You can find indexers anywhere

Last December I took a trip to the Woodford Folk Festival. At a science talk I was speaking with a woman named Margaret, and, as science was topic, I started saying I knew Glenda Browne who had an Ig Noble Prize and Margaret said she was from ANZSI and she knew Glenda too! I was amazed!

Anyway it is a small world isn’t it? Imagine meeting an indexer in the next row at a Woodford Folk Festival science talk!

It shows nerds hang out together even in Woodford at the GREENhouse.

On the science talk itself, three scientists tried to come up with the weirdest scientific observation. Bloated cows won I believe. It was for a science podcast called ‘Smart Enough to Know Better’. It was quite humorous!

Have a listen at http://smartenough.org/episode/109.0

This was just one of the many talks and sessions on a great range of topics held at Woodford last year.
Woodford Folk Festival is obviously a very smart place to hang out. A Sydney librarian friend got me there even though I just live down the road in Caboolture...I think I'll be going again.

*Dwight Walker*

### Indexers’ Discussion List (IDL) is now Indexers’ Discussion Group (IDG)

The Indexers’ Discussion List (IDL) at Yahoo Groups has moved to Groups.io and is now known as Indexers’ Discussion Group (IDG).

This list is a very busy group discussion list for professional indexers and anyone interested in indexing books, journals, and other print and electronic media.

All IDL subscribers and the archives have been moved across to the new host. If you are subscribed to IDL you don’t have to do anything – you will continue to get list messages in future, but now from IDG.

If you want to look at the features of the list, change your settings, look at the archives, or if you are interested in subscribing and/or contributing, go to Indexers’ Discussion Group at: [https://groups.io/g/idg](https://groups.io/g/idg).

The ANZSI website lists indexing email lists (both general and special interest ones) at [http://www.anzsi.org/resources/networking-2/](http://www.anzsi.org/resources/networking-2/).

*Sherrey Quinn*

### Write | Edit | Index Conference 2015 report

Tracy Harwood, convenor of the Write Edit Index Conference held in Canberra in May 2015, has submitted her conference report to ANZSI Council. There were 283 participants at the conference, including delegates and speakers. It was a joint conference held in association with the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd). The program included sessions and workshops for editors, indexers and publishing professionals. Preparation for the conference began in 2012, and it was a huge effort to put it all together and keep it running smoothly across four days.

*write edit index*

2015 Australian Conference for Editors, Indexers, and Publishing Professionals

Thank you to Tracy for the excellent work she did as convenor and to the many other ANZSI members who volunteered their time and expertise and, working with local editor colleagues, brought about a very successful and enjoyable conference. Denise Sutherland and Shirley Campbell also joined the core conference committee to assist Tracy. Other volunteers included Lindy Allen, Madeleine Davis, Karin Hosking, Sherrey Quinn and Geraldine Triffit.

The excellent report that Tracy has prepared includes recommendations for planning future conferences that will be very valuable to future conveners. The report is available to members from
the Member area of the [ANZSI website](#) under Official documents.

*Mary Coe, ANZSI President*

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**Groups’ news**

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**Tasmania**

“Four of us had a meeting on 30 December at Clodagh Jones’ home in Lindisfarne. There was much discussion on a wide range of topics as we munched our way through lunch.

- We noted our concern over publishers sending indexing offshore including India, the difficulties when working for authors who had too much input, and we talked about the different sorts of texts we encountered. The use of different style manuals was also discussed.
- We sometimes pass on indexing work to each other when necessary and one member told about her legal work.
- We plan to repeat our weekend lunch encounters later this year as we all found it rewarding to talk with other indexers and to share our interests and concerns.”

*Clodagh Jones*

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**Sentinel Range, Tasmania. Photo credit:** [Bill Higham](#) via [Foter.com](#) / [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

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**New South Wales**

On Saturday the 2nd of April, fourteen indexers and guests met at the Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts for a roundtable (sans table) discussion of any and all matters indexing.
Alan and Trevor told fascinating stories of recent large indexing commissions that served as both familiar and cautionary tales. They set off the discussion and others joined in with their experiences. We spoke of publisher/editor underestimates of the work required, short and variable deadlines, working over holiday seasons, cutting completed indexes, quoted vs fixed payment jobs, working in XML, mysterious cuts or disappearances from indexes at proof or print stage, brickbats and bouquets for editors, occasional dealings with authors, and more.

Discussion continued on issues including problems with, and differences between, local and overseas publishers, even the same publishing house; the changing face – and backrooms – of publishing (particularly the move from editorial management to marketing management) and the repercussions for any freelancers; and problems with both advance and late payments.

Frances gave us an overview of Cindex as an index authoring tool, and relayed general news from the ASI. Coming out of a discussion of how (which format) we all read our newspapers and why, Frances put these important ideas to the group:

“As indexers, we have to rethink our relationship with text; and consider how users, and potential users, relate to the text”.

Other conversation included some tech tips and tricks on using Adobe Acrobat, useful add-ons and other tools. {More on these next Newsletter.}

Mary presented general news from ANZSI Council. {See Council update elsewhere in this issue.}

The afternoon drew to a close (only because our room booking time finished, the conversation certainly hadn’t) so several of us adjourned to the nearby ArtHouse Hotel (formerly the original Mechanics’ School of Arts) for refreshments and a convivial dinner.

Thanks go to NSW convener Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey for organising the meeting and the coffee, tea and nibbles to sustain us though an interesting and informative afternoon.

Elisabeth Thomas
What’s in The Indexer?

