

# Newsletter

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# Notice

## Victorian Branch Book Indexing Workshops 23 & 24 September

Are your indexing skills rusty or lacking? The Australian Society of Indexers (Vic Branch) is conducting full-day introductory and intermediate level indexing workshops in Melbourne. Introductory indexing, covering basic indexing principles and techniques, will be held on Tuesday 23 September. Cost \$160 AusSI and Society of Editors members; \$200 non-members.

Intermediate indexing, where participants fully index a 60-page technical publication using dedicated indexing software, will be held on Wednesday 24 September. Cost \$180 AusSI and Society of Editors members; \$220 non-members.

Flyers and information from Max McMaster, phone/fax: (03) 9500 8715, email: [mindexer@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mindexer@optusnet.com.au)

## The AusSI Web Indexing Award

The AusSI Web Indexing Award committee have presented the award to Fred Brown for his index to the Writer's Block website ([www.writersblock.ca](http://www.writersblock.ca)). They found it to be 'an excellent index, well laid out, contained on a single page, and conspicuously free from gadgets and gimmicks'.

Congratulations to Fred! Other indexers who are interested in submitting their indexes for this award can find details at [www.aussi.org](http://www.aussi.org).

*Glenda Browne, on behalf of the AusSI Web Indexing Award committee.*

## Indexing Training in Brisbane & Townsville Presented for CAVAL by Max McMaster

**Brisbane**

Monday 15 September: Introductory Back of Book Indexing

Tuesday 16 September: Intermediate Back of Book Indexing

**Townsville**

Thursday 18 September: Intermediate Back of Book Indexing

All sessions 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

## Introductory Back-of-Book indexing

This full-day workshop provides an introduction to the basic principles and practicalities of back-of-book indexing. Who should attend: Anyone who wishes to understand the principles of back-of-book indexing, and to develop their basic indexing skills.

## Intermediate Back-of-Book indexing

This new full-day course has been developed in response to requests made by those who have completed Introductory Back-of-Book indexing. It is designed to provide hands-on indexing practice of a small 60 page technical document using one of the commercial dedicated indexing software packages on the market. Who should attend: Anyone who wishes to extend their basic indexing training skills so they can move on to real world indexing. Note: no special subject knowledge is required, but an understanding of basic indexing principles is assumed.

**Special notes:** Participants are expected to have attempted to index a small publication—*The Six Step Guide to Painting Your Home: Lead Alert* booklet, 2nd ed., Environment Australia, 1999—prior to attending this course. This free publication may be ordered online from Environment Australia at [www.ea.gov.au/atmosphere/airquality/Lead/Leadpaint.htm](http://www.ea.gov.au/atmosphere/airquality/Lead/Leadpaint.htm)

**The presenter:** Max McMaster is a freelance indexer and has been presenting workshops and seminars on back-of-book indexing on behalf of the Australian Society of Indexers and at a number of universities for over ten years.

## Cost:

Introductory \$220 (\$198 for CAVAL, ALIA & Australian Society of Indexers members)

Intermediate \$330 (\$297 for CAVAL, ALIA & Australian Society of Indexers members)

Includes course materials and all day catering

Register online at [www.caval.edu.au/pdt/register/](http://www.caval.edu.au/pdt/register/)

Contact Eve or Nicole at [training@caval.edu.au](mailto:training@caval.edu.au)

CAVAL is a registered training organisation.

# board

## Information architecture

Indexers interested in information architecture might be interested in the IA get togethers in Sydney. Details are at

<http://iawiki.net/CocktailHours/Sydney> where you will find notes of future meetings, or contact [eric@ironclad.net.au](mailto:eric@ironclad.net.au) (mobile: 0402 404 733)

## Thesauri and Taxonomies: an international conference and workshop

This conference will be held at the British Library in London, on September 29 & 30, 2003. For additional information please visit:

[www.multites.com/conference03.htm](http://www.multites.com/conference03.htm)

Speakers include Denise Bedford (US), James Brooks (UK), Stella Dextre Clarke (UK), Hector Echeverria (US), Alan Gilchrist (UK), Joke Hoogenboom (NL), Adeline Kwok (CAN), Richard Light (UK), Jessica Milstead (US), Bella Weinberg (US), Leonard Will (UK)

*Hector Echeverria, President & Founder,*

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## New members

AusSI warmly welcomes the following new members.

