



Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter

PO BOX R598, ROYAL EXCHANGE NSW 1225 VOLUME 23, NUMBER 6, JULY 1999 ISSN 0314-3767

Unusual indexes. *Compiled by Glenda Browne (thanks to Simon Cauchi).*

I like unusual or funny indexes as they add another dimension to our usually very practical pursuit.

The meaning of Liff

The index is an integral part of *The deeper meaning of Liff: A dictionary of things that there aren't any words for yet*. The following entries give a feel for the book:

APOLOGIES

loud, interminable: *Hickling*
recursive: *Greeley*
uttered while hopping: *Droitwich*

ASSISTANTS

exorcists': *Clenchwarton*
plumbers': *Suckley Knowl*
shop: *Hotagen*

Letters from London 1990-1995

The following index entries are from Julian Barnes's collection of his contributions to the New Yorker (*Letters from London 1990-1995*; Picador 1995) contains the following entries: I first heard of them through Simon Cauchi's note to Index-L.

sheep: Geoffrey Howe, 54; Andrew Neil, 151; Lloyd's investors, 207, 236.

Animals: dream about hamsters, xv; Mrs Thatcher as she-elephant, 5; Sir Anthony Meyer, 5; Rector of Stiffkey's lion, 21; fur-bearing trout, 24; Nicholas Ridley as lizard, 35; Geoffrey Howe as rabbit, 51-52; Geoffrey Howe as Rottweiler in drag, 54; Geoffrey Howe as bee, 56; Michael Heseltine as hornet, 56; rats and Hampton Court Maze, 83-84; Churchill's British lion, 107; Labour policy on animals in transit, 112; Mister Major (horse), 136; Andrew Neil, 151; Old English rabbit in Deptford, 179; [etc.]

Meyer, Sir Anthony: sacrificial rabbit, twittering canary or stalking-horse?, 5; put out to grass, 21

Queen, H.M.: presented with jodhpurs, 1; a foreigner, 28; discreet snog with Screaming Lord Sutch, 121; domestic problems, 146-159; appeals for sympathy, 168-169; 'annus horribilis', 169; fire at Windsor Castle, 171-172; agrees to pay tax, 173-175; approves the nation's stamps, 183; turns down Gulf War medal, 190; helps open Channel Tunnel, 312-313

Tennyson: inspires Mrs Thatcher, 100; describes Tory front bench, 106; could inspire John Major, 108-109; against Channel Tunnel, 317

Wiggins, Marianne: desires to be a mere foothill, 305

Parent's Survival Guide

I like the index to *A Parent's Survival Guide* by Laurie Graham, with entries such as:

Apron strings, loosening of
Bad habits, nipping in the bud
Beds, children in parent's
Beds, parents in children's
Bottoms, sore
 what to call
Democracy, the futility of
Playdough, how to make it if you must
School gate, how to behave at
Voice, effective use of.

What's Inside

Silly indexes	51
News and announcements	52-54
Web indexing; Theorists, Educators	55-56
Registration; Indexing families	57-58
From the literature and From the Web	59
Newsletter and executive contacts	60



Noticeboard

ACT Branch activities

The ACT Region Branch will hold their Metadata Revisited event in the evening on July 27. There will be hands-on workshops demonstrating the use of templates. \$10.00 members, \$30.00 non-members

On Saturday 14 August the ACT Region Branch will run a half day (9am to 1pm) Abstracting Workshop.

ACT mid-winter dinner

The ACT Region Branch held their mid-winter dinner in a most unusual location. This was a restaurant/bar etc set up as part of the Tourism, Retail and Hospitality School of the Canberra Institute of Technology. Here the students in the various areas demonstrate their skills to the public. Both service and food were very pleasant and, as usual, the after dinner speaker provided further goodies. This year these treats were provided by Mr Ian Templeman. As a major force in the early days of publishing in Western Australia he was instrumental in bringing to the public eye the works of Albert Facey and Sally Morgan. Now based in Canberra he was able to tell us about his more recent forays into the world of publishing.

