

## From the President



### Conferences

The Victorian Branch has found it necessary to call off the Indexers' Tour because of insufficient numbers to make the project viable. However some of those who expressed interest are still planning to attend the Society of Indexers conference in Winchester in July.

The conference organisers are offering a free place to a representative of ANZSI who will be required to report on the situation in Australia and New Zealand. Expressions of interest in this offer should be addressed to our secretary in the first instance.

The next ANZSI conference is to be organised by the New South Wales branch in October 2009. An organising committee has been formed and has already started its work. Watch for details of this event.

The proceedings of the 2007 conference, *The Indexing Life*, are now available on CD and are currently being distributed.

### Appointments

Mary Russell has accepted the invitation to fill the position of Vice President. Margaret Findlay has taken over the role of Mentoring Coordinator.

Council received a report on the management of the Society's archives. It was decided to continue the practice of depositing them in the State Library of Victoria. The next step

### The Indexer subscriptions

*The Indexer* as of March this year will appear quarterly, with current issues available to subscribers on-line in addition to their hard copy.

To subscribe at the special rate for indexing society members, go to <[www.theindexer.org](http://www.theindexer.org)> and click on the subscriptions link. And please don't be put off by the Paypal icon – payment can be made by the usual range of credit cards, in our own dollars.

Any questions? Contact <[editor@theindexer.org](mailto:editor@theindexer.org)> or <[subscriptions@theindexer.org](mailto:subscriptions@theindexer.org)>.

is to appoint a member to determine the location and extent of branch records. This position will be advertised in the *Newsletter* and on the website with the job description.

Apart from the written records – agendas, minutes, correspondence, conference papers, reports and the master file of newsletters – many photographs have been taken over the years and are scattered among present and past members and others. The search for these could prove interesting.

### Incorporation

This subject has been under consideration for some time. Investigations to this point have proved expensive and complicated. Now a simpler and less expensive procedure has come to light. Council will investigate this line and present a proposal which must be the subject of consideration and determination by the membership as a whole. It seems that the case for incorporation is not clearcut and the pros and cons need to be carefully considered as to its legal, financial and other effects.

As well as the courses which are an established feature of existing branches, Council is watching with interest the situation in Brisbane where courses are being held on 10–12 March with what appears to be a group of enthusiastic participants.

*John E. Simkin*

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**Deadline for the April 2008 issue: 4 April**

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It is *your* newsletter, and we are totally dependent on contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact the editor if you have any questions about the suitability of items for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or abridge contributions.

Please send files via email in MS Word, .doc files or .rtf, but NOT .html or .pdf. And please, no images or footnotes in Word files.

**Next deadline**

4 April for the April 2008 issue.

**Graphics**

Image files can be accepted in most common formats. Do not embed images in text files. Camera-ready art and photos can be scanned by the editor. Note that photos need to be clear, sharp and contrasty if they are to copy well in black and white.

**Advertising charges**

Full page A\$175; half page A\$90; quarter page A\$35; full year 10 for the price of 8.

**Membership charges**

A\$60 per year; A\$35 half year (Jan to June).

Student member A\$35.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter A\$45 p.a.

**The Indexer**

*(international indexing journal)*

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## Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Medal 2008

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Medal is offered annually for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

The index must be in print and published after 2004. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand, even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere. It should be substantial in size; the subject matter should be complex; and the language, form and structure of the index should demonstrate the indexer's expertise, as well as serving the needs of the text and reader.

The publisher of the winning index will be presented with a certificate recognising their promotion of work of outstanding quality. The judges may also make 'highly commended' awards.

Entries open on 5 May and close on 14 July 2008. A nomination form can be found on the Society's website at <www.aussi.org>, or you can obtain one from Alan Eddy, the Returning Officer, Awards.

Nominations should be sent to the address on the form, with bibliographical details and a copy of the book (which will be returned if requested). Publishers, indexers and other interested people may nominate indexes, and indexers may nominate their own work.

Contact Alan by phone on +61 3 9853 0991 or by email at <aeddy@surf.net.au>.

*Alan Eddy*

## News from the Society of Indexers

**The Wheatley Medal**

A good index enhances the value of any publication. For this reason the Wheatley medal was established to highlight the importance of good indexing and confer recognition on the most highly regarded practitioners and their publishers.