- ❑ **James Dixon**, of Kingston, ACT. James comes to us through his work as an editor, during which he has constructed indexes for lengthy government and research reports. While his qualifications are in history, he has been a teacher, union official, desktop publishing trainer and systems manager, and now works mainly for Canberra agencies specialising in administrative and scientific publications.
- ❑ **MedialInfo** of Broadway, NSW, corporate membership. MedialInfo offers indexing services in the following areas: Annual Reports; Art Books (Performing & Visual Arts); Religious Books (Eastern Religion and Christianity); Gardening and Cook Books; Social Sciences
- ❑ **Janet Bastyan Matwiejew** of Inglewood, Western Australia. Janet's exposure to indexing came soon after completing her Grad.Dip. Information and Library Studies in 2001. Max McMaster's Perth workshops came up just after she had begun to establish a dance literature database with controlled vocabulary. Wanting to see how it could be improved, she attended everything available and became interested also in learning about back-of-book indexing and 'individual journal'

indexing. She volunteers part-time at the West Australian Museum as a map cataloguer and at Ausdance (WA) Inc. as monographs cataloguer and periodicals indexer. She has also begun contracting and worked on a technical/engineering thesaurus last month, enjoying the variety.

- ❑ It was through **Annette Lewis** of Vic's acquaintance with Jenny Restarick that she and her husband Charles became interested in the Society. Jenny kindly invited them to join in some of the Society's activities which they greatly enjoyed. Annette completed a Masters degree in History a number of years ago and since then she has been involved in historical research. The usefulness of an efficient index is much appreciated by all researchers—thus it seemed appropriate to join the ranks of the indexers.

## From the Editor

In this issue as in the past we reproduce the full list of current members of AusSI with all their contact details. As we go to press our International Conference, 'Indexing the World of Information' is taking place at the Carlton Crest Hotel in Sydney. Articles and overviews from that conference will be reproduced starting from our October issue, for those members who have not been able to come to the conference.

*Best wishes,  
Frances Paterson*

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Continued from page 83

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# Dates *for your* Diary

## 11–13 Sep

Indexing the World of Information, AusSI International Conference, Carlton Crest Hotel, Sydney.

## 15 & 16 Sep

Indexing Training in Brisbane, presented for CAVAL by Max McMaster—see Noticeboard for details

## 18 Sep

Indexing Training in Townsville—see Noticeboard for details

## 23 & 24 Sep

Victorian Branch Book Indexing Workshops, Max McMaster, ph/fax 03 9500 8715,  
mindexer@optusnet.com.au

## 29 & 30 Sep

London. Thesauri and Taxonomies. [www.multites.com/conferenc03.htm](http://www.multites.com/conferenc03.htm)

# From the literature

Glenda Browne

## **www.infotoday.com**

ITI (Information Today Inc) has announced the publication of *Software for Indexing* (296pp; US\$35) on behalf of the American Society of Indexers. It appears to cover every possible software package, from dedicated indexing programs (Authex Plus and wINDEX in addition to the standard three) to embedded indexing software (HTML/Prep, HTML Indexer and RoboHELP). This book was edited by Sandi Shroeder and has a chapter comparing SKY Index and CINDEXTM by AusSI member Michael Wyatt.

## **Society of Editors (Victoria) Newsletter**

**Vol. 32, No. 10, April 2003**

In the 'About Us' profile of Lee White, freelance editor, her response to the question: 'What's the most tedious job you've ever done?' was 'Altering page numbers in an index when a book had to be completely repaged.' Most indexers would sympathise.

Also check their website at [www.socedvic.org](http://www.socedvic.org). It includes links to newsletters, and is managed by AusSI member Ann Philpott.

## **www.google.com**

Go to Google and type 'weapons of mass destruction'. The top site (for the last few weeks, anyway) takes users to [www.coxar.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk](http://www.coxar.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk) for one person's take on the situation. (I don't want to give it away so I won't say more).

On a more practical note, Google now lets you broaden a search to

include synonyms by using the tilde sign. For example, to search for 'smell' and its synonyms, type '~smell'.

## **Australian Author**

**April 2003**

'The Gutter' (pp. 4-5) notes a number of legal cases relevant to the publishing industry. One is the legislation on parallel importation recently passed by the Australian government, but with an exemption for books and feature films thanks to a compromise worked out with the Australian Democrats. Parallel importation allows anyone to import copyright material without the permission of the local copyright holders. The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) considers it a significant threat to local creativity, and fought the bill for two years. My first excursion as a Library student was to James Bennett Library Services, where the one thing I remember is their passionate fight for the right to parallel importation, which would have allowed them to buy books at the cheapest possible price, rather than at the Australian price. As so often happens, when you listen widely you hear two sides to each story.

'The Gutter' also notes provisions of the 'USA Patriot' Act, which requires librarians to provide the FBI with details from borrowers' records on request so long as the FBI claims they are needed for an ongoing investigation. The libraries are not allowed to disclose to anyone that the records have been requested. The ASIO Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 doesn't go this far, but ALIA is

concerned about its 'potential to further limit an individual's freedom of expression and access to information'.

There seems to be a fair bit of pessimism in the publishing industry, with a decrease in Amazon.com's web traffic, job losses at Random House, and Pluto Press (an Australian company) in receivership. Pluto Press's revenue fell more than 50 per cent in the first year of the GST.