Special Librarian's dinner

NSW Special Libraries Group dinner to be held at Christensens, 45 Phillip Street, Sydney, on 28th July 1999 at 6pm. \$45.00 for non-members. One guest speaker is Madeleine Davis of AustLII who will speak on Web indexing.

More information from Jackie Slee: ph: 9292 9953
email: jslee@nrma-investment.com.au

Dates for your diary

Soc. Editors (NSW) meeting	1st Tues in month
Metadata Revisited (ACT)	27 July
Special Librarians' dinner	28 July
Abstracting workshop (ACT)	14 Aug
NSW Branch activity	21 Aug
AusSI conference in Tasmania	27-29 Aug
ASI conference	10-13 May, 2000

New AusSI phone number

AusSI's new phone number: 0500 525 005.

Note that it is not preceded by 02.

NSW Branch activities:

CINDEX for Windows (and Macintosh)/
SKY Index Workshop

The NSW Branch is holding a combined workshop on Cindex for Windows and Sky Index on Saturday 21 August from 9.00am to 1.00pm. Francis Lennie from Indexing Research (US) will be presenting the former and Michael Wyatt, Vice President of AusSI will present the latter. Thomson Legal and Regulatory Group (formerly LBC Information Services) have kindly offered the use of their training room and computers so the workshop will be a real hands on session. The numbers are limited to ten participants so expressions of interest should be notified as soon as possible to Lorraine Doyle by phone at 02 8587 7229 or by email at Lorraine.Doyle@lbc.com.au.

The workshop costs \$75.00 for members and \$90.00 for non members and will be held at: Training Room Thomson Legal Regulatory Group, 100 Harris Street Ultimo. There is ample (and cheap) parking available at the Crown Casino Carpark which is less than 5 minutes walk from the Thomson Building.

Victorian Branch meeting:

S.W.A.L.K. OR S.W.A.L. - Sealed, stamped and posted

On Tuesday July 13th the Victorian Branch will be meeting at the National Philatelic Archive to view the July exhibition "Letter to Picasso - the stamp in contemporary art". Curator Elizabeth Gertsakis has kindly offered to lead us through the display, and then to talk about the role of the Australian Philatelic Bureau and its Archive.

Meet in the foyer of 321 Exhibition Street (entry from Lonsdale St.) from 6 pm for a 6.30 pm start.

As numbers must be restricted to 20, it would be appreciated if those wishing to attend could please RSVP to Jenny Restarick, tel. (BH) 03 9545 2178 (AH) 03 9528 2539, email jenny.restarick@enquiries.csiro.au.



Noticeboard

Honour for indexer

Congratulations to SI member Elizabeth Wallis who was created a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's New Year Honours List in recognition of her services to indexing. (*from The Indexer Vol 21:3*)

Abstracting and indexing for databases/Pictorial indexing

The Victorian Branch is offering a course on database indexing for people with limited knowledge of database indexing. The course has a high practical component in the writing of abstracts and the selection of indexing terms.

The course will be held at Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell from 9:00 am to 4:45 pm, Tuesday July 20, 1999.

Fees are \$100 per participant (\$90 for AusSI, Society of Editors, and Australian Society of Technical Communicators members), and will include all instruction, course notes, morning and afternoon teas.

The short course will cover the following topics:

- Selecting documents/images for indexing
- Purpose of abstracts
- Content and types of abstracts
- Choosing elements for inclusion in abstracts
- Writing the abstract
- Use of thesauri and selection of indexing terms
- Selecting identifiers (non-thesaurus terms)
- Checking the entry
- Full abstracting and indexing exercises
- Indexing of pictorial images

The instructor, Max McMaster BAgrSc GradDipLib, is past Chairman of the Panel of Assessors and Vice President of the Victorian Branch, Australian Society of Indexers. He is a freelance indexer and has had extensive experience in the teaching of database/pictorial and back-of-book indexing.

