexing journal)

Janet Shuter, Hon. Editor, Shuter@cix.compulink.co.uk
Corresponding Editor Aust/NZ: Dwight Walker
ph (02) 98960286, email: dwright@zip.com.au

National Executive

ph: (02) 9560 0102,
email: gcousins@bigpond.com
President: Alan Walker ph (02) 9368 0174,
fax (02) 9358 5593, email: alan.walker@s054.aone.net.au
Secretary: Lorraine Doyle (02) 8587 7229 (w)
(02) 9876 4218 (h), fax (02) 9888 2229
email: Lorraine.Doyle@lbc.com.au

NSW Branch

President: Michael Wyatt ph (02) 9331 7764,
keyword@ozemail.com.au
Secretary: Madeleine Davis ph (02) 9438 5354,
redcliff@hermes.net.au

Victorian Branch

President: Margaret Findlay, ph. (03) 9277 5555,
findlay@acer.edu.au
Secretary: Jenny Restarick, ph/fax (03) 9528 2539 (h),
Jenny.Restarick@enquiries.csiro.au

ACT Region Branch

President: Lynn Farkas, ph (02) 6286 3529
Secretary: Shirley Campbell, ph (02) 6234 2225, Shirley.
Campbell@Radford.act.edu.au

Details of other committee members are at
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi>.