

ANZSI Newsletter

Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.
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ANZSI News August 2011



Branch meetings

I am just back from speaking at the Queensland Branch AGM, which I'm sure will be written up elsewhere. Meeting other indexers is always enjoyable. It is a great opportunity to put faces to names, to learn what others are doing and how they got into indexing. I encourage all members to support their local branch and attend their meetings. Why not also think of indexing when you travel? Obviously going to indexing conferences overseas is a wonderful opportunity, but it doesn't have to be so grand. If you are travelling interstate, why not check to see if there is an indexing event on while you are there? I'm sure you would be made to feel most welcome.

2011 Conference

While I'm on the topic of supporting ANZSI events, I'm sure you could guess I would mention the 2011 Conference. By the time you read this the Conference will only be about 5 weeks away! Have you registered? If not please do so soon, as if you leave it till after the 28 August you will incur the late fee of \$50. I won't harp on about the benefits of going to the Conference again, instead I'll encourage you to reread the ANZSI News Column for July if you have forgotten or need further persuasion.

2011 Conference registration subsidies

Sarah Anderson from NSW and Judy Richter from SA are the lucky winners of the Victorian Branch registration subsidy. I do hope they both enjoy the Conference.

Tasmanian representative

Since October 2009 Vivienne Wallace has been the ANZSI Representative in Tasmania. Unfortunately she has had to step down from the role. I wish her all the best for the future and thank her for work promoting ANZSI in Tasmania.

Special interest groups

Recently I was asked by the American Society for Indexing to check if someone was a member of ANZSI as they wanted to join an ASI Special Interest Group. It reminded me that many members may not be aware of the SIGs and be

interested to learn more. These groups offer a great way to learn about and seek assistance on indexing in a particular subject area. Annette Rogers has kindly written an article explaining the SIGs (see page 8).

Roy Harden Jones

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Roy Harden Jones in June. Many of us have known him as a long time friend of ANZSI, as Clodagh Jones's husband. Before he retired he was Chief of the CSIRO Division of Fisheries Research in Hobart (he is pictured below with Clodagh*).

He was after-dinner speaker at the 1999 ANZSI Conference in Hobart. Looking again at his address in the Conference proceedings I am reminded of his sense of humour when



I read 'After-dinner speakers should remember that they are no more than the verbal equivalent of the after-dinner mint and their place is strictly between the dessert and the port.' I knew Roy had indexed, but thought I had better double check with Clodagh if he had actually been a member of ANZSI. Here is her response and her description of the team effort that went into the index:

'No! He came with me to two conferences, but spent his time visiting art galleries.

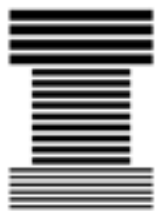
'Together we indexed his first book on *Fish Migration*.

'We cut up slips of paper, had 25 jam jars, one for each letter of the alphabet, and wrote down each entry on a separate slip of paper using a soft B pencil and a good rubber when necessary. Roy always wrote in pencil to the end of his working days. He never conquered the computer!

'Once a chapter had been completed and the slips put in the appropriate jam jar, the slips were manually sorted into alphabetical order. Once all the chapters had been completed and sorted, we took it in turns to sort each letter of the alphabet into alphabetical order. It was my job to type out the index which was then sent to the publisher!

'I typed his book, burping a baby on my lap when needed!'

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**Australian and New Zealand
Society of Indexers Inc.**

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About the newsletter

The newsletter is published monthly 11 times a year, with combined issues for January and February. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the society. For details about contributions and editorial matters, refer to the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.

Advertising rates

Full page: \$200.00
Half page \$100.00
Quarter page: \$50.00.
These are all per issue – the former annual rate has been discontinued.

ANZSI contact information

Contact information (PDF) is available on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.



(ANZSI News, continued from page 1)

I am sure you will all join me in wishing Clodagh and her family all the very best at this difficult time.

Finally

Don't forget to register for the Conference before 28 August to save the \$50 late fee!

Mary Russell

* The photo of Roy Harden Jones and Clodagh was sourced from <www.abc.net.au/news/2010-02-25/dementia-boom-requires-extra-care-researchers/342530>

Procedure at the AGM

Standing Orders

The debate will be conducted according to the standing orders for general meetings. These may be found at the address at the foot of this notice.

Proxy voting

Under the terms of the ANZI Constitution proxy voting is allowed for any item on the agenda other than the election of office bearers. Proxies must be financial members of the Society. Other rules regarding proxies may be found in Clause H(8) of the Constitution which may be found on the website at <www.anzsi.org/site/constitution.asp>

Proxy forms may be downloaded from the website at the address below. Please note that notice of intention to vote by proxy, and the name of the nominated proxy, must reach the President no later than Tuesday, 13 September 2011, at PO Box 1006, Caulfield North, Victoria 3161.

