

Newsletter

If it's not in **The Age** it hasn't happened!!

Mr Frank Prain, Library Manager of *The Age Newspaper*, spent the afternoon of Saturday June 30 demonstrating to a number of Vic Branch members the resources of both the full-text and picture collection databases which comprise the in-house services for users within the Fairfax stable of publications.

In order to lessen the nuisance value of a group of strangers taking up space and time, and to facilitate the ease of demonstrating via a computer, the group was limited to six people. After an email distribution to financial Vic members, this short list was easily filled.

The collection of non-electronic resources, ie press clippings, photographic plates and negatives, dates back to the 1960s and was discontinued in 1996 when both the text and photographic libraries were amalgamated and became totally electronic. The paper resources are still filed, maintained, and frequently consulted. It was quite a nostalgic trip to see the yellowing paper and pasted sheets filed away in the compactus, with coloured tags displaying subject headings and filing cues. But the speed with which full text and photographs can be searched, displayed, printed or forwarded-on via the electronic world, is quite amazing.

The clippings files are arranged in a basically alphabetic-specific system, with several sections alphabetic-classed. There are a number of sequences: General subjects, Personals (biographical), Sport, Staff writers, Columns, Editorial Opinions.

The Pictorial collection (which was for many years a separate library) is arranged in a more complicated system: there are three main sequences: Australia, People, General. Prints of photos were filed by their major subject. Any picture that has been published will (should) have a copy of its accompanying article pasted on the back along with publication details and negative number. There is also a large collection of negatives.

In mid-1990s the Fairfax Group bought and developed NewsLink systems to enter and search for text and pictures. They decided to add subject headings to records for greater power in retrieving information. Librarians from six Fairfax libraries got together

with their lists of subject headings to try and work out a system that would be acceptable to all. The indexer developed a basic hierarchical system with 26 top level headings and up to six levels. As well as the subject headings they came up with a list of what

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Noticeboard

Australian Standards for Editing Practice

The Combined Australian Societies of Editors (CASE) have produced the *Australian Standards for Editing Practice* as a guideline for editors and their clients in the publishing industry. The Standards were launched at the Canberra 'Partnerships in Knowledge' Conference and distributed to attendees. If you would like a copy, contact the Society of Editors in your State.

E-Books and E-Book Indexing

Jon Jerney has written a three-page article on E-Books and E-Book Indexing for *Online Currents* June 2001. The article covers terminology, contending players, traditional and independent publishing, authors, software and hardware companies, users and some predictions about the future distribution of e-books. It can be read online (only with a network password) at <http://www.sofcom.com.au/olc>

Bouquet from UK — Accent on partnership (reproduced from Sidelights)

'I have just been looking at the *Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI) Newsletter* which contains the programme for the AusSI Conference 2001, and was struck by the fact that the accent is on partnership between the various professions which contribute to the making of books. Shouldn't we take a leaf out of its book and concentrate on something similar for a future conference? I wonder if anyone will want to respond to this or shall we hear another deafening silence?' — f.merrett@virgin.net

Sidelights review of Website Indexing

The same issue of *Sidelights* (No 2 Summer 2001) contains a review of Glenda Browne and Jon Jerney's book *Website Indexing: Enhancing Access to Information within Websites*.

Websites

Speaking of websites, Susan Rintoul has pointed out that our own website URL is missing from the contacts on the back page of the newsletter. This omission has been rectified and our website <http://www.aussi.org> is now listed. Thanks Susan.

Web indexing

Michael Adam Reale, in the same issue of *Sidelights*, lists some websites he has found informative in keeping abreast of the current growth in technology trends and indexing.