The Wheatley Medal for 2008 will be awarded for an outstanding English-language printed index published in the European Union between 1 January 2007 and 30 April 2008. The winner will receive the medal, a certificate and a cash prize. Certificates will also be awarded to indexers whose work is commended or highly commended.

Indexes are judged by a panel comprising indexers, academics and library/information professionals. The winner will be announced at the Society of Indexers' annual conference at Winchester University. The deadline for nominations is 30 April.

**2008 conference – Winchester**

According to legend, the Round Table of King Arthur was designed such that all who sat around it were considered equals, with no knight being more privileged than his peers.

The 2008 SI Conference, in line with this ethos, offers a warm welcome to all and aims to provide a program that will be relevant to everyone, from trainee through to experienced Fellow. At the conference there will be sessions that are directly related to the practical skills of indexing and to employment as a freelance indexer. In addition, there will be seminars aimed specifically at trainees and new indexers. A choice of four SI workshops will also be available during the afternoon of Saturday 12 July.

For more information on currently planned sessions please see the SI website at <www.indexers.org.uk>.

**Indexers online directory**

How do you find the indexer you need? By looking at the Society of Indexers' online you can search for your indexer not only by subject but also by name, location or skill, for example. Indexers can update their information whenever necessary, so what you see is always current. You can also download a Word (RTF) version of the directory. All the indexers listed have indexing qualifications and/or many years of experience.

## NSW Branch news

The NSW Branch met for a social lunch at Tricia Waters' home in East Lindfield on 1 March. Four ANZSI members were joined by Irma Birchall, director of Calyx, a firm specialising in work with Koha, an open source library management system. It was a great opportunity for the dedicated indexers in the group to learn more about collections management, and we hope that Irma walked away with a greater understanding of indexing as a profession.

Glenda Browne proudly wore her official 'THE' shirt, which she created for her Ig Nobel Prize for Literature. Her description of the award ceremony was very entertaining, and we especially enjoyed her recreation of her one-minute

acceptance speech (complete with a commendable American accent as she quoted the little girl sent out to stop her speaking longer than one minute: 'Please stop, I'm bored ... please stop, I'm bored ...').

Other topics of conversation ranged from the next ANZSI conference to the joys (and trials) of parenting and grandparenting. Though a mixed bunch in terms of age, experience and origins, we certainly found a common thread and it was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thanks again to Tricia for hosting the lunch. We hope that more NSW Branch members will join us for the next social gathering.

*Mary Coe*



*From left to right: Tricia Waters, Mary Coe, Glenda Brown and Irma Birchall*

## Branch activities

<i>Date &amp; time</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>Name of activity</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Contact details</i>
Sat 15 March	Vic Branch	Lunch with Vic Branch committee	The Courthouse Cafe, 72 Smith St, Warragul	Contact Alan Eddy <aeddy@surf.net.au>
TBA	NZ Branch	Indexing training courses	Christchurch NZ	Details will follow. Contact Jill Gallop <jmgallop@ihug.co.nz>
Sat 21 June Sun 22 June	ACT and NSW Branches	Joint get-together	Bowral NSW	Details will follow – contacts are Barry Howarth <blh@cyberone.com.au> Madeleine Davis <madeleinedav@gmail.com>

Branch secretaries and others concerned with events, please remember that the newsletter is a monthly, appearing (hopefully) during the second week of the month, if everyone plays their part in time and there are no hiccups. Plan ahead! If you have an event appearing in June, it's better to announce it in the May newsletter – or even April.



## From fairies to philology: Grimm's Law

*This is the second time, dear readers, since I began editing your newsletter in 2004, that I have included a piece of my own from the series on 'Thinking about words' in the Canberra Editor. Last time was in August 2005, an article on Samuel Johnson and his dictionary. This time, on the brothers Grimm and their law. Hopefully both might be at least of passing interest to indexers. But the reason now, as last time, is that you have not provided enough material to fill your newsletter – I would much rather print something from YOU. It was great to have the photo of the NSW Branch; I would like to see more photos. You go on fascinating visits, but I very rarely have anything to illustrate your accounts of what you did and who or what you saw. Think about it ... do something about it ... and I will resume the mantle of invisibility that should cloak every editor.*

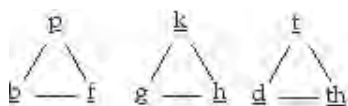


When I was a very small boy I had a 'Little detective's outfit', courtesy of the coupons on the back of cereal packets, with a cardboard Hercule Poirot moustache, a 'seebackroscope' (for seeing who was creeping up behind me without turning round) and instructions for a simple letter-transposition code. It was more like a 'little spy's outfit' – certainly the local police force, even in those less sophisticated times pre-DNA, could go about their tasks without fear of my competition. But I was fascinated by the code. In those heady days just before World War II the family had holidayed in Belgium, so I had come up against both French and Flemish at a very early age. This, and the cereal code, had convinced me that the key to understanding every foreign language was just a matter of knowing how to manipulate the letters.