Apologies

Members wishing to present an apology may do so by going to the URL below where there is an online form which may be completed and sent to the Secretary electronically.

Information concerning the AGM

Information concerning the AGM, together with rules of procedure, proxy forms and the online form for apologies may be found at: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=213>.

ANZSI and Branch events

| Date and time | Organiser | Name of activity | Venue | Contact details |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Mon to Wed 12-14 Sept | ANZSI | ANZSI Conference | Brighton Savoy, Brighton, Vic | Details at <www.anzsi.org/site/2011Conference.asp> |
| Wed 5 Oct | Vic Branch | AGM | Elsternwick Club | Details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=217> |

ANZSI Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers will be held on
Wednesday, 14 September 2011, at 8.45 am
at the Brighton Savoy, 150 The Esplanade, Brighton Victoria 3186 (Melway 67 C12).

Agenda

Attendance

1. Minutes of the last AGM
To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 1 September 2010, at the Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick Victoria. (These may be found on the website at <www.anzsi.org/UserFiles/file/Council%20AGM%20Minutes%202010.pdf>).
2. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere in the agenda.
3. Annual Report: to receive a report on the Society's activities in 2010-11.
4. Treasurer's Report: to receive a financial report from the Treasurer for the year 2010-11.
5. Council for 2010-11: to receive a report from the Returning Officer on nominations for the following positions
President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; five Council members.
6. Constitution
To approve the following motions proposed by the Council
 - 6.1 That Clause E(3)(c) [No Officer may hold the same office for more than five consecutive years.], and the reference to the clause in E(3)(b), be deleted.
 - 6.2 That Clause F(3) be amended to read:
At meetings of the Council a quorum will consist of four members entitled to vote, provided that those present include either the President or the Vice president and at least one ordinary member.
 - 6.3 That two new clauses be added to Section I(2):
 - (g) submit to the branch annual general meeting an annual report, and accounts that have been examined by an independent scrutineer;
 - (h) maintain accurate minutes of meetings of the branch committee and make these available to members by posting them in the branch's area on the Society's website.
 - 6.4 That the following new clauses be inserted after clause 1 in Section K and the sections following renumbered in sequence:
 - (2) Each Committee of the Council shall keep accurate minutes which will be reported to Council regularly;
 - (3) Minutes of Council meetings, together with associated papers, shall be posted in the member's area of the society's website.
 - 6.5 That the aims of the Society, as set out in Clause A of the Constitution, be amended to read as follows:
The aims of the society are to
 - (a) improve the quality of indexing in Australia and New Zealand;
 - (b) promote the training, continuing professional development, status and interests of indexers in Australia and New Zealand;
 - (c) provide opportunities for those interested in and connected with indexing to meet and exchange information and experiences relating to all aspects of indexing;
 - (d) act as an advisory body on indexing to which authors, editors, publishers and others may apply for guidance;
 - (e) establish and maintain relationships between the society and other bodies with related interests;
 - (f) raise awareness of the value of indexers, indexing and indexes;
 - (g) publish and disseminate information in accord with the foregoing aims.
 - 6.6 Shirley Campbell and Sherrey Quinn, on behalf of the ACT Region Branch Committee, have given notice of the following amendment to the motion listed at 6.5:
That in paragraph (a) the words 'improve the quality of indexing in Australia and New Zealand' be replaced with the words 'promote standards and maintain and improve the quality of indexing in Australia and New Zealand'.
7. Any other business
Not requiring prior notice

Queensland Branch President's report 2010–11

During the last year, our Branch general meetings have been at various venues. The Carindale shopping centre in Brisbane, formerly our usual venue, was being renovated, so our last meeting there was in September 2010. We enjoyed a DVD covering the indexing life of well-known UK Indexer, Hazel Bell.

The Branch's annual Christmas lunch was held in Brisbane on 4 December – very enjoyable for those who could attend and a fitting end to a successful year.

February 2011 saw the Branch visit the 4MBS FM Classical Radio Station and Radio Museum, where we were given a tour by the very enthusiastic General Manager Gary Thorpe and we learned the history of the radio station which has been broadcasting for over 31 years.

In March 2011 we toured the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, conducted by Bill Kitson, the ex-Curator and Founder. Bill collected surveying artefacts, maps and photographs for the Museum for over 25 years. We were joined by his enthusiastic successor, Curator Kaye Nardella, who is carrying on Bill's work.