- Harvest Web Indexing — program for web indexing: <http://www.tardis.ed.ac.uk/harvest/>
- The Peregrinator — a web indexing robot for traversing and indexing sections of the Web:

<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au:8000/jimr/pr/Peregrinator.html>

- Aeiwi: The future of web indexing — a sample index: <http://www.aeiwi.com/>
- AusSI Web indexing links and resources — web indexing prize winners: <http://www.aussi.org/webindexing/>
- POPIN Electronic Library (United Nations Development Programme's Population Institutes Electronic Library Index): <http://www.undp.org/popin/infoserv.htm>

AltaVista

Web search engine AltaVista added an online news-stand to its main index in mid-March to make its results more topical and useful to surfers looking for up-to-the-minute information. San Francisco-based Moreover, who licensed the feature to AltaVista is in talks to license its news-searching service to Yahoo, Google, and Excite. *NFAIS Newsletter*, April-May 2001

New search engine

Vivisimo wants to change the way search results are displayed on computer screens. Vivisimo licenses its parsing, clustering, and browser display products to OEMs and end-users who already possess a search engine or other source of documents. Try it out at <http://vivisimo.com>.

New Member

We warmly welcome the following new member: Ms Trisha McLatchie, SA

Book Indexing Course

The Australian Society of Indexers (Vic Branch) is offering a three-day Introduction to Book Indexing course at Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell 18-20 July 2001. This course assumes no prior knowledge of indexing and is appropriate for anyone within the library and information management professions who has to prepare indexes to books or reports, advise authors about indexes or is just interested in what is involved in the indexing process. For further details or an application form, please contact Max McMaster, Course Co-ordinator, on phone/fax (03) 9500 8715 or email mindexer@interconnect.com.au

ACT Region Branch

Our next function is the Mid-Winter Dinner, to be held on Tuesday 10 July, 7 for 7.30 p.m., at the Indian Affair, 64 Colbee Court, Phillip. The cost is \$25.00 per person, for a banquet dinner of North Indian foods, BYO or licensed for wine, beer to be bought on the premises. Our speaker is Jack Waterford, editor of the *Canberra Times*, on the topic of what the future holds for books, publishing and where indexers fit into the scheme.

Other activities planned for later in the year are 'Mining the archives' in early September, that is, consulting the back set of *The Indexer*, which the Branch has recently received, for certain recurring themes, e.g. data base indexing, professionalism, and any other relevant topics. We are hoping for four speakers to volunteer for this.

In October we plan to hold a professional development weekend at one of the many exceptional hotels in one of the small towns outside Canberra, with fairly informal discussions, Saturday night dinner and an overnight stay.

The organising committee for the 'Partnerships in Knowledge' conference held in April is still meeting regularly for debriefing sessions, mainly to assess the financial situation, and to set up guidelines for any future committee involved in organising a similar conference. The last meeting is planned for the end of July, at one of our favourite locations, an alpaca farm not far from Canberra.

Edyth Binkowski
AusSI ACT Branch Committee

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone for responding to the surveys on software and materials. The results are in this issue. Michael Wyatt has produced the statistics on what kind of software members are using; and Trevor Matthews and Michael Wyatt have prepared and presented your responses to our survey on the kinds of materials you are indexing. Carolyn Kearney has provided a fast and furious look at moral rights for indexers (although she gave me the moral rights to slash and burn her article my red pen remained docilely capped); but John Simkin's didn't — read his letter regarding education and training. With best wishes,
Frances Paterson

Australian Society of Indexers
Victorian Branch
Presents

A Seminar Illustrating YOUR Software Options

Saturday 18 August 2001, 2 – 5 pm

DEMONSTRATORS INCLUDE:

Frances Lennie (Cindex)
Michael Wyatt (SKY Index)
Max McMaster (Macrex)

Jennifer Csorba & Micky Ashton (Inmagic DB/TextWorks)

There will be a brief introduction and historical perspective before each presenter provides an overview of the products. Attendees can have a personal demonstration, and practice with the software package(s) they wish to try.

Time: 2 – 5pm

Venue: ACER, 19 Prospect Hill Rd., Camberwell.
Later, please join us at a local Restaurant for Dinner.