For further information contact: Max McMaster, Tel/ fax: (03) 9571 6341, e-mail: mindexer@interconnect.com.au

International news

Christine Jacobs is organising a column of international news for *The Indexer* to replace the old *Shoebox* column. If you have news of any special indexing activities (not only AusSI ones) or special projects please let me know.

Editorial Services Directory

Editorial Services Directory 1999-2000 edition is now available. It lists almost 80 companies and individuals who provide professional editorial services. \$10 including postage and handling. Send order to Society of Editors (NSW), PO Box 254, Broadway 2007. Enquiries: (02) 9294 4999 (voicemail).

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.

8 August: Carl Harrison-Ford on editing fiction, dealing with authors and other esoteric skills.

7 Sept: Mark Macleod of Hodder Headline on trends in educational publishing.

Grammar for Editors workshop

Saturday 24 July, 9 am to 5 pm. At Judicial Commission, Wynyard House. Presented by Robert Veel. Cost: \$90. Enquiries to Terry Johnston (02) 9715 8019 or 041380 1948 (mob). Bookings by 16 July.

Notices continue on page 54

From the editor

This issue of the newsletter has lots of 'snippets', that is, little bits of information on lots of topics.

Please send in your 'snippets', so we can all share the wisdom and experiences of all members

Glenda Browne





Noticeboard

UP, UP AND AWAY!: ASI conference Call for Proposals

The American Society of Indexers (ASI) is currently accepting proposals for general session presentations, workshops, and roundtable discussions at its 32nd Annual Conference, which is scheduled for May 10-13 2000, at the Sheraton Old Town in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The theme of the ASI 2000 Annual Conference is UP, UP, AND AWAY! Your proposal may be on any of the following topics:

- Advanced Indexing Techniques
- Basic Indexing Skills
- Bibliographic Citations
- Branching Out and Building Your Portfolio
- Client/Indexer Relationships
- Editing Indexes
- Embedded Indexing Techniques
- Index Usability Studies
- Indexing Electronic Documents
- Indexing Historical Texts
- Indexing Periodicals
- Indexing Scholarly Texts
- Indexing Scientific and Medical Texts
- Indexing Technical Documentation
- Indexing Web Documents
- Managing Large Indexing Projects
- Marketing Skills
- Negotiating with Clients
- Putting Your Best Foot Forward with Publishers
- Resources for Professional Indexers
- Teaching Indexing
- Tools of the Trade
- Trends in Technology

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 15, 1999

Your proposal should contain the following information:

- Your name, address, phone/fax numbers, and e-mail address
- A brief bio (less than 150 words) that describes your qualifications and experience
- Title of your proposed presentation
- Format: (select one of the following: General

Session Presentation or Panel Discussion (30-40 minutes), Workshop (one-half day or full-day), or Roundtable Discussion (1.5 hours)

- A/V equipment requirements
- A one-page abstract describing your presentation, panel discussion, workshop, or group activities (if any).

Presentations and panel discussions should be 20-45 minutes and should allow 10-15 minutes for questions from the audience. Workshop length may be either one-half day or full-day. Roundtable hosts should have sufficient material to promote discussion for approximately 1.5 hours.

Submit proposals to one of the following conference planners:

Lori Lathrop, Lathrop Media Services
7308-C East Independence Blvd., #316
Charlotte, NC 28227
Phone: 704-531-0021
E-mail: 76620.456@compuserve.com

(LoriLathrop@compuserve.com)

Dick Evans, Infodex Indexing Services, Inc.
6300-138 Creedmoor Rd., #247
Raleigh, NC 27612
Phone: 919-781-4302
E-mail: infodex@mindspring.com

The deadline for proposals is October 15, 1999.
Acceptance letters will be sent by December 1, 1999.

13th National Cataloguing Conference: Charting the Information Universe

13-15 October 1999 Brisbane Qld. Early bird deadline 31 July. Conference Secretariat: (07) 3369 0477 cat99@im.com.au.