Alas, when I began school Latin at the age of 8 and then French a couple of years later, I learnt that life wasn't meant to be so easy. But much later I discovered that I had been very nearly right, and the authors of books of folk tales had already cracked the language code back in the 19th century. These were the brothers Grimm – Jakob (1785–1863) and Wilhelm (1786–1859). They began their studies in law, intending to follow in their father's footsteps, but increasingly turned to literature, especially folk songs and folk tales, eventually publishing a collection of some 200 folk tales, *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* (known in English, rather misleadingly, as *Grimm's Fairy Tales*), a publication that marked the birth of the formal study of folklore. They also published scholarly criticisms of German folk literature, comparing it with material from other European countries including England, Scotland and Ireland.

These led Jakob to a deeper study of language and to his *Deutsche Grammatik*, which appeared between 1819 and 1837. It went far beyond its simple title, looking also at the historical development of words and the laws of sound changes in different languages, their relationships and the development of meaning. He picked up on earlier work by the Danish linguist Rask, showing that consonants vary in a predictable way between the Indo-European (IE) languages. The rules he identified have since become known as Grimm's Law.

Grimm described consonant shifts involving nine consonants:



In the triangles the change from IE to Germanic runs clockwise, the derivation of Germanic from IE anticlockwise. Other linguists soon found exceptions to these simple rules, but Grassman and Verner were able to explain many of these exceptions, showing that in particular cases  $f > v > b$ ,  $th > d$ ,  $x > g$ .

Examples of Latin to a Germanic language (English!) might be *pater*>*father*, *frater*>*brother*, *piscis*>*fish*, *duo*>*two*, *tres*>*three*. But the Romance languages tend to keep the Latin consonants: *père*, *frère*, *poisson*, *deux*, *trois*. Between Germanic languages the relation is more obvious: *Fuss*>*foot*, *Vater*>*father*, *Mutter*>*mother*, *Zeit (time)*>*tide* (but that's 'time' in the sense of 'tide' in Christmastide). We often find these relations even in pairs of related English words: consider *pedal*::*foot*, *labial*::*lip*, *guest*::*host*, *genus*::*kin*::*kind*, *sit*::*sedentary*, *century*::*hundred* (that 'c'=the 'k' sound in Latin *centum*).

There's actually a 4th series as well, from  $qu > ku > gu > ghu (=hw)$ , and this gives us changes like *quod*>*what*, *cuius*>*whose*. 'What' in Old English was *hwaet*, so this is a case of English spelling where the letters have become reversed. And, of course, if you say the word 'what' with the breathy 'h' sound – not just 'wot' – it still comes out as *hwat*. Try it!

Why is this potentially important to editors and indexers? You all come across foreign words from time to time in your work, and just now and again they may not be made clear in the text or in your available references. Although Grimm's Law will never replace your dictionary or let you read a foreign-language newspaper without further help, swapping a few consonants around may sometimes help you to make sense of the odd foreign word – and perhaps even make occasional sense of the vagaries of English spelling! But, as with 'tide', it doesn't help you much when the language evolves and a word has a new or lesser-used meaning.

*Peter Judge*

Sources: I consulted *Encyclopaedia Britannica* 2005 on DVD, *The Oxford Companion to the English Language* (for those triangles) and David Crystal's *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*.

(Excerpted from *The Canberra Editor*, November 2004)

## ACT region Branch AIATSIS visit, November 2007

Rod Stroud and Judith Cannon of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) demonstrated three thesauri created and developed by the AIATSIS Library. They were pleased to announce that the Library of Congress has accepted the AIATSIS thesauri as subject headings in Libraries Australia.