R.S.V.P. your interest to Elizabeth Wood-Ellem by 11 August 2001
email: eowe@bigpond.com or by Phone: 03 9499-6883

Cost: \$5 for Students, \$10 Members, \$15 Non-members
Payable at the door.



SKY Index Workshops

Introducing the newly-released Version 6

With Michael Wyatt

These half-day workshops are an introduction for indexers new to SKY Index Professional, or who currently use version 5.1.

Sydney

Saturday 15 September 2001
1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Sydney University Law School
Library Training Room, Level 8
173–175 Phillip Street, Sydney
(cnr Phillip, King & Elizabeth Streets).

\$40 members; \$50 non-members
Bookings to: secretary@aussi.org
or phone Lorraine Doyle
(02) 8587 7229 (w),
(02) 9876 4218 (h)

Melbourne

Saturday 18 August 2001
9.30 am – 12.30 pm
ACER, 19 Prospect Hill Rd.,
Camberwell.

Fee to be announced.
Expressions of interest by 10
August to: memsec@aussi.org, or
phone Michael Wyatt on
0500 539 973. Applicants will be
notified before 14 August if there
is sufficient interest to run the
workshop.

Please book early as there are limited computer places available.

The Age
Continued from page 55

they call Keywords, which function more as descriptors of the type of article.

The group was shown the way users can search via diverse formats, time periods, subjects (26 hierarchical categories) devised by the Library staff to follow the most frequently used terminology of their main client base, the journalistic staff. An unusual feature is the use of metadescrptors, eg timelines, oldest, youngest, recipe, review, announcement, demonstration (as in protest) etc. Other major headings are 'Crime, law and justice'; 'Accidents'; 'Education'; 'War' etc., which can then be broken down by region, groups and so on.

The Library is currently looking at upgrade options for its software. They would like to find a system capable of using e-commerce (for sales of photographs); off-site usage (journalists working from home); and on-line editorial processes. Another area they are investigating is micro-filming their newspapers directly from PDF files, rather than the current laborious way of ironing and copying pages of the actual newsprint. From March 2000 there has been a complete PDF archive of the publications.

We are very appreciative of Mr Prain giving up his Saturday afternoon to provide us with a fascinating insight into these wonderful historic and yet up-to-the minute collections.

Jenny Restarick

Dates for your Diary

- Jul 10** AusSI ACT Region Branch Mid-Winter Dinner
(details on the Noticeboard)
- Jul 18-20** Book Indexing Course AusSI (Vic Branch)
(details on the Noticeboard)
- Jul 28** Society of Editors (Vic)
Desktop Editing courses.
Enquiries to Brett Lockwood, Training Officer on phone (03) 480 1789 (day or evening)
- Aug 7** Society of Editors (NSW) monthly lecture at Mechanics School of Arts 280 Pitt Street, Sydney 6.30 for 7.00 pm
- Aug 18** AusSI (Vic Branch)
Indexing Software Seminar (see details on page 57)
SKY Index Version 6 Workshop (see details on page 57)
- Sep 15** AusSI (NSW Branch) workshop
SKY Index Version 6
(see details on page 57)

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Moral rights for indexers?

Carolyn Kearney MA DipLib DipLaw

Moral rights are newly recognised legal rights relating to one's reputation in connection with one's work. Amendments to the Copyright Act have recently introduced the moral rights of creators into our legislation. 'Creators' can include authors, artists, composers, architects, illustrators or indexers. Moral rights are independent of copyright ownership. Unlike economic rights, moral rights can't be sold, so the two sets of rights often end up belonging to different entities. Moral rights can only belong to an individual, not a corporation.

Basically, it appears that indexers now have legal grounds to protect the moral rights of their work:

- The right of integrity – the right of an author not to have their work altered in a way that's prejudicial to their reputation
- The right of attribution – the right to be identified as the author of a work
- The right not to have authorship falsely attributed.

The law applies equally to Internet publishing as to print. To come under the Act, infringements of moral rights must have occurred after 21 December 2000.