Interesting papers include:

- Developments in metadata (3 papers)
- "Scott and the race for the South Pole: the heroic failure of cataloguing the web" and "Web catalogue wonders: ever evolving access".
- "Understandings of thesauri in the online dialogue: implications for construction and display" (Helmut Klaus)
- "When is a forest fire a bushfire? Towards an Australian pictorial thesaurus"
- "Exploring bright SPARCS: creation of a navigable knowledge space"

Web indexing and HTML Indexer

I have been a book indexer for over 10 years now. With the advent of the Web I have become interested in applying the same sort of skills to give the same sort of access to information in webpages.

When people say 'web indexing' they can mean anything. Some mean the brute force of an Internet search engine that lets you find every occurrence of certain words in the Internet. Others mean adding metadata (data about data) to webpages. Metadata can include descriptive information about the webpage (authors, date of publication and so on) and subject information - keywords that effectively describe the subject content of the webpage in summary form. These keywords are important to Internet-wide and site-specific search engines. Then there is the creation of a hierarchy through which users can navigate a website. This hierarchy should be logically structured - usually in a classified format - and can be depicted in text or as a graphical site map.

The fourth sort of indexing is back-of-book style indexing. The product is a webpage with index entries (usually in alphabetical order) that give access to specific bits of information within the website. This is the most detailed form of indexing, and ensures access to snippets of information, not just broad subject areas and groups. As with any index, it has the advantage of bringing together information that has been scattered by the structure of the site.

A back-of-book style index can be created manually using HTML coding or a web creation software package such as MS-FrontPage. To do this you have to go through each page in turn, noting the entries that should be in the index to lead to topics on those pages. You then type the entries with links to the appropriate URLs. There are ways of automating this using MS-Word templates. You have to edit the index to ensure consistency (this usually takes a third of the total time - it is not a minor step) and then add cross-references. For synonyms you should either have duplicate links from each synonym, or a See reference from the term you have chosen not to use, to the term at which you will have all the links. You should also link related terms with See also references (eg cups, See also saucers).

There is now a program called HTML Indexer that can automate the technical aspects of index creation. You choose and type the entries, and HTML Indexer creates the links for you. You can see the index as it grows, in alphabetical order and sorted by URL. The information you have typed is saved within the webpages, so when new information is added the

index can be easily updated.

A version of this article first appeared in the Internet Beginner's Newsletter (by Jon Jerney). The Beginner's Newsletter now has an index at <http://www.hermes.net.au/jonjerney/IBG>. A demo version of HTML Indexer can be downloaded from <http://www.html-indexer.com>. GB

Indexes reviewed: You don't need a professional?

Harold H Paynting and Malcolm Grant (eds.) *Victoria Illustrated*. The James Flood Harold-Paynting Charity Trust. \$250.00 pp. 534 Reviewed by Neil Clerehan in *Historic Environment*, IV, 4 (1985) page 46.

"What more can be said about this book; especially when one has already reviewed it for a newspaper?"

Its size, price and weight have been commented on by all those who have read, bought or carried it, but remarkably few reviewers have commented on the lack of index.

The more one thinks about this omission, the more it looms as a fundamental and unpardonable error.

Even a crude index would have been acceptable. This is easily attainable these days with a word processor, without recourse to the services of a professional indexer, and with neither culling nor further refinement. After all, with this book no reasonable purchaser was expecting a definitive historical treatise."

"Finding anything in this fascinating book is difficult.

The lack of an index is, one must regretfully conclude, symptomatic of the publication's low level of professionalism, but as the illustrations are so wonderful, why carp?"

Interesting that the reviewer describes the lack of an index as a "fundamental and unpardonable error" but feels that a "crude" index would be quite adequate. (At least he acknowledges that a computer-generated one would be crude). (GB)

Thanks to Max McMaster for this review.



Got something
fantastic to share?
This spot could
be yours!