These three thesauri are reached through the address <[www1.aiatsis.gov.au/thesaurus](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/thesaurus)> and comprise a subject thesaurus, language thesaurus for languages and peoples and a place thesaurus. The thesauri are used in the library's detailed catalogue records found at <<http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>>.

Another major application of the thesauri, particularly the Place Thesaurus, is AIATSIS's biographical index. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) consists of names appearing in published sources which are indexed by the Family History Unit. It is an indispensable aid to 'Stolen Generation' families tracing lost relatives. Judith has been augmenting and editing the Place Thesaurus, based on the 1:250,000 map series so that entries in the ABI have a location component. Rod and Judith demonstrated searching for records for us and showed how the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (RAAM) was the authority for the occupation field in ABI.

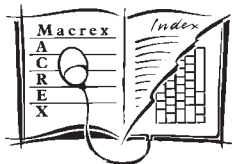
Because of the sensitive nature of much of the material, warnings are given in the introductions to the thesauri and to the catalogue to alert readers to information about deceased persons, or language or concepts in the material which could cause distress. Access to some material, particularly manuscript and confidential material, may be restricted.

After the demonstration there was a general discussion about other Aboriginal projects. AIATSIS is collaborating with the National Library in digitisation for a visual archive and community projects. Another ongoing project is the State Library of New South Wales's index to the Koori Mail, a newspaper produced every fortnight produced by Aboriginal people. Its website is <[www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori/](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori/)>.

Lastly, Rod and Judith mentioned a new program series on SBS, which premiered in Britain and is called 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. Among the Australian participants is Cathy Freeman; her genealogical research and the general information given in the programs will be very useful to Indigenous people.

This was a most interesting and informative visit.

*Edyth Binkowski*



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## From the literature and other thoughts



### Can't you all just get along?

**T**om Scocca's light-hearted article on childrearing in the *Boston Globe* (30 December 2007) uses index entries to make various points (<[www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2007/12/30/cant\\_you\\_all\\_just\\_get\\_along/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2007/12/30/cant_you_all_just_get_along/?page=full)>).

For example: 'Our practical introduction to the books started at the back, in the indexes, where the crisis of the moment might be: "Spitting up, 104–105, 389, 691"; "Rashes. See also Eczema; Impetigo"; "Vaporizers, 666–667, 684" ...

Technical disagreements are one thing. But cross-indexing also brings out bitter, if politely coded, ideological strife. Contemporary baby care is defined by opposing doctrines – natural versus clinical, attachment parenting versus baby training – and to flip from book to book is to drop in on hostile army camps, or the shell-pocked no-man's-land between ... On the perilous issue of whether a baby should sleep with its parents, the American Academy of Pediatrics chooses its side by omitting "family bed" and "co-sleeping" from its index altogether'.

### Canberra Times, 9 February 2008

**James Grieve** reviewed *The Himmler brothers* by Katrin Himmler. At the end of his review, he commented, 'The book's most signal lack is of an index. On every page of the text are proper names which one knows recur on many other pages; but without an index, how is the well-intending reader to find them, so as collate, cross-reference and compare the data? Can one imagine that a respectable German publisher, **Fischer Verlag**, would produce a work of socio-political history so incapacitated? Or is this rather the philistinism or penny-pinching of British publishing at work? Whatever the case, it surely is a grand way of irritating your readers by impairing their grasp of the narrative and discussion.'

### Blue Pencil March 2008, p.3

Accreditation of editors and editing courses is of current interest in Australia. *Blue Pencil* notes that the Postgraduate Diploma in Editing and Publishing at Macquarie University has been accredited by the Australian Publishers' Association. The Macquarie course is one of just two in Australia with this accreditation, the other being at RMIT University. The APA accreditation scheme was only formally established in 2007, and consists of a review of all units in a program against a set of benchmarks laid down by the APA.

### aliaINFOG 8/2/08

**Elizabeth Swan** sent a message to the aliaINFOG mailing list noting that Elizabeth Drynan and Pamela Johnstone had been awarded the 2008 Robert D. Williamson award from VALA. This biennial award is presented to an organisation or individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the

development of information technology usage in Australian libraries. Pamela and Elizabeth edited *Online Currents* for many years and run their company, Enterprise Information Management. Pamela is an ANZSI member who has been involved with various NSW Branch committees, and Elizabeth was a panellist at our Taxonomy seminar.