The purpose of the new law is really to protect people like painters, who have seen their large works bought and then cut up into smaller works, or sculptors who object to their work being moved from the intended public site to a different venue; or authors who come across their own work, used inappropriately on the Internet.

But, it could be promising for indexers. On the surface, it seems to present a justification for requesting attribution of authorship of an index within a publication. The new law can also be used to support a claim against a publisher for distorting one's index; or perhaps where a substantial part of indexer's work is used in a later index without attribution or payment.

I do believe that, at least, indexers may now with legal basis, insist on including in contracts an 'attribution' clause, based on this moral right to acknowledgment of the creative work. Just as you can contract to ensure your moral rights, you can also contract out of some of them, as long as it is specifically stated – for example, a contract may contain a clause allowing the publisher to make certain kinds of amendments to the index.

But note, there is a defence for infringement, that of 'reasonableness'. Factors to be taken into account here include:

- the nature of the work
- the purpose for which the work is used
- the manner in which the work is used
- the context in which the work is used
- *any relevant industry practice* [my italics]
- whether the work was made in the course of employment or under a contract of service.

If the publisher refuses to acknowledge the indexer upon request, however, there is no saying how a court would decide the matter, given both the defence that is available, and the unique position of indexers in the publishing world. It would be interesting to see a test case!

It appears that indexers now have legal grounds to protect the moral rights of their work.

Readings

A consolidated version of the Copyright Act: <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au>, incorporating the changes introduced by the Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act 2000 and the Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act 2000.

Allen Allen & Hemsley, 'New moral rights for authors', *Focus on Copyright*, no. 2, April 2001. <http://www.Allens.com.au/knowl/foCopyrightApr01.html>

Atkins, Michelle, 'Lessons in morality', *Australian Bookseller & Publisher*, Jan/Feb 2001, pp. 19–21.

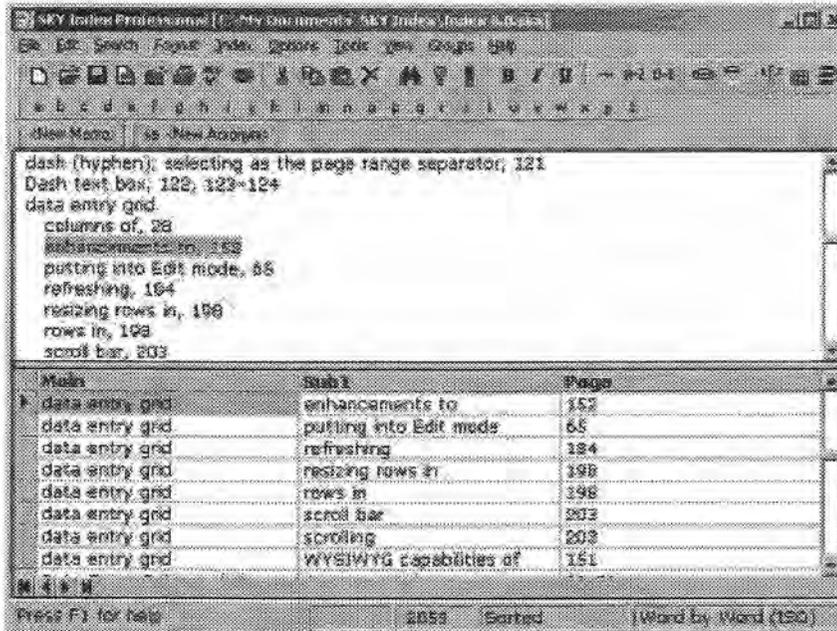
Australian Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA), 'Guide to the Moral Rights Act', <http://www.dcita.gov.au/cgi-bin/trap.pl?path=5599> (26 March 2001)

'Any specific questions about the legislation should be directed to the Intellectual Property Branch, DCITA, on 1800 883 588 or email: moral.rights@dcita.gov.au

Gettens, Karen, 'Potential problems with the Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Bill 1999', *Telemedia*, vol. 4, no. 1, May 2000, pp. 6–9.