Theorists, Educators, and Practitioners

Cataloging and Classification Quarterly vol 25 no 2/3 and 4, 1998, co-published simultaneously in *Portraits in Cataloging and Classification: Theorists, Educators, and Practitioners of the Late Twentieth Century* (eds: Carolynne Myall, and Ruth C. Carter) The Haworth Press, Inc., 1998.

Melinda Davis wrote to Index-L that Hans Wellisch was in *Portraits*, as was her library school cataloguing professor.

Alan Walker replied: Like Melinda Davis, I was delighted to find that the person who taught me most about indexing got a guernsey in *Portraits* ('John Wallace Metcalfe' by Jack R. Nelson, Vol 25 no 2/3 pp199-208).

Like Melinda, when I was in library school I had no intention of becoming an indexer, and John Metcalfe (my teacher) thought he was teaching us about Subject Cataloguing. But because he taught us basic principles (like specific entry) and rules of thumb, and because he tied everything back to the people who thought and wrote intelligently about the theory of subject access to information (going back to Cutter in 1876), it

all flooded back when I became an indexer twenty years later. I have to thank Gerry Van Ravenswaay for drawing my attention to the article on Metcalfe at the Seattle conference, and for providing me with a copy.

And I have to urge those of you who are starting out as indexers to make sure you find out something about the history and theory of our profession.

You are not the first person who has had to think through these problems. Even if you don't have the benefit of a great teacher, there are great books to read, and there is the great resource of *The Indexer*.

Most importantly, if we are any sort of profession, we must recognise that we do have a formidable set of principles and techniques which we can apply to new situations. Technological challenges are much less scary to those who know something about how modern indexing has adapted and developed over the last one-hundred-and-twenty-two years.

Sorry to get preachy, but I feel strongly about this.

(And will someone please remind me who said: "Those who know no history are doomed to repeat its mistakes?")

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, while freeing you to concentrate on identifying the facts and ideas developed in the text. Full-featured demonstration versions that let you explore the program's rich capabilities are available for all platforms.

Special student editions are also available.

For free downloadable demos, full details, and ordering information:

<http://www.indexres.com>

or contact

Indexing Research

The full-service indexing company

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

Tel: +1 . 716 . 461 . 5530

Fax: +1 . 716 . 442 . 3924

E-mail: info@indexres.com

UK and Europe

E-mail: europesales@indexres.com

Australia, New Zealand and Asia

E-mail: pacificsales@indexres.com

Registration, accreditation - and professionalism

Garry Cousins displays authority when the need arises. In his usual unobtrusive style he stimulates thought and promotes discussion in asking AusSI readers 'What's the point of Registration?' (*Newsletter*, June 99), and further inquires whether it is the same as accreditation or certification. I wish to take this question a little further.

AusSI issues a Certificate of Registration (to members only) if the Board of Assessors is satisfied that an index meets the required criteria. This accords with an object of the Society to "promote the training, continued professional development, status and interest of indexers". Preliminary training, is not a prior requirement, probably because it exists in the form of a short course of instruction¹. A successful member is then entitled to use the term 'Registered Indexer', as a mark of recognition.

SI, on the other hand, starts out with specific training for accreditation, which is a preliminary requirement for membership (see the back cover of any recent issue of the *Indexer*, for details of the course). Registration is optional, and is granted on satisfactory assessment of a particular index², as in Australia. We do not know whether a certificate is issued or whether registration is used as a term of distinction.

Garry says ASI has no training or system of registration but refers to the concept as 'certification' - of membership? Neither the SI training course for accreditation, nor the AusSI assessment criteria for Registration (see *Newsletter*, May '99), refers to the International Standard ISO 999:1996 which has been adopted by both Societies³.

I sought out the difference, if any, between accreditation and registration. Accreditation has 10 meanings and registration has as many as 25, but it seems that, for our purposes, accreditation requires 'credentials' (such as those presented by an envoy from one country to another), whilst 'registration' is the authoritative record (or certification) of a qualified person.