Our member Mei Yen Chua provided a lively evening in May with her discussion on indexing cookbooks. Members and other industry friends thoroughly enjoyed the effort that Mei Yen had put into looking at the variations within indexes, in over 15 different cookbooks. On the same evening, it was our Queensland Branch's 3rd Birthday celebration (a month late due to a public holiday) and we all enjoyed cake for supper to mark the event. Since May 2011 the Branch has moved to the Salisbury Hotel as our regular meeting venue.

The June General Meeting featured 'the good, the bad and the unusable indexes' in our own collections of non-fiction books. The gathering was small but very productive. We gained a new, very enthusiastic member on the night from this event.

On 16 and 17 July, the Branch ran two days of indexing training in Brisbane. Basic Indexing Parts 1 & 2 were conducted by Max McMaster, attended by 7 trainees on day one and 6 trainees on day two. The trainees were predominately locals, many of them freelance editors, one from Malaysia and another from New Zealand. All the new trainees left on day two, having created an index by themselves.

Unfortunately, 4 half-day training courses, which we hoped Mary Russell could run for us, were cancelled due to lack of numbers.

I would like to thank all the Branch Executive and Committee members for their continued moral and physical support, attending both General and Executive Meetings throughout 2010–11. I am referring to Mo Dickson (Vice-President), Franz Pinz (Treasurer), Vicki Law and Rachael

Harrison (who shared the position of Honorary Secretary) and Committee members – Mei Yen Chua, David Mason, Jan Rees, Diane Josey and Jean Dartnall. Thank you all for your time and patience in running this ANZSI Queensland Branch.

Rachael, Mo, David and Diane are stepping down from their current Branch positions. We wish Mo well in her endeavours in the Library and University IT arenas. Vicki Law has also stood resigned from the position of Secretary, replaced by Rachael Harrison, who will also leave us this year. We wish Rachael well and thank her for her help in running the Branch since she joined us in our first year, 2008. My thanks go to Diane Josey for her support at meetings over the last year.



Thanks also to David Mason for his support of the Branch over the last two years, acting as our guest speaker and for attending several evening meetings, when he lives an hour and a half out of town.

Vicki Law is joining us again in 2011–12; she has assisted me tonight and I thank her for all her help.

I am pleased to report that Jean Dartnall is staying on as our North Queensland contact in Townsville. Jean and Mei Yen Chua are planning to run 'online indexing experiences' (a type of mentoring) for any Branch member interested in building their confidence by practising indexing with

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(Queensland Branch President's report, continued from previous page)

online tutors to contact if any problems arise. Details on this scheme will be available in August 2011.

The Branch membership over the last year has hovered between 27 and 31 members. The recent indexing training brought these numbers up to around 36. Welcome to all our new members! We hope that you will make our Branch a big part of your professional life. Thanks also to all the Branch members who, every year, renew their membership and who are silently supporting us.

Marketing ourselves was to be a priority in 2010-2011. There is much work to be done towards this goal. The *Directory of Indexers for Queensland* (a marketing tool which we intend to send to publishers), Branch brochures

and pens are just some of the ways in which we hope to raise community awareness of Indexing in the community. Let's not forget the passion for 'social media' as a channel for raising awareness. Anyone who likes to Tweet or run a Facebook page should see me after the meeting.

My best wishes to all members in their indexing endeavours. Thank you.

Moira C. Brown

In the photo at left, at the AGM on 26 July:

(in front) Queensland Branch President Moira Brown and ANZSI President Mary Russell; (back row, from left): Beryl Macdonald (Secretary), Cate Seymour-Jones, Mei Yen Chua, Mary Trabucco, Franz Pinz (Treasurer);

My experience of Basic Book indexing

After hearing about indexing on the radio, I was intrigued by this mysterious area of the book business that seemed to offer career opportunities to someone like me who had studied literature and aspired to get into publishing. Not long after, I was driving to suburban Moorooka for a weekend of basic training. Indexing seemed an obscure field, so I was curious to find out who else would turn up. As it happened, the other participants were from diverse backgrounds, but all had been working with books or the English language in some way, and had similar motivations about expanding their CVs as editors.

an experienced teacher and enthusiastic peers was what I had come for, and what the course delivered, combining the ethos of the school room with the spirit of a writer's workshop. Another of the delights was Moira's food, which was better than that found at most conferences!

Although the course was concise, I came away confident that I could start indexing. This is a substantial point, because I soon discovered that the decisions you make as an indexer about how to sort and order information are quite taxing, drawing on analytical skills that are not often called on in other work. Indexing conventions had to be absorbed, but more difficult was learning to think like the reader and anticipate their needs. To the course's credit, it revealed these complexities but still gave us the confidence to roll up our sleeves and get started.

