

Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter

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What's the Point of Registration? *Garry Cousins discusses the AusSI registration process and purpose. This article complements last month's information on the criteria for assessing indexes.*

The Issue Which Will Not Die

Readers of INDEX-L recently will know how much the issue of accreditation can divide indexers. The catalyst for the discussion was a letter by a British indexer complaining about the British Society of Indexers' plan to make accreditation a prerequisite for inclusion in *Indexers Available* by the year 2003. This was an indexer with some eighteen years experience who stood to be excluded unless he chose to undergo the British accreditation process. His letter generated some very strong, even acrimonious letters, most of which were from indexers against the idea of accrediting, or certifying, indexers. One correspondent called it The Issue Which Will Not Die. I don't propose to discuss the British and American experiences in this article in detail; but the discussion does make it timely to look at our own process of Registration.

Is Registration the same as Accreditation the same as Certification ...?

First, some terminology: accreditation, certification, registration, licensing. Do these words all describe the same thing? Apparently not. The society which has taken the lead in the assessment of indexers is the British Society; first, by establishing a Board of Registration to provide peer assessment of published examples of an established indexers' work, then, more recently, introducing Accreditation to provide a basic training for indexers (chiefly book indexers). Thus it now has a two-tier structure to assess the competence of indexers: training to the point of accreditation, and registration for commercially established indexers. The American Society does not have an equivalent of either Registration or Accreditation, and tends to refer to the whole concept as certification. My impression is that there is a strong ideological feeling against the concept of certification in the United States (the land of the free), though of course it has advocates as well.

The Australian Registration process

The Australian Society has been registering indexers for over twenty years. Indexers, who must be members of the Society, can submit an index for assessment by the Society's Board of Assessors, along with a fee. The index is usually a published book index, but it need not be. Using a set of criteria which is available from the Board, the index will be judged satisfactory or otherwise. A certificate is issued to successful applicants, who are then entitled to call themselves Registered Indexers (although Registration does not profess to be a professional indexing qualification). It is Society policy to recommend only Registered Indexers to third parties like publishers.

Is AusSI obliged to have the Registration process?

Yes, it is. Section 4 of the our Constitution says:

"The Society shall establish a Register of Indexers. The inclusion of a member's name in the Register shall entitle that member to be known as a Registered

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Noticeboard

NSW Society of Editors

Meets monthly (usually first Tuesday of the month) at Judicial Commission Conference Centre, 5th floor Wynyard House (just above Wynyard Station) at 6.30 for 7.00. Cost \$15 including drinks and light eats.

NSW Branch details

Please note the following contact details for the NSW Branch President, Madeleine Davis. Work phone: (02) 9514 3176; home phone (02) 4787 6277; fax (02) 4787 6069, email: redcliff@hermes.net.au.

Sorry for mixing it up last issue (blame cut-and-paste).

Women in Publishing

Women in Publishing, in co-operation with City Desktop Training, is running two-day courses in Adobe PageMaker 6.5, Web Pages & HTML, and Adobe Photoshop. Ph. (02) 9267 2203, fax (02) 9267 8665; email cityd@cd.com.au; <http://www.cd.com.au>

Women in Publishing dinner and seminar - *"What Happened to My Workplace? Changing Conditions for the New Millennium"*. Speakers including Alison Aprhys of Bookstaff, discuss structural changes in publishing and the impact this has had on employment opportunities. 17 June at 6.30pm, Lansdowne Hotel (2-6 City Road, Broadway, Sydney). Cost \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Please pay by 14 June to Jennifer Richards (ph 02 9918 3945, fax 02 9918 3952, tish@planet.net.au) or post to WiP, PO Box 1515, North Sydney NSW 2059

AGM dinner to be held on Wednesday 14 July, 6.30pm at the Lansdowne Hotel (see above).

Book, Database and Pictorial Indexing courses - Queensland.

Expressions of interest are sought from persons who would like to attend:

- A three-day Introduction to Book Indexing course to be held in Brisbane 5-7 July 1999. The physical assessment/evaluation of submitted indexes is an important part of the course.
- A one-day Abstracting and Indexing for Databases/Pictorial Indexing course to be held in Brisbane 8 July 1999.

Presenter: Max McMaster BAgSc, GradDipLib. Please register your interest by 7 June 1999, to Ann Cross, tel: (07) 3847 2463, fax: (07) 3397 7449, or email: hamcross@hotmail.com.