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Simply drag your index entries from SKY Index™ and drop them into your Word document.

HTML just got a little easier

The new HTML mode allows you to see hyperlinks as they will appear in the formatted index. Cross-references are automatically converted into hyperlinks.

Automatic double-posting

SKY Index's new AutoEntry feature allows you to specify index entries that will be automatically double-posted and lets you specify how they will be posted.

Survey on materials indexed

As part of the the 2001 membership renewal form, we asked you to tell us what proportion of your time you spent on indexing different types of material.

Of the personalmembers who renewed using the standard renewal forms:

- 55 did not respond
- 4 were retired or not working in indexing
- 14 were informal (i.e. the totals did not add up to 100%, or they did not answer the question)
- 72 were valid responses.

The pattern for the 72 valid responses are given in the table below.

Material	Percentage of indexing time	Number of responses	Percentage of total responses
Books, periodicals and other printed texts	100%	43	59.7%
	95-99%	4	5.5%
	80-90%	3	(4.2%
	60-79%	3	4.2%
	50% (with 40% database)	1	1.4%
	subtotal	54	75%
Databases	100%	5	6.9%
	95%	1	1.4%
	80-90%	3	4.2%
	60-79%	3	4.2%
	subtotal	12	16.6%
Electronic media	over 95%	1	1.4%
	85-90%	1	1.4%
	50% (with40% database)	1	1.4%
	subtotal	3	(4.2%
Other	100% society papers and archives	2	2.7%
	100% historical documents	1	1.4%
	subtotal	3	4.1%
Total		72	100%

In other words, three quarters of AusSI members who gave valid responses spend at least 50% of their indexing time on printed materials (books and periodicals), compared with somewhat under one fifth of the members who spend most of their time on database indexing. Of the remainder, 4% spend a majority of their indexing hours on indexing electronic media and another 4% on society papers /archives or historical documents.

What conclusion do these figures lead us to? Either that most indexers spend most of their time indexing printed materials; or that those who do not, see no benefit in membership of the Society.

Michael Wyatt

Trevor Matthews

Assessment & registration

Dear Editor,

Unfortunately, Michael Wyatt's statement quoted in the piece on Assessment and Registration (*AusSI Newsletter*, May 2001) indicates ignorance of the history of AusSI. The registration process was never concerned with whether an indexer is 'new' or 'old', nor has it ever been a test of a 'number of years' experience'. Furthermore, the process was not designed to discover indexes of 'above average quality' providing a 'gold licence'. All these criteria indicate not what registration was but rather what Michael and maybe other members would like it to be. Perhaps the Panel of Assessors has introduced these new criteria and their supporters are now trying to validate the changes after the event. If so, the cart and the horse have been displaced.

The registration process was set up to assess work; whether or not the applicant had produced a competent, published or unpublished, book or periodical index. That is as far as it went. And, I submit, lacking professional education and training, that is as far as it can go. Moreover, the present moves are concentrating in an unrewarding area. It is like trying to zip up a T-model Ford to compete in the Grand Prix. We are expending energy which should be used in more rewarding ways.

Where is our Education Committee or Board? It should be identifying the subjects to be taught in a professional

course. It should be negotiating ways of having them available. It should be pondering on the qualifications conferred in recognition of completion of professional studies and perhaps a period of experience (an 'apprenticeship').

I admit to feeling somewhat irritated by the present flurry. Over the last twenty years Dietrich Borchardt, myself, Kingsley Siebel and Garry Cousins have all written on these subjects. At one time I hoped that the Committee of the Society would take them seriously and get cracking. I was particularly hopeful of a new gung-ho Sydney-based Committee getting on with it. Now, nothing. And worse than nothing — misinformation and time-wasting on an old limited system which could only ever be a stop-gap.