This is partly due to the freedom that came from knowing there's no right or wrong way to make an index. As we workshoped exercises, I was struck by the different approaches others were taking. But as Max made clear to us, there is no single way of going about it. This diversity was all part of the excitement of Sunday afternoon, spent exchanging ideas across laptops with cries of delight as we discovered how much fun this new skill was! For a first taste of indexing, I couldn't have asked for a more collegial and encouraging experience.

Mary Trabucco



In the photo:

Adam LeBrocq, Dr. Nicola Learmonth (NZ), Suhainah Wahiduddin (Malaysia), Mary Trabucco, Helen Kershaw, Cate Seymour-Jones, Max McMaster (Instructor) holding Qld Branch logo

The course was delivered with a relaxed and homely air. Gathered around Queensland President Moira Brown's dining table, we took notes while our tutor Max McMaster taught us the ground rules, always with an emphasis on the alternative routes we might take to create a good index. Later we analysed, debated, and finally constructed indexes using Macrex software. Face-to-face contact with

Indexing indaba

World without Borders



With REDgroup Retail's administration process almost complete, many are reflecting on the current state of Australia's bookselling industry, now minus Borders and Angus & Robertson.

Reports in the Weekly Book Newsletter suggest that 139 bookshops have disappeared and if you include 200 redundancies at REDgroup's headquarters and distribution centres, the number

of bookselling jobs that have been lost amounts to a staggering 2100. Melburnians were also surprised to learn in the administrator's final announcement in July that the well-loved CBD bookshop, Reader's Feast, will be closing its doors in a couple of weeks.

While Borders bookshops were primarily located in large shopping centres, the loss of Angus & Robertson bookshops in suburban and regional areas is of concern. In many areas the local A & R was the only dedicated bookshop. To get a clearer picture of this, Crikey.com has produced an interactive map of what it calls the 'bookshop massacre'.

While several A & R bookshops are being re-branded as Collins and one as Dymocks, 25 franchises have terminated their agreements with REDgroup to become independent bookshops, but only time will tell if they survive into the future.

Booksellers' concerns over Australia's largest publisher, Pearson, agreeing to purchase the online businesses of REDgroup (this includes Borders and A & R's websites) has been noted by the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission. An 'informal review' of the acquisition is to be conducted.

Existing independent bookshops have started to benefit from the demise of the chain shops and in the words of Text Publisher Michael Heywood at the recent Australian Booksellers Association annual conference: [Australia has] 'become a nation of independent booksellers overnight.' Since the beginning of the year, independent bookshops have increased their market share from 20% to about 22.5%. If anything, the strength of the independents has come to the fore with some planning e-bookshops and many more expected to follow.

Saturday, 20 August is National Bookshop Day, and an initiative of the Australian Booksellers Association's Indiebound program aims at encouraging Australians to visit their local bookshop.

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2011/07/27/life-after-redgroup-crikey-maps-the-bookshop-massacre/>

Library cuts – Sydney University

When Borders first arrived in Australia in the late 90s, the idea of eating and drinking in a bookshop café was novel and plenty took advantage of being allowed to read while enjoying a coffee. So a little over a decade later, the idea of café style lounges in the Fisher Library at Sydney University would, you might think, meet with little resistance.

But the move, spurred on by the growth of digital books and e-journals, is being made possible through the culling of 500,000 books and journals (along with the loss of 30 staff). Student Representative Council President, Donherra Walmsley, describes it as '21st century learning', while a less happy Associate Professor in the School of History and Philosophy, Peter Slezak, says, 'They're getting rid of books to make space for students to sit around, have lunch and plug their laptops in. Bizarrely, they've turned the library into a kind of a Starbucks.'

A former library assistant also expressed his dismay, particularly at the disposal of a collection of newspapers from the 1850s and 1860s. He has salvaged 200 books destined for disposal.

<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/books-get-the-shove-as-university-students-prefer-to-do-research-online-20110307>

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/you-can-judge-a-book-by-its-dust-test-as-university-library-cuts-its-staff-and-stock-20110511-1ej0z.html>

Library cuts – Victorian public libraries

ALIA has put out a media release about the Baillieu Government's recent backflip on promising to boost funding for Victorian libraries. This is in spite of the finding in a recent report, Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries commissioned by the State Library of Victoria and the Public Libraries Victoria Network and undertaken by SGS Economics and Planning, that for each dollar invested, \$3.56 of benefits were returned to the local community. ALIA is urging its members and library supporters to join a Facebook Campaign at:

<http://www.facebook.com/stoplibrarycuts>

Library cuts – Oxfordshire libraries, UK

Despite a rigorous campaign which had some weighty support, including that of authors Philip Pullman, Colin Dexter and Mark Haddon, Oxfordshire County appears intent on pushing for closure of 21 of its 43 libraries and replacing a number of its librarians with volunteers.