Opportunities....for Dummies

IDG Books Worldwide, Inc produces the successful For Dummies reference series. It has formed a joint venture company, IDG Books Australia Publishing Corporation, Pty Ltd to publish for the local market in a variety of subject areas including business, sport, home and garden, and computer software instruction.

IDG Books Australia is searching for experienced and professional freelance editorial staff including technical writers and editors, copyeditors, proofreaders and indexers with internet access and advanced skills in styles and templates in MS Word 97. Experience in Quark and Pagemaker for Mac is desirable but not essential. If you are interested please contact:

Freelance Staff
IDG Books Australia
PO Box 935
Mona Vale NSW 2103

Galley Club

The Galley Club Twenty-Third Annual Award event will be held at The Sebel of Sydney on Friday 23 July 1999. More information from Wayne Hackett on 02 9427 3533.

Dates for your diary

Soc. Editors (NSW) meeting	1st Tues in month
Indexing courses in Qld	5-7, 8 July
WiP seminar; AGM	17 June; 14 July
SI conference in Canterbury	16-18 July
Galley Club awards	23 July
AusSI conference in Tasmania	27-29 Aug



Noticeboard

Victorian Branch meeting: 3 coins in the fountain

On May 4th close to 40 people attended a public meeting held by the Victorian branch.

Our 3 panellists - Margaret Waller (Database and Quality Director, State Library of Victoria); Jane Odgers (Australian Tourism Index) and Gavan McCarthy (Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre) had all been given copies of 2 family documents and asked to prepare and discuss their differing methods of recording these in catalogues or databases.

Margaret (the cataloguer) spoke first and with a handout sample of her entry explained the various MARC tags and philosophy that determined her format of adding these papers to the catalogue of the Manuscript Collection. She described the various forms of entry for the family surnames and references therefrom. In the Notes or Summary field she had given a brief precis of the content of the documents, providing a short history of the period and events described in the documents. As the entry could be keyword searched, this field provided ample coverage for people browsing the catalogue seeking information or leads to items covering those places and events. The MSS collection catalogue gives information regarding access and genre. She had catalogued the 2 documents as one item. Margaret also explained that she had used the *Art and architecture thesaurus* published by the Getty Museum for genre headings and had used one of the references listed in the documents to search out and verify information regarding the family.

Jane Odgers (the indexer) followed with a handout of the fields used in her database and how decisions were made regarding the difficulties of understanding the needs of the users, preventing assumptions, excluding one's own knowledge, eliminating bias, and the need for consistency. Selection criteria included scope, theme, audience, employing institution, comprehensive or selective entry, relevance, significance, length and depth of entry.

Indexing decisions had to be taken on both hard information (bibliographic fields; limit fields; variable fields) and soft information ie abstracts - (language, informative/indicative, length, author abstract,

important concepts, influences keyword selection) and keywords (number of fields, number of keywords, specific or general, controlled or not, database specific, local adaptations). She then went on to show how she had done a mock entry for the family documents.

Gavan McCarthy (the archivist) started by telling us of the recent name change of Australian Science Archives Project to the Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, then stunned us all by revealing that he was actually related to the family in these documents and that there was a nearly derelict family castle up for grabs in the old homeland. He then moved on to explaining how archivists would treat these family papers as records of enduring value - how will they be interpreted in 50, 100, 200 years hence? How to maximise their contextual information so that they would be understood a long way off in the future - could they travel across time and space. Archivists document the system the records are coming out of. They emphasise the context - content is immaterial. Archivists bring out the story surrounding the documents. He explained that the archivist is more interested in how they gained access to the documents (Accession) - how did they get hold of them - family donation? found in a collection somewhere? who was the provider? what relationship did this person/body have to the person/family/organisation written about? How long had they been held before being given to the archivist? Who

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From the editor

Indexing is a very specific activity, but is broad in that it is related to the range of human communication vehicles and subjects.

I have always been interested in the different sorts of indexing. Jenny Restarick's review of the Victorian Branch meeting well demonstrates different indexing approaches to the same material.

Jo Grant's article on her records management business shows another area in which vocabulary control is important, and indexing is applied.

Glenda Browne



(Registration, Cont. from page 41)

Indexer of the Australian Society of Indexers so long as he or she remains a member of the Society”.

Also pertinent are paragraphs b) and c) of Section 2:

“The objects of the Society are...