In my opinion both symbolisms lead to, or are essential steps towards professionalism⁴. That is my answer to Garry's question, but although professionalism has been actively canvassed earlier, not the smallest practical step has been taken by any of the Societies to put this vital matter on the agenda. In my opinion that is the reason for the great lack of recognition that indexers receive from authors and publishers. Indexers remain mere appendages in the publishing world, for use if and when someone thinks

an index 'might be helpful'. After quarter of a century (or more) of existence of our Societies around the world, professionalism (in the form of other well known professional associations which specify qualifications for active practice) is not yet known to us indexers.

I was happy to read (*The Indexer* 21(3)1999 p132) that a new International Agreement is being drawn up between SI, ASI, IASC/SCAD and AusSI, to address common 'pressing problems'. Alan Walker took an initiative in this international movement and I believe he will want to place the subject of professionalism on the agenda as a high priority. If the next generation of indexers is to enjoy such a profile, it is the duty of the present officials to pave the way.

Kingsley Siebel

- 1 This may well be a matter for consideration by the National Committee.
- 2 The SI failure rate is reported as being high (*The Indexer* 20(4) p191 (1997). No report is available from AusSI.
- 3 *The Indexer* 20(2) 74-77 (1996), and AusSI *Newsletter* Vol 21(5) p6 (1997), and (7) p2.
- 4 Dietrich Borchardt was the first Australian indexer to raise the subject in his address to the Annual Meeting of the Society in 1985 (*Newsletter* Vol 9 p33). He said registration was 'an interim step toward professionalism'. He went on to suggest that the first necessary action was the establishment of a 'high level tertiary course' That, I think, is still an eminently practical suggestion. Elizabeth Wallis (a long standing stalwart of SI who is also well-known in AusSI) is of the opinion that professional competence is recognised in accreditation and registration⁵ but she found it difficult to conclude that our associations are professional: 'Indexing as a professional activity' (*The Indexer* 20(4) p189 (1997). Does this not call for urgent positive action?
- 5 Ian Crane's (1994 Chairperson of SI) challenge 'How often we say proudly that we are indexers?', urged me to suggest alternate means towards this goal, such as Associateships and Fellowships *Newsletter* Vol 18(6) p3. John Simpkin took that suggestion further (*Newsletter* Vol 21(1) p3 and *The Indexer* 20(4) p178 (1997), and see Wallis Note 4 above.
- 6 Recently I received a request for an 8-page index (to be produced in a fortnight) to a 1000 page book on very famous Voyages Round the World. I agreed only on the conditions that I be allowed a month and 30 pages. I know it will be reduced and printed in an unreadable type size, as per the sample index I received - 4 pages in 4-point type - for a similar travel book of 600 pages. For this reason I also withheld my name. It is only the action of an established professional Society that will have the power to fight this degradation of indexing.

Indexing families

People come to indexing from the related fields of publishing and librarianship (and more rarely from others such as technical writing).

Occasionally someone is lucky enough to learn indexing within their family. There are a few couples who are both members of AusSI. Macrex was brought to us by Hilary and Drusilla Calvert (I believe Hilary is the programmer and Drusilla the indexer). From memory the Halls in the UK are also an indexing couple, with Ann representing Macrex and her husband Cindex.



Once I asked a question on Index-L about how people discovered indexing, and one indexer replied that she learnt from her father. We are encouraging Bill into the field. He has helped with a few newsletter stuffings, and knows the names of a number of indexing committee members who visit or phone.



He has helped on two indexing jobs. Once he downloaded 100 pages from the web; then printed and saved them. He has also highlighted common names of plants and synonyms of botanical names. They were typographically distinct, which made it relatively easy.

Needless to say his work was thoroughly checked, but he did a great job!

Jon (left) and Bill prepare newsletters for mailing.

Microsoft as car manufacturer

At the COMDEX computer expo Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated: "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 miles/gallon".