Yours sincerely,
John E Simkin

Michael Wyatt replies:

I am grateful to be informed of the history of the Registration system and of its function as envisaged by those who inaugurated it. However, it seems to have mutated over time through no-one's design, and the system I described is the one we appear to be stuck with now, until we change it.

Education Committee to be established

The AusSI National Committee has decided to establish an Education Committee, as a matter of urgency. This committee will be asked to make recommendations to the National Committee on the development of:

- education and training courses for indexing in Australia and New Zealand
- supervision, assessment, feedback, mentoring and/or peer review services for new and inexperienced indexers
- registration and accreditation of indexers.

The National Committee expects the committee to review the findings of the ACT Branch research project on education, as well as a number of articles, workshop recommendations and correspondence on these topics over recent years.

The membership of the committee will include indexers with experience of teaching and practice in various types of indexing, from a number of different places.

Details of the membership of the Education Committee and its terms of reference will be given in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Alan Walker
President
Australian Society of Indexers

Indexing software use

On the 2001 Membership Renewal forms we asked members what software, if any, they use to produce their indexes. Of the total 166 personal members, 108 responded.

Macrex

Twenty-five members (23%) use Macrex. One also uses Cindex and one SKY Index. Seven are full-time, 16 are part-time, and two didn't say.

Cindex

Twenty-three members (21%) use Cindex. Two of them also use SKY Index and one Macrex. Eight are full-time, 14 are part-time, and two didn't say.

SKY Index

Thirteen members (12%) use SKY Index. Two of them also use Cindex and one Macrex. Three are full-time, eight are part-time, and two didn't say.

Hyperindex

Two members, both part-time, use Hyperindex.

In-house or proprietary software

Eight members use software developed in-house or for their specific use.

Database software

Seven members use commercially available database software. Two are full-time, four are part-time, and one didn't say. Three are using DB/Textworks; two ProCite (both of them in addition to a word-processor); one InMagic; and one Appleworks.

Spreadsheet software

One full-time member is using Excel.

Online indexing

Three members are using tools for indexing online documents. One is using HTML Indexer for creating indexes to Web pages; one is embedding terms in online documentation using WinHelp and HDK and one using HTML Editor (both in addition to

word-processing or desktop-publishing software).

Word-processing software

Thirty-one members (29%) use word-processing or desk-top publishing software to produce their indexes. Of these, one also uses tools for creating online indexes, and one also uses Cindex. Ten are full-time, 19 are part-time, and two didn't say. Twenty-seven use Microsoft Word or Office, and the rest use Pagemaker, Framemaker, or WordPerfect.

I made further enquiries to discover how many are embedding index terms into text documents for index generation; and how many are creating the index manually and simply using the word-processor as a typewriter with a sorting feature. Of the 12 who replied, one is embedding index terms within documents, nine are using the word-processor as a sorting typewriter, and two are doing both.

Michael Wyatt
Membership Secretary

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Careers Day at James Cook University

Some time during the last year a student at James Cook University (JCU) asked the Careers Office there about careers in indexing. One consequence of this was an invitation to AusSI to attend JCU's annual careers day. As the only member resident in Townsville, I represented the Society.

The careers day is part of a wider Careers and Courses Day so the campus was bustling with activity. Most of the careers area was given over to large employers such as local engineering and mining companies and someone up from Canberra to represent the Department of Defence. However, I was pleased that the AusSI website looked very professional and effective in such company. The small number of students I spoke to were interested, spontaneously recognising the value of good indexing, often from their experience of the opposite. I spoke also to some staff and was able to provide information about indexing as a career. Next time a JCU student is seeking such information they should get an informed reply.

Jean Dartnall

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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. We are delighted to receive contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact us 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). Do not embed footnotes in Word files.

Graphics
Image files can be accepted in most common formats. Do not embed images in text files. If possible, submit line drawings in a vector format or as an EPS file. Camera-ready art and photographs can be scanned by the editor.

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