- b) to promote the training, continued professional development, status and interest of indexers...
- c) to act as an advisory body on indexing to which authors, editors, publishers and others may apply for guidance...”

So technically we need to comply with our Constitutional obligations, but more to the point, why do we have Registration in the Constitution in the first place? I think there are two reasons: (1) to enable the Society to recommend indexers in good faith and (2) to encourage higher standards in indexers and indexes.

Recommending indexers

One of the objects of our Society is “to act as an advisory body on indexing to which authors, editors, publishers and others may apply for guidance...”

In order to do that the Society must have a way of discriminating, yes discriminating, between anyone with \$50 and an interest in indexing (and perhaps even a high competence in indexing), and someone who has *demonstrated* some competence in indexing. The assumption the Society makes is not that those persons who gain registration are necessarily better indexers, but rather that the Society has had an opportunity to assess the competence of their work, and so is in a position to recommend them to third parties. How else can the Society recommend its members in good faith? No doubt we are all very ethical people, but no-one could seriously suggest that we just take the word of everyone who joins regarding their indexing competence. How rigorous would that be?

I think the Society should follow the British lead and make registration a prerequisite for inclusion in *Indexers Available*. Our present policy of (in theory) only recommending registered indexers, and yet including non-registered indexers in the list we make available to publishers, is contradictory. But I know other indexers disagree and say that an unregistered indexer with specialised subject knowledge may be preferred by some clients to a registered indexer with less subject knowledge.

The point should be made however that specialised subject knowledge does not automatically imply

indexing proficiency. They are different animals and a person with a PhD in nuclear physics will not necessarily produce a good index for a book on nuclear physics. Registration seeks to assess indexing skills, *one of which* may be subject knowledge.

Improving standards

The registration process is an imperfect way of assessing the competence of an indexer to be sure. Despite the hours of voluntary work put in by the assessors, it is still only a snapshot of an indexer's work, and it is conceivable that the index submitted for assessment may not be typical of the indexer's general output. I have heard one or two anecdotes about publishers who were less than thrilled with the work of indexers who turned out to be registered, just as we sometimes hire a licensed plumber or builder who turns out to be less than what we had hoped for.

But despite its imperfections registration is still better than nothing. It cannot guarantee competence in indexing, but it does increase its likelihood greatly. Applicants are now provided with very specific criteria which their indexes are expected to meet, and knowing that other experienced indexers are going to scrutinise your work can have the galvanising effect of making you check your own work very carefully before submitting it.

Does Registration mean more work and more money for indexers?

Don't authors and editors *prefer* to commission registered indexers? Unfortunately, most don't even know the process exists, let alone have a preference. There is no doubt that there are indexers out there who are not registered and getting plenty of work. We can't blame authors and editors for this state of affairs; the Society must take responsibility for educating authors and publishers about registration. The Society could also send a stronger message about the advantages of choosing a registered indexer by omitting unregistered indexers from *Indexers Available*.

What's the point then?

If there are indexers out there getting work without getting registered, without even joining the Society, why should you bother with registration? Well, for the same two reasons we have it in the first place: so the Society can recommend you to publishers in good faith, and to encourage you to aspire to better standards in your work by submitting to the assessment of your peers. In a profession as solitary as indexing I personally welcome that sort of feedback from other indexers.

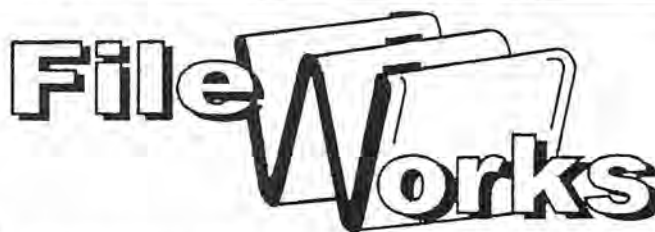
Capturing the 'Corporate Memory'

I have operated *FileWorks Records Management Systems* as a 'product independent' consultant since 1994. I am often asked 'What *exactly* do you do?'

My clients, both corporate and government, are faced with numerous products, systems and services, all claiming to solve their recordkeeping dilemmas. The problems associated with their 'Corporate Memory' are also infinite, but the client seldom knows exactly what is wrong or where to start. So my role, as the Consultant, is a sort of 'go-between' taking responsibility for the best outcome in each project.