Recently General Motors addressed this comment by releasing the statement: "Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day? And then GM's engineers gave a Top Ten of what it would be like if Microsoft manufactured cars:

- 1 Every time they repainted lines on the road you would have to buy a new car.
- 2 Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and drive on.
- 3 Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre would cause your car to stop and fail and you would have to reinstall the engine. For some strange reason, you would accept this too.

- 4 You could only carry one person in the car at a time, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But then you would have to buy more seats.
- 5 Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive, but would only run on 5% of the roads.
- 6 The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower.
- 7 The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car default" warning light.
- 8 New seats would force everyone to have the same size bum.
- 9 The airbag system would say "Are you sure?" before going off.
- 10 If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened

Thanks to Garry.

From the Literature and From the Web

The articles mentioned below will soon be available through interlibrary loan from the University of NSW Library.

Density of Web Links

IASC Bulletin vol 20, nos 3 & 4 Sept-Dec 1998, p. 18

IASC reviewed an article in JASIS which found that information retrieval on the web was better when there was a low density of links, and when these links were presented as lists rather than being embedded in the text.

JASIS 49(13), Nov 1998 at <http://www.interscience.wiley.com>. 'Searching through Cyberspace: The effects of link cues and correspondence on information retrieval from hypertext on the World Wide Web' / Kushal Khan and Craig Locatis, p. 1248

Information industry

NFAIS Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol 41 (1). 'Millennial Jitters: the information business in 1998' by Wendy K. Wicks.

Some important points:

- The information industry has been getting smaller while a few key companies are growing larger.
- The web is an information integration platform.
- Dow Jones Interactive has a new Web Center that indexes the full-text content of 1,000 select Web sites (half news and industry sites and half government sites).
- BIOSIS has reached an agreement with SilverPlatter Information to provide web access to BIOSIS Previews, Biological Abstracts and other databases on a subscription basis..

NFAIS Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol 41 (1). '1998 - 'The year in review' by A.W.Elias, pp. 1, 9-10

- Information technology and its associated industries are growing at more than double the rate of the overall economy, but abstracting and indexing services are not growing in parallel.
- Most new IT enterprises have not achieved profitability.

AOL and Netscape

NFAIS Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol 41 (1), p. 10.

- America Online Inc acquired Netscape in a [US]\$4.28 billion stock swap. Sun Microsystems will market Netscape's business software. The acquisition strengthens AOL's position relative to Microsoft.

Documenting intellectual property

NFAIS Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol 41 (1), p. 11

- Firstuse.com is a new online registry that allows users to instantly document intellectual property...without divulging contents. Once uploaded, the file is encrypted and kept for third party verification in case of future disputes. Cost [US]\$15 per document. GB

The email read around the world

One teacher's project aimed to teach her class about geography, but the results were more than she bargained for. Now the school's server is awash in email. By Steve Freiss at <http://www.wired.com/news/news/email/explode-infobeat/culture/story/20154.html>

Dwight comments: "I think there is a warning here to use security and encryption in transactions and passing information out - here it applies as indexers are knowledge workers and are vulnerable to piracy and copyright infringements more than in the paper world. The speed of data distribution increases risk of loss by fraud. Dwight Walker

Who Profits? Online Copyright Concerns for Writers

The following sites on electronic rights were noted on Edline. I haven't looked at them yet, but they could be useful.

Jessica Clark presents a useful overview of online copyright concerns for writers - and therefore for publishers as well. Although her focus is on the Web, the same issues apply to email-delivered content.

<http://home.erols.com/samizdat/ACM.html>

Electronic Rights: Going Beyond the Grant of Rights Clause, The Publishing Law Center, by Lloyd L. Rich

<http://www.publaw.com/articles.html>

[From Edline, previously cross-posted from *The Emailian*, June 1998] GB

Newsletter and Webmaster contacts

Editor: Glenda Browne
 Webmaster: Jonathan Jerney
 email: aussi@zeta.org.au,
 web: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi>
 ISSN: paper: 0314-3767
 electronic: 1326-2718

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

Copy should be sent to the editor by the last day of each month for publication in the middle of the next month. I 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.