### Information Wissenschaft & Praxis (Nov/Dec 2007)

**Jochen Fassbender**, from the German indexing society, was guest editor of a special indexing issue of *Information Wissenschaft & Praxis*, a German journal on information science. The articles were written by indexers from around the world. Most are in English; some are in German, with English abstracts. Articles cover a variety of indexing topics including translation issues, index reuse, automatic vs. human indexing, *The Indexer*, training courses (SI and USDA), indexing software, subject specialities (medical indexing, computer books), website indexing, latest developments in standards covering controlled vocabularies (ISO 25964, ANSI/NISO Z39.19), and a critical analysis of the indexing-relevant aspects of Shannon and Weaver's 'Mathematical Theory of Communication', later renamed 'information theory'. It provides an excellent snapshot of the indexing profession. This special *IWP* issue is available for 35 euros (standard price) from the publisher Dinges & Frick in Wiesbaden or at a discount for a restricted period of time from the German Society for Information Science (contact the DNI coordinator Jochen Fassbender at <[info@d-indexer.org](mailto:info@d-indexer.org)>).

### Publishers Weekly for sale

The Teleread blog (<[www.teleread.org/blog/2008/02/22/publishers-weekly-bible-of-book-publishing-is-for-sale-along-with-dozens-of-other-reed-b2b-magazines/](http://www.teleread.org/blog/2008/02/22/publishers-weekly-bible-of-book-publishing-is-for-sale-along-with-dozens-of-other-reed-b2b-magazines/)>) notes that a number of Reed Business Information publications including *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal* are up for sale. Reed Business Information (the B2B magazine division of Reed Elsevier) is backing off from advertising-dependent businesses, and will apparently use revenue from the sale, at least indirectly, 'to pay \$4.1 billion for ChoicePoint, a controversial database company which, as described in Wikipedia, serves as a "private intelligence service to government and industry", providing credit-bureau-style services among others.'

### Annals of Improbable Research

The *Annals of Improbable Research* is now online for free at <[www.improbable.com/magazin](http://www.improbable.com/magazin)>. The January/February 2008 issue (vol. 14, no. 1) is a special Reclassification/Renaming issue. Read about classification of plastic plants and renaming constellations for today's youth at <[tinyurl.com/yo5sy0](http://tinyurl.com/yo5sy0)> (for fun, not with serious intent). It includes a report on problems with alphabetical shelving of books, including use of title rather than author, and filing titles at 'A' and 'The'.

*Glenda Browne*



## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I was very surprised not to find anything about the five-year registration scheme in the last edition of the *Newsletter*. All registered indexers had been asked to apply for re-registration last year and the successful applicants had been informed that new certificates of registration would soon be issued. Since then, not a word. I had expected an explanation in the *Newsletter* before that and wrote to the Council about the lack of information.

A copy of my email is included below, but so far I have had only acknowledgement of its receipt. As I said in my email, 'members have a right to know what is going on'.

*Barry Howarth, ACT Region President*

### *E-mail to ANZSI Secretary, Anne Dowsley, 15/11/07*

Dear Anne,

The defeat of both proposed amendments to the Constitution was discussed at the ACT Region Branch Committee meeting last night. We were very disappointed that both went down, as one would have made the filling of casual vacancies more democratic and the other would have given effect to the five-year renewal of registration, something which we believed had broad approval. Certainly at the GAMES meeting no-one raised any objections to the notion. During the renewal process there were only a handful of people who objected to the idea, while the vast majority of registered indexers went along with it. Shirley Campbell put in a great deal of work in

organising the renewal process, all of which work has now proved to be a waste of time.

We would like to know what reasons for rejecting the five-year renewal of registration were put forward at the AGM. We are concerned that there may be another agenda behind this: John Simkin alluded to superseding "some of the roles of the Registration Committee" in the recent Newsletter. In my other role as a member of the Registration Committee I would very much like to know what that is all about.

We were also very surprised that nothing was mentioned in the Newsletter about the implications of the defeat of the amendments to the Constitution, especially in relation to registration. The members have a right to know what is going on and why the five-year renewal of registration policy has now effectively been scrapped.

*Yours sincerely,  
Barry Howarth*

### *Reply from the ANZSI President*

Five year re-registration has not been abandoned. The Council believes it to be necessary, although the motion which was intended to introduce it did not pass at the AGM. Suggestions for a new motion to achieve the Constitutional amendment needed are being considered by Council.

*John*

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