A typical consultancy involves reviewing the client's recordkeeping procedures and systems to identify where resources should be applied. *The Australian Standard AS4390 Records Management* can be used for benchmarking systems, ensuring that best practice strategies are applied. Education or training of the client's team is usually required. In order to understand the problems and solutions, it is necessary to have a good awareness of some basic recordkeeping concepts.

The most common information problems are those of incomplete capture, poor retrieval and lack of protection – all of which require the application of four controls – *registration, classification, indexing and tracking*. Vocabulary control, even in the form of a modified, functional thesaurus or a file plan, is rarely seen in corporate 'filing systems'. The 1950s approach, using 'authorised subject lists', card indexes with



extensive cross-referencing, and self-indexing, alphabetical arrangements are still with us. However, they are rapidly being replaced by powerful database software with good records management functionality which allows us to apply the controls necessary to manage documents and files in both conventional and electronic format.

While so many recordkeeping processes have become automated, registration and classification remain as the 'intellectual' interpretation of the record. To ensure consistency in file titling and document abstracting, language control is vital in the system. End users are becoming increasingly responsible for the management of records, particularly those that they create. My objective is to provide all users with effective and simple tools – the desktop interface which will support the routine capture of records into the corporate system.

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The August Indexer: AusSI conference in Hobart Cheaper room rates

The conference hotel in Hobart has recently changed hands. The new management has reduced the room rates for people attending the AusSI conference. The new rates are:

Single: \$80 per room
Double: \$90 per room.

If you have already sent your deposit it will be put towards your total bill.

There are a limited number of rooms, so if you want to ensure a place at the conference hotel you should book early.

If conference hotel rooms fill up, the hotel will find rooms in nearby hotels (there are a number within five minutes walk).

The conference rooms are being refurbished, so they should be lovely by the time we get there.

Place names

Philip Derriman reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sat 24/4/99 or Mon 26/4/99; sorry, I didn't write the reference) on the Australian National Placenames Project based at Macquarie University. This project "is intended to nail down the history, meaning and pronunciation of as many as possible of the 210,000-odd names listed in Australian gazetteers".

Many of the issues relate to pronunciation. Just as indexers follow the usage of authors and readers, so ABC broadcasters pronounce words as the locals do. Back in 1973 the ABC changed its pronunciation of Jervis Bay from 'Jarvis' (which I still say; maybe I should change?) to 'Jervis', to rhyme with 'service'.

Like indexers, they also have to consider exceptions to the rule. The ABC says 'Cairns', not 'Cans' for fear that non-locals won't have a clue what they're talking about.

Indexers have it easier in the end though, as we can always cover our bases with a reference or a double entry.

Humorous Indexes. *Jonathan Jermy* examines categories of humorous indexes, with examples.

Humorous indexes tend to fall into one (or more) of four categories:

'Straight' indexes to humorous books

There are many funny books where the humour in the book has inadvertently spilt over into the index. These examples are taken from the Index to Sketches in *Monty Python's Flying Circus: Just the Words* (Methuen 1990: ISBN 0 7493 0226 7). Interestingly, the index is in the middle of the book, which is printed in two volumes, joined back to back: there are two indexes, identical except that in each index the names of sketches from the other volume are given without page numbers.

Camel-spotting, 81

Climbing the north face of the Uxbridge Road, 136

Crackpot Religions Ltd, 9

Crossing the Atlantic on a tricycle, 13

Crunchy Frog, 72

David Niven's fridge, 231

Death of Mary Queen of Scots, the, 303

Doctor whose patients are stabbed by his nurse, a, 333

Duck, a cat and a lizard (discussion), a, 59

Dung, 254

Normal indexes to offbeat books

Here the humour derives from unlikely juxtapositions of terms and subheadings. These examples are from *The Joy of Sex* by Alex Comfort (Mitchell Beazley, London 1986: ISBN 0 85533 602 1)