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

Graphics

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

Advertisement charges

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

Send copy to:

Glenda Browne
 PO Box 307
 Blaxland NSW 2774
 ph: (02) 47 398 199; fax: (02) 47 398 189
 email: diagonal@hermes.net.au

Membership charges

\$50 per year

The Indexer (International indexing journal)

Janet Shuter, Hon. Editor
 email: Shuter@cix.compulink.co.uk
 Corresponding Editor Aust/NZ: Dwight Walker
 ph (02) 02-96371649, fax (02) 9777 2058,
 mobile 0412 405 727,
 email: dwright@zip.com.au
 Cost: \$28 for AusSI members.

National Executive

PO Box R598, Royal Exchange NSW 1225,
 ph: 0500 525 005

President: Alan Walker ph (02) 9368 0174,
 fax (02) 9358 5593, email: alan.walker@s054.aone.net.au

Vice President and Membership Secretary:
 Michael Wyatt 0500 539 973 (w),
 fax (02) 9331 7785, email: keyword@ozemail.com.au

Secretary: Lorraine Doyle (02) 8587 7229 (w)
 (02) 9876 4218 (h), fax (02) 9888 2229
 email: Lorraine.Doyle@lbc.com.au

Treasurer: Tricia Waters (02) 9416 7664 (h)
WatersIT@ozemail.com.au

Committee Member: Pamela Johnstone, Carolyn Kearney

NSW branch

PO Box R598, Royal Exchange NSW 1225
President: Madeleine Davis (02) 9514 3176 (w), (02) 4787 6277
 (h) fax (02) 4787 6069, email: redcliff@hermes.net.au
Vice-President: Carolyn Kearney. (02) 9351 0325 (w),
 (02)9360 5793 (h), fax (02)9351 0301
 email: c.kearney@library.usyd.edu.au
Secretary: Lorraine Doyle (02) 8587 7229 (w)
 (02) 9876 4218 (h), fax (02) 9888 2229
 email: Lorraine.Doyle@lbc.com.au
Treasurer: Pamela Johnstone phone/fax
 (02) 4757 3045, email: olc@pnc.com.au

Committee Members: A. Walker, T. Waters, M. Wyatt

Victorian branch

GPO Box 1251, Melbourne Vic 3001
President: Margaret Findlay, ph. (03) 9277 5555,
 email: findlay@acer.edu.au
Vice President: Max McMaster ph/fax (03) 9571 6341,
 email: mindexer@interconnect.com.au
Secretary: Jenny Restarick ph/fax (03) 9528 2539 (h),
 email: Jenny.Restarick@enquiries.csiro.au
Treasurer: Joyce Gillespie (03) 9654 8527 or
 ph/fax (03) 9710 1270
Committee Members: G. Levick, E. Wood-Ellem,
 J. McGovern, J. Simkin

ACT region branch

GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601
President: Lynn Farkas, ph (02) 6286 3529, fax (02) 6286 6570
Immediate Past President: Geraldine Triffitt
 ph (02) 6246 1177; fax (02) 6249 7310,
 email: grtriffitt@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley Campbell
 ph (02) 6234 2225; fax (02) 6234 2237,
 email: Shirley.Campbell@Radford.act.edu.au

Committee Members: Edyth Bynkowski, R. Hyslop, S. MacDougall, L. Tunks, H. Kent, P. Whitten, B. Edwards

Qld group with Soc. Ed. (Qld)

Contact: Julie Forrest (07) 3353 0120 (h)
 email: J.Forrest@mcauley.acu.edu.au

SA group with Soc. Ed. (SA)

Contact: Susan Rintoul (08) 8235 1535 (h), fax (08) 8235 9144
 email: seaview@seaviewpress.com.au

WA contact

Contact: Ling Heang, (08) 9478 3343 (w), 0418 941 861 (h),
 fax: (08) 9479 7509, email: heangsl@bigfoot.com