Shadow Libraries Minister Gloria De Piero has asked the Culture Minister Ed Vaizey if he has any plans to run the House of Commons library with volunteers. She presumes not as he has not replied.

www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/jun/02/oxfordshire-library-staff-replaced-volunteers

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(Indexing indaba, continued from previous page)

You do what?

OK, this story comes second-hand, so there may be an element of broken telephone here, but it goes like this...

A Byron Bay man was working in his gallery/coffee shop, listening with interest to a replay of Mary Russell's interview with Ramona Koval on the ABC's Book Show. Like many other people he'd never met an indexer before and had precious little idea of what indexing involved.

Not long after the program ended, he struck up a conversation with a woman who had walked through his door. It turned out that she was visiting from the United States which wouldn't have surprised him as Byron Bay is after all something of a tourist hub. But imagine his astonishment when his curiosity strayed to her occupation and was met with this response: 'I'm an indexer.' The visitor was none other than Frances Lennie. So gobsmacked was he that coffee was on the house!

If you've yet to hear Mary's interview, you can download the podcast at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/bookshow/stories/2010/2901716.htm>

Oh ye of little faith

Ken Hassman's recent introduction to Adobe's voice feature left him wondering if he needed to engage the services of a PC exorcist...

'Wow, this is a new one for me and I'm wondering if anyone else has experienced it. I'm sitting here working, have the pdf file I'm working from and Cindex open side by side, have done this thousands of times. I also had Pandora open and playing some music, also done many times.

'Then, all of a sudden I start hearing a voice talking so I thought my browser had opened some commercial and I looked and saw there is no browser open. Then I thought that maybe I was getting some type of radio interference through my computer via Pandora so I shut down Pandora.

'THEN I realized that what I was hearing are the words of the book (the pdf file) I'm working from. I followed along word-by-word and discovered the only way to turn this off was to close the pdf.

Coincidentally (or not?!) the book is about loss of faith and the case study I just read was about brothers whose mother believed in demons and practiced exorcisms.' (Index-L, 23 June 2011)

Nikki Davis

Corrigendum

There is an error in the 'Out of Africa' paragraph from the *Indexing Degustation* page in the July issue of the ANZSI Newsletter.

It is the Society of Indexers that offers the Betty Moyes Prize, not ASAIB (the Association of South African Indexers and Biographers). The only South African relevance to the item is that the winner, Sanet le Roux, is an ASAIB member. I apologise for any confusion arising from my error.

Jane Purton

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ASI invites ANZSI members to join its Special Interest Groups

I love reading biographies, especially ones about the US Presidents. I get a thrill from learning about history from a personal angle. But what I find even more thrilling is talking with other people who enjoy these kinds of biographies. Not just another book-lover, but a biography nut like me.

This kind of desire to find people who share not only your general interests but your specialized knowledge and passion crosses over to the professional realm as well. And the American Society of Indexing invites you to satisfy that desire by becoming part of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

In 1996, ASI members began to organize themselves by areas of indexing specialties. By 1998 several SIGs had formed as professional development cooperatives with coordinators, co-coordinators, treasurers, and/or membership coordinators. Members wanted to educate editors, publishers, and authors about the benefits of professionally created indexes; correspond with each other about issues within their indexing specialties; facilitate networking and referrals for work in specialty areas; and, in some cases, market their services in their chosen specialty topics. They intended to use the SIGs as a professional development mechanism while also coordinating such efforts within the national society.

Today ASI SIGs, which are organized by indexing specialty, serve as networking sources and marketing tools for their members. They do this by means of email lists, newsletters, brochures, and ASI meetings. SIGs also market their members' services in specific subject areas to targeted clients.

All of ASI's SIGs are open to members of international indexing associations, including ANZSI. You do not need to join ASI to be part of one or more SIGs. As long as we can verify that you are a current member in your indexing organization, the entire list of SIGs is available to you. Here are the current ASI SIGs:

- Business – Professional indexers and others interested in the indexing of business subjects such as (but not limited to) accounting, marketing, management, supervision, business law, finance, banking, or investing may be interested in joining this SIG. <www.businessindexing.org>
- Culinary – The Culinary Indexing SIG is an educational forum and a network for indexers interested in culinary indexing in e.g. books, periodicals, CD-ROMs, and web sites. <www.culinaryindexing.org>
- Garden/Environmental Studies – This SIG is an alliance of skilled indexers with education and experience in e.g. botany, gardening, horticulture, landscape design, agriculture, biogeography, ecology, environmental topics, geography, homesteading, natural history, natural resources, wildlife conservation and more. <www.bioindexing.org>
- Genealogy Indexing and Transcription – ASI GIT members uphold current professional standards in genealogy indexing and transcription as well as enhance the knowledge of other indexers, professional and amateur genealogists,

librarians, and publishers regarding the special needs of genealogists and historians utilizing genealogical works.