AIDS, 232, 236

aphrodisiacs, 105, 224

armpit, 148-9

bidet, 90

big toe, 150-1

battered bun, 158

buttocks, 91

communication, importance of, 7, 8, 45, 77, 84, 85, 87, 127, 151, 164, 170, 215

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dildoes, 176
disabled people, 16
discipline, 163-5
doctors, 213-14

earlobes, 102
equipment, 30, 103-4, 154-5, 164, 165, 173-77, 178-9, 184, 187, 200

goldfish, 178
grope suit, 178-9

orgasm and birdsong, 35-8

railways, 191-2
rocking chair, 104, 192-3

standing positions, 143
Stockham, Alice, 185

x position, 145

Idiosyncratic indexes

Some indexes strike us as idiosyncratic because their creators (often the author of the work) use stilted language, or have allowed their opinions or feelings to run away with them. These are often the work of amiable eccentrics, and used to be more common in the past than they are, alas, today. Here are some examples from *The Courtship of Animals* (Hutchison, London, 1914) by W. P. Pycraft (A.L.S., F.Z.S., Hon. Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and the author of *Paws and Claws*):

Alcock, Colonel, on courtship of crabs, 255
Alder-flies, claspers of 233
Amorousness, a factor in evolution, 24
 ~ *power of*, 6, 9
 ~ *where absent*, 6
Ants, nuptial flight of, 297
 ~ *dismal fate of queen*, 298
Aphides, appalling fertility of, 301

Barrett Hamilton, Major, on Fur-seals, 85
Bee, Bumble, life of, 292
Brine-shrimp, vitality of, 304
Bug, extraordinary armature of, 216

Campbell on courtship of spiders, 247

Cooke, Mr John, and the behaviour of sheep, 69
Cunningham, J.T., and secondary sexual characters, 14

Eland, strange habits of, 68
Eunuchs, peculiar features of, 145

Hippopotamus, bloody sweat of, 69
Huxley, Mr Julian, on the behaviour of Mallard, 149

Impotency, possible consequences of, 155

Kinetogenesis, meaning of, 80

Males, degenerate, where superfluous, 307
May-flies, remarkable use of stomach in, 230
Mayer, Mr., experiments on moths, 205

Sex, beginnings of, 4

Water-fleas, mating apparatus of, 226
Windpipes, where coiled, 128

...and of course...

Zebras, fighting among, 73

Unfortunately the one additional entry I would like to have seen – *Mallard, on the behaviour of Mr Julian Huxley* – is absent.

Pointed Indexes

Sadly, indexes where a deliberate attempt has been made to make a point are often the least amusing of the lot, at least to the uninitiated. Some of the more interesting examples can be found in David Langford's Web-based collection of his columns for the computer magazine *PCW Plus* (<http://www.ansible.demon.co.uk/ai/pcwplus/pcwp1991.html>):

[The index of] *The Clothes Have No Emperor*, a chronicle of Ronald Reagan's presidency by Paul Slansky (1989) ...[has a] ... long, long entry on Reagan himself, with something like 140 subheadings: *Blames Carter ... blames the media ... blames miscellaneous others ... Bond, James, honoured by ... books about ... bullet in chest temporarily unnoticed by ... campaign*

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(Humour, Cont. from page 47)

oratory of ... cancerous pimple called 'friend' by ... There are 18 page references under *challenge to accuracy of*, 19 under *inability to answer questions of*, 17 under *macho bluster of*, 22 under *misidentification problems of* and 33 under *misstatements by*.

A.P. Herbert's various books of *Misleading Cases* have highly tendentious indexes, full of little digs in the ribs. Once, though himself an MP, Herbert chafed at the unfairness of Parliament's failure to observe things like the licensing laws which it imposed on the rest of the country, so he made a list of all the activities Members could presumably get away with in their privileged House, and strewed them through the index of *Uncommon Law* (1935): *ADULTERATED FOOD: May be sold at the House of Commons ... ARSON: Is lawful, in the House of Commons ... BRANDY: May be sold at tea-time, in the House of Commons ... BURGLARY: In the House of Commons, is lawful ... CHILDREN: Born in the House of Commons, need not be registered ...*

But perhaps the least-known, the most useless and the most grimly instructive index of them all (for aspiring writers, at least) is the one appearing in Hilaire Belloc's satirical *Caliban's Guide to Letters* (1943). Slowly it dawns that every single reference is to – *Action, Combination of, with Plot, Powerful Effect of in Modern Novels, see Pulping, p.187. Advertisement, Folly and Waste of, see Pulping, p.187. Affection, Immoderate, for our own Work, Cure of, see Pulping, p.187. Amusements of Printers and Publishers, see Pulping, p.187. Art, Literary, Ultimate End of...*

Have humorous indexes had their day? It's depressing to think that we might be passing into a strictly utilitarian world which has no time for whimsy. Perhaps readers can come up with some examples of their own.