Joseph Gutnick's defamation case in Victoria against US-based publisher Dow Jones is challenging the 'borderless' flow of information. If Gutnick is defamed on the Internet, should his case be able to be heard anywhere the information can be downloaded (as the High Court has found)? Or should it only be heard in the home state of the publisher (as the appeals have suggested)? If cases can be heard anywhere in the world with Internet access, then everything we publish has to comply with the laws of every country, making compliance very difficult and censorship worldwide. But if you can only be tried in the country of publication, what's to stop every company setting up a dummy company in the place with the mildest laws and publishing whatever they like?

## **Ancestor**

**Vol. 26, no. 6, June 2003**

One of the current indexing projects of the Victorian genealogists is imaging and indexing the Melbourne Hospital Ward Books. The president writes (p. 2): '... those who prefer to index at home can use CD copies of the original material rather than come to the GSV ... We have begun to

use our imaging system in the project room to image other original documents and when indexed the catalog will contain a link to the relevant image for you to view (and print if you wish). This will save some library storage costs and of course facilitate members' research. We need more medically qualified indexers to check the medical information in these Melbourne Hospital Ward Books. If you would like to be involved at the GSV or at home, and if you have a medical background such as a GP, nurse or a pharmacist please contact me.' Anyone looking for a voluntary project to get them started in indexing should consider genealogical records. The issues are often quite different to those faced with trade books, but things like access to names, attention to detail, and consideration of user interfaces are relevant to both.

This issue also has a detailed article on the use of the Vital Records Indexes [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), a collection of computerised databases produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) (following a recent discussion of the LDS on Index-L, I don't feel I should abbreviate this to the 'Mormon Church!').

The Central Registry Office of England and Wales uses half a tonne of registrar's ink each year. Registrar's ink contains 'a cocktail of chemicals that react with the surface of the paper and oxidise, turning to a black that will not fade in sunlight and is resistant to water ... The substances ... that make it burn into the paper are tannic and gallic acid, mixed with iron sulphate, a chemical that is better known as vitriol. It is curious that every legal wedding in England and Wales should be recorded with such a high content of a substance that symbolically suggests acidity and dissent.' Submitted by Kath Sharpe, from *Colour: Travels Through The Paintbox* by Victoria Finlay, 2002.

### **Australian Financial Review** 14 August 2003

'Sky's the limit as professional indemnity premiums take off' (pp. 8, 10) notes soaring costs and lack of availability of professional indemnity insurance. Jason Clout reports that 'professional bodies have been banking on legal changes such as tort reform to improve their chances of accessing reasonably priced cover',

but this is apparently unlikely in the short term. What might be more important is the 'professional standards legislation and proportionate liability which were discussed at the recent ministerial meeting convened by Assistant Treasurer Helen Coonan this month.'

### **www.oneumbrella.com.au**

While researching online job sites I discovered the following quote by Robyn Lee on the 'Hot skills for today's job market' page on the One Umbrella site: 'Indexing is a specialised skill that is hard to find. Organisations across all sectors look for people who can take on an indexing role for either a temporary or permanent assignment.' Indexers interested in metadata and other non-book indexing roles might do well to register at One Umbrella and also at Zenith [www.zenith.com.au](http://www.zenith.com.au)

### **Online Currents** Vol. 18, no. 6 July/August 2003

This issue has an article by Belinda Weaver on E-presses for the publication of scholarly journal articles (pp. 4, 6-7) and one by Lloyd Sokvitne on Tasmania Online [www.tas.gov.au](http://www.tas.gov.au), winner of the AusSI Web Indexing Award in 1998 (pp. 11-13). It also has a half-page ad for our conference, donated by Enterprise Information Management.

### **ASAIB Newsletter** No. 16, April 2003

Page3: The Southern African Indexers' and Bibliographers' website is now at [www.asaib.org.za](http://www.asaib.org.za). It has sections on mission, events, membership, committee, objectives, publications, contacts, directory (of indexers), and training. Marlene Burger says 'A special thank you to my husband, Sybrand Burger, for getting the Web site working after many problems.'

There seems to be a special quality in indexers' husbands. The Society of Indexers' (UK) website was also created and is maintained by the husband of an indexer (John Halliday, husband of Jill, who will be attending our conference this month), and the AusSI site was managed by Jon Jerney, husband of an indexer (me), although also an indexer in his own right. In addition, Macrex and CINDEX were both written by husbands of indexers.

## **Society of Indexers (UK)**

### **New Training Course**

If you want to learn indexing but find it difficult to attend courses, then the new electronic version of the Society of Indexers' distance-learning course could be just what you're looking for. It's the next best thing to your own personal tutor and it's available whenever you switch on your computer.

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