- History/Archaeology - The SIG is an alliance of professional indexers with backgrounds in history, archaeology, and biography. We also index related subjects including anthropology, sociology, economics, political science, and literary criticism. Trade books, textbooks, children's books, and scholarly books all fall into our purview. <www.historyindexers.org>
- Legal - The Legal Indexing SIG has been established and is for indexers who are interested in legal indexing. The SIG is open to any member of ASI and the other indexing societies worldwide. <www.legalindexing.org>
- Periodical/Database Indexing - The Periodical/Database Indexing Group is intended for both current periodical and database indexers, freelance and in-house, who are interested in networking and sharing information.
- Politics/International Indexing - Our YahooGroups email list is called "indexingpolitics." Interested folks can sign up at groups.yahoo.com/group/indexingpolitics. <www.wave.net/upg/pisig/index.htm>
- Scholarly Indexing – ASI's Scholarly Indexing SIG was established for indexers of scholarly books who want to share information about, and techniques for, indexing academic books, and to refer indexing work to one another.
- Science/Medicine – The Science and Medicine SIG is an alliance of skilled indexing professionals with professional and academic credentials in numerous subject specialties, including technology, clinical medicine, engineering, physics, veterinary medicine and more. www.scimedindexers.org/
- Sports-Fitness – The Sports-Fitness Indexing Special Interest Group (SIG) has been formed to serve as a network for indexers who work in the areas of sports, fitness, and related materials. The SIG serves several functions, including education and networking. <www.sports-fitnessindexing.org>
- Taxonomies & Controlled Vocabularies – The Taxonomies & Controlled Vocabularies Special Interest Group (SIG) is a networking and educational forum for individuals with both a professional interest or background in indexing and involvement, or intentions to get involved, in creating or editing taxonomies, thesauri, or controlled vocabularies used for indexing. <www.taxonomies-sig.org>
- Web Indexing – The Web Indexing SIG serves indexers interested in creating hyperlinked back-of-the book style indexes on web sites, converting indexes to HTML, indexing online periodicals and performing HTML metadata keyword indexing. <www.web-indexing.org>

Take a look at what we have to offer. We would love to have our international peers become part of our dialogue so we can talk about what inspires our work.

Annette Rogers, ASI Executive Director

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Indexing at the Einstein Papers Project – 16th century professional indexer, Abraham Fleming indexing scientific texts – handling illustrations – Islamic and Middle Eastern indexing resources military indexing – sorting out ships' names, military ranks and the like

You'll find it all (and much more) in the September 2011 issue of *The Indexer*

Followed by the Canadian issue in December, a March 2012 issue dedicated to indexing in the digital environment and (best news of all?) the ANZSI issue scheduled for June 2012

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twelve-monthly subscription rate for ANZSI members for 2011–12 remains at: £28.00

Queensland Branch news

ANZSI President comes to Brisbane

Queensland Branch had its AGM on 26 July at the Salisbury Hotel in Brisbane and we were very happy to welcome for the first time, ANZSI President Mary Russell. Branch members enjoyed networking with Mary over dinner and benefitted from her experience in the indexing industry.

Dinner was followed by the AGM. Mary Russell acted as our Returning Officer in the voting. Treasurer Franz Pinz presented the Branch financial statement and President Moira Brown gave her Branch report and introduced our guest.

Our guest speaker Mary talked about her multitude of professions and her interest in the varied, wide world that is indexing, including her love for compiling bibliographies for rare 17th and 18th century books. She discussed processing annual reports and had some good tips about finding work and maintaining contacts. Mary and Max McMaster have co-authored another book, on *Assessing an Index*, due to be published shortly, so we will definitely look out for it.

Mary reiterated the realities of being a professional freelance indexer – the challenge of juggling family and work life and achieving balance in workload – or sometimes the lack of it. Her talk gave budding indexers a good and realistic approach to the industry – that it's something to be approached with eyes wide open.

Mary also stressed the qualities of adaptability and flexibility in a freelance approach – don't just stick to one thing – try lots of different avenues of indexing. Mary's approach to web technology and all its possibilities, and the prospect of indexing opening up so many wonderful opportunities, was inspiring and exciting for us. She proved that there is much to explore!