Indexers as editors.

In most indexing projects indexers will find typos in the text, and list them for the editor's information. Indexers are particularly important in the proofreading cycle (albeit unofficially) because it is in the index that similar words come together for comparison.

While the use of 'web site' on page 10 of a book and 'website' on page 100 could slip past an editor, the inconsistency becomes obvious in the index. More than that, it is crucial for the indexer to make a decision on which alternative to use.

If you don't know which spelling options to choose, you might like to have a look at www.spellweb.com. Here you type in the alternatives, and HotBot and Excite search the web for all occurrences of those words and show you a summary.

In the future will dictionaries remain our chief authority, or will we rely on this huge database of everyday usage, admittedly from a subset of the population?

(Thanks to Madeleine Davis for telling me about this site, and sharing my passion for consistency). GB.

Want to learn more about indexing?

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

On the Web

Genealogical Indexing Resources on Web Site

In 1998 the AusSI executive decided not to start a separate Genealogical Indexing SIG for such a small group. Dwight Walker has edited and updated the list of genealogical indexing resources, contacts and links for the AusSI website. Check this page out if you are interested in genealogical indexing and need resources or tips: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/resources/genealogical.htm>

Web usability

For information on the web usability mailing list (CHI-WEB) see: www.acm.org/sigchi/web/chi-web.html.

From the Literature

Strategic Planning

In *Key Words* Vol7/No. 1 (p. 19) Richard (Dick) Evans gives a 'Roadmap to the Future' as he discusses strategic planning in a time of change.

To "take action to anticipate and respond to change intelligently" we should:

"Identify trends in the industry
Shape those trends where possible.
Adapt to trends we cannot shape.
Know the difference between items 2 and 3."

How do we carry this out? We use a roadmap, and use concrete, measurable terms of where we are, where we want to be, and the route we will follow to get there.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

'The metadata working group: An invitation'. *IASC Bulletin* vol 20, nos 3 & 4 Sept-Dec 1998, p.14.

An international group (mainly containing people from the US and UK) has been trying to identify the metadata needed to support unique identifiers, such as the Digital Object Identifier (DOI), and to enable the electronic identification, retrieval and trading of intellectual property.

There are two key areas: describing the object itself, and describing the rights relating to the object. Users may have or wish to acquire these rights.

This requires a detailed classification of rights and a pilot project with technology companies to test the practicalities of the rights classification.

There are papers at <http://bic.org.uk/rights>. G.B.

(3 coins; cont. from page 43)

had seen them before? (Provenance) They then establish a control mechanism ie an inventory - either in the file of the rest of the family papers or in single individual records. A free-text descriptive element will create a finding aid - possibly one record for the original documents and another for copies. Archive the originals into safe keeping and have the copies accessible to readers. The ideal situation would be to scan or image the documents into a Finding Aid available on the Internet, so that they could be used online. In their Provenance records, archivists would give entries to both the writer/compiler/person responsible for the original work and the donor. The collection of documents could be arranged together with copies of other family papers in Ireland, Scotland or wherever (if available).

Following the panellists' presentations, members of the audience asked questions about the various and confusing forms of entry for hyphenated and double-barrelled names and the often absence of references to and from. Anton Starvik (RMIT) asked whether the Society could hold a meeting to discuss metadata and the transfer of descriptive rules onto the Internet. Steven Haby (ACER) talked about the Australian Education Index and the problem of links to other websites - he emphasised the need to constantly check these links to see if the urls quoted were still "alive" and the work entailed in removing "dead" ones. Micky Ashton (ATT) mentioned that students use abstracts rather than reading entire papers and the value of free-text searching in these abstracts. Margaret Waller agreed with the problem of url links. The records they receive from the NBD, especially for serials, have URL's that can be unstable and require checking. Steven Hay suggested that our profession (information management) should lead the charge to keep urls topical and correct - keep the publishers aware of the problem. Gavan McCarthy described the ASHC's website - what it covers and the excitement of producing visual and graphic images. He enthused us all so much that we have prevailed upon him to invite us all to visit his premises and see this wonder for ourselves.

Dinner at Cafe Platia was thoroughly enjoyable with all attending still discussing the night's programme and enlarging their networking contacts.

Our thanks to the 3 panellists for their amusing, interesting and informative talks, to ACER staff for hosting the evening and to all those who attended.

By Jenny Restarick

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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 am 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.

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