After Mary's talk, we're now fascinated by mash-ups, mapping data and compiling bibliographies of rare books. We couldn't have asked for a better speaker! Thanks Mary.

Mei Yen Chua

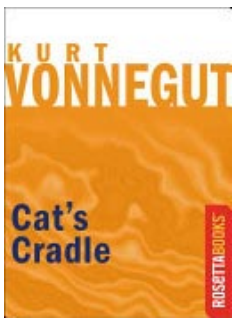
Never index your own book!

I recently re-read a book from my youth – *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut, and was delighted with Chapter 55, 'Never Index Your Own Book'. I had completely forgotten about it. This was, of course, a time when being an indexer was not even the remotest possibility as a future profession!

Cat's Cradle was published in 1963 and is an hilarious, pessimistic and thought-provoking satire about the world of the 1960s, global destruction and in, particular, the fictional island of San Lorenzo and Bokonism – a new religion. The narrator is in love with Mona Aamons, whose index entry in the book about the history of San Lorenzo is revealed below.

Enjoy!

Madeleine Davis



... As for the life of Aamons, Mona, the index itself gave a jangling, surrealistic picture of the many conflicting forces that had been brought to bear on her and of her dismayed reactions to them.

'Aamons, Mona:' the index said, 'adopted by Monzano in order to boost Monzano's popularity, 194-199, 216a; childhood in compound of House of

Hope and Mercy, 63-81; childhood romance with P. Castle, 72f; death of father, 89ff; death of mother, 92f; embarrassed by role as national erotic symbol, 80, 95f, 166n., 209, 247n., 400-406, 566n., 678; engaged to P. Castle, 193; essential naïveté, 67-71, 80, 95f, 116a., 209, 274n., 400-406, 566a., 678; lives with Bokonon, 92-98, 196-197; poems about, 2n., 26, 114, 119, 311, 316, 477n., 501, 507, 555n., 689, 718ff, 799ff, 800n., 841, 846ff, 908n., 971, 974; poems by, 89, 92, 193; returns to Monzano, 199; returns to Bokonon, 197; runs away from Bokonon, 199; runs away from Moazano, 197; tries to make self ugly in order to stop being erotic symbol to islanders, 89, 95f, 116n., 209, 247n., 400-406, 566n., 678; tutored by Bokonon, 63-80; writes letter to United Nations, 200; xylophone virtuoso, 71.'

I showed this index entry to the Mintons, asking them if they didn't think it was an enchanting biography in itself, a biography of a reluctant goddess of love. I got an unexpectedly expert answer, as one does in life sometimes. It appeared that Claire Minton, in her time, had been a professional indexer. I had never heard of such a profession before.

She told me that she had put her husband through college years before with her earnings as an indexer, that the earnings had been good, and that few people could index well.

She said that indexing was a thing that only the most amateurish author undertook to do for his own book. I asked her what she thought of Philip Castle's job.

'Flattering to the author, insulting to the reader,' she said. 'In a hyphenated word,' she observed, with the shrewd amiability of an expert, 'self-indulgent.' I'm always embarrassed when I see an index an author has made of his own work.'

'Embarrassed?'

'It's a revealing thing, an author's index of his own work,' she informed me. 'It's a shameless exhibition – to the trained eye.'

'She can read character from an index,' said her husband.

'Oh?' I said. 'What can you tell about Philip Castle?'

She smiled faintly. 'Things I'd better not tell strangers.'

'Sorry.'

'He's obviously in love with this Mona Aamons Monzano,' she said.

'That's true of every man in San Lorenzo I gather.'

'He has mixed feelings about his father,' she said.

'That's true of every man on earth.' I egged her on gently.

'He's insecure.'

'What mortal isn't?' I demanded. I didn't know it then, but that was a very Bokononist thing to demand.

'He'll never marry her.'

'Why not?'

'I've said all I'm going to say,' she said.

'I'm gratified to meet an indexer who respects the privacy of others.'

'Never index your own book,' she stated.

A duprass, Bokonon tells us, is a valuable instrument for gaining and developing, in the privacy of an interminable love affair, insights that are queer but true. The Mintons' cunning exploration of indexes was surely a case in point. A duprass, Bokonon tells us, is also a sweetly conceited establishment. The Mintons' establishment was no exception.

Sometime later, Ambassador Minton and I met in the aisle of the airplane, away from his wife, and he showed that it was important to him that I respect what his wife could find out from indexes.

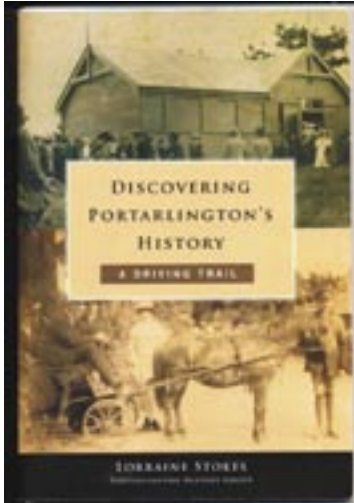
'You know why Castle will never marry the girl, even though he loves her, even though she loves him, even though they grew up together?' he whispered.

'No, sir, I don't.'

'Because he's a homosexual,' whispered Minton. 'She can tell that from an index, too.'

The VIC in July: Same publication + many indexers = ???

Victorian Branch organised its third communal indexing event, and to bring a sense of commercial indexing reality to the task, we deliberately restricted the length of the index allowed. During previous events we discovered that not only did everyone produce a different index, but the length of the indexes varied greatly. So this time we considered the question 'Given we are all indexing the same publication, should we end up with very different indexes?'



By restricting the length of the index to a maximum of 240 lines, we forced participants to consider the audience for the publication and hence consider their entries more carefully.

The publication to be indexed was *Discovering Portarlington's History: A Driving Trail*, by Lorraine Stokes. Portarlington History Group, 2007, 84p.

Participants purchased the publication in advance and either came to The VIC or sent their index in. This gave interstate members the opportunity to participate.

At The VIC meeting in July the indexes were attached to the walls around the hall for all to examine and compare. The participants were then asked the following questions:

Audience: Who did you consider was the audience for this book?

Index length: What decisions did you have to make to keep the index to the required length? Please include decisions you made before you started indexing, as well as decisions made during indexing or at the end of the indexing process.

Is your index different?: Having seen the other indexes, how is your index different? Based on your perceived audience is this a good thing?

Review: If you had a chance to review your index, what would you do differently?

Overview: Was this a worthwhile exercise? If so, how did you benefit, and if not, how could the exercise be improved?

The indexes were all different; not only in content, but also in how they were presented. To highlight this and to prove we all index differently, the various indexes were put, together with the participants answers to the questions in a document. In compiling the document it was decided to make the indexers anonymous. It was also decided to leave the formatting as presented, as this added an unexpected layer of interest to the indexes. So far we have ten responses and hopefully this article will encourage more participants to submit their indexes. The draft can be seen at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=204>.

What next?

This has proved such an interesting exercise and the resulting comments and indexes such a great resource, the process and results will be written up for *The Indexer*. Max McMaster will also attempt to come up with a definitive index, still at 240 lines, based on all the variations.

The other part of the exercise was to give us a great excuse to take a trip to Portarlington. When we mentioned this to Lorraine Stokes she suggested we visit on Sunday 16 October as there was a local art and garden trail on. Full details will be added to the website at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=218>.

Mary Russell



A wide variety of indexes displayed on the wall ...



Good old days?

Delving into back issues of *The Indexer* recently I came across an article on Australian Society of Indexers from 1987 (*The Indexer* 1987, 15(3), p. 171). There was a depiction of an early logo. The article also mentioned that the recommended rate had been increased to \$18.50 (it is now \$65).

Mary Russell

From: <www.theindexer.org/files/15-3/15-3_170.pdf>

ACT Region Branch meets Canberra editors

A combined meeting of the ANZSI ACT Region Branch and the Canberra Society of Editors was held at the Australian National University on 29 June.

Liz Phillips spoke first on editing. Formerly a technical writer, Liz has been a member of the Canberra Society of Editors for three years. She set out some of the aims of editing: to assemble, prepare or modify written material; and to reconcile the needs of the author, publisher and reader. The society has produced a commissioning checklist that explains editing services and lists the three levels of edit – substantive, copy and verification – to help editors and their clients agree on the level of edit required for a particular document.

Shirley Campbell spoke on back-of-book indexing. She explained why an index is necessary, what a professional indexer does, what the skills of a professional indexer are, and

how an editor chooses an indexer. The registration process was explained including the criteria used in assessing indexes. Shirley also explained the difference between back-of-book indexing and database indexing.

A lively discussion followed these presentations. Of particular concern was the matter of insurance and professional indemnity. Other topics discussed were censorship in indexing, recommended rate for indexing (editors don't have an equivalent rate) and annual report indexing.

The editors found this meeting very valuable. Many said they had no idea prior to this as to what indexers actually did! We plan to make this an annual event.

Edyth Binkowski

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Newsletter Schedule

The next newsletter will appear in September 2011.

The submission deadline is Wednesday, 31 August.

The editor welcomes contributions submitted by email to <peter.judge@bigpond.com.>



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