The March issue of The Indexer is now available on Ingenta and will appear on Lulu soon. In this issue:

- Indexing commonplace books: early modern methods Alan Walker
- Law via the Internet 2015 conference Glenda Browne
- Ethics for the indexer Heather Ebbs
- Website indexing Mary Coe
- Enhancing a subject vocabulary for Australian education Philip Hider, Barbara Spiller, Pru Mitchell, Robert Parkes and Raylee Macaulay

and another two indispensable Centrepieces from Linda Dunn:
- Resources for handling geographic names in indexes
- Resources for handling event names in indexes.

THE INDEXER
The International Journal of Indexing

March 2016 issue now out, with articles including:

- Mary Coe on website indexing
- Heather Ebbs on ethics for the indexer
- Linda Dunn’s third and final set of articles on sources of information on names of all kinds
- Alan Walker on indexing early modern commonplace books

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Essential reading for anyone interested in promoting the cause of analytical indexing in the digital age
I have been playing with word clouds lately. They are an easy and engaging way to visualise data and usually offer some very interesting insights. Here is a word cloud generated from the minutes of the last few ANZSI Council meetings:

What is this word cloud showing us? First of all, it is important to understand that the larger the word in the cloud, the more often it has appeared in the text. For example, the word “Council” is front and centre in the cloud because that word appears so frequently in the minutes. So, sometimes the more interesting parts of a word cloud are not the most obvious ones. All of the words in this cloud probably do not make sense to you (unless you are an avid reader of ANZSI Council minutes), but if you take a minute to scan them and consider how they fit together, both by size and position, you will hopefully have a big picture of what Council has been doing lately.

Over the past few months, Council has:

- approved restructure regulations for regional and interest groups
- opened a bank account in New Zealand
- discussed ways of increasing ANZSI membership
- considered how best to invest ANZSI funds
- decided to deregister from GST
- agreed on payments for the communications team (web, newsletter, email)
- created a website evaluation survey
- started the process for opening a new round of the John Simkin Medal competition
- experimented with teleconferencing systems for meetings

If you are wondering what any of the words are in the cloud and cannot figure it out from my synopsis above, I suggest you head to the Council minutes on the ANZSI website and have a look! 😊

Mary Coe, ANZSI President
The Lost Art of Indexes in Ebooks


This blog post by Joe Wikert includes the comment:

“...problem with relying on search instead of an index is that you lose the benefit of synonyms and related terms. An indexer takes all that into consideration, so you're much more likely to find everything you're looking for with a good index than with a simple text search.”

{So many people need to read that!}

Accessible Publishing

The US Book Industry Study Group (BISG) has released a free Quick Start Guide to Accessible Publishing that “offers both a succinct introduction to the basics of accessibility and the market advantages to publishers for adopting best practices in creating accessible digital content. It is available in the EPUB 3 format [as well as PDF] and serves as a model of a properly accessible publication.”

The publication can be downloaded for free, but you need to register on the BISG website, then ‘order’ the download.

Sadly, the only mention of “index” is in some of the URLs, however, it is only written as a “Quick Start Guide”. It does, however, include an extensive (international) list of resources.

Sign on the dotted line?

Members and readers may be interested in the petitions below that have been raised on the change.org website:

Stop cuts to National Library of Australia and save Trove


To save you wondering...the initiator of this petition is, according to ‘the Google’, is Australian academic Dr Paddy O'Toole. She specialises in research into learning and knowledge in organisations and cultures.

Communicate correctly, concisely and consistently: fund the Style Manual (7th edn)


Started by the Society of Editors (Qld) and encouraged by other groups around Australia, it seeks to petition the Commonwealth Parliament Standing Committee on Publications to fund the production

**Social imagery**


**On the cards**

ANZSI events

For full details, follow the link from the title of each event to the website.

Saturday 2 April
New South Wales: Round table meeting and Cindex Update
1:30 for 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney NSW
This meeting will be an opportunity for indexers and interested folk from NSW (and beyond) to catch up and share news... of projects, technical issues, publishing updates, ANZSI news, and more. Frances Lennie will be our special guest and will talk about Cindex developments and ASI news.
Tea, coffee and light snacks will be served; dinner afterwards TBA.

Tuesday 26 April
National: Council meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm. Held via teleconference

Thursday 5 May
Melbourne Indexers: Tour of Ballarat Mechanics Institute Library
2:00 – 4:00 pm
For something different, how about a trip to Ballarat? We will join the weekly tour of the Ballarat Mechanics Institute Library.
For further information about BMI, see http://ballaratmi.org.au/education/tours
We need to confirm numbers, so please contact Mary Russell if you plan to join us.

Tuesday 10 May
Canberra Region Indexers: Coffee at Beyond Q
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
We're meeting to talk shop at the Beyond Q second-hand bookshop, downstairs at the Curtin shops. Beyond Q has a delightful small café, and thousands of books, so it is the natural habitat for indexers of all kinds. Free parking. Contact Denise Sutherland for further information.

Tuesday 31 May
National: Council meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm. Held via teleconference
Tuesday 31 May

Melbourne Indexers: Converting Word indexes to Cindex, Macrex or SKY using IndexConvert

2:00 – 4:00 pm. Malvern Library 1255 High St, Malvern Vic

Converting Word indexes back into indexing software can be time consuming. The IndxConvert software will be demonstrated to show how it can assist in this task.

Tuesday 12 July

National: Council meeting

6:30 – 8:00 pm. Held via teleconference

Other events

ASI Webinar: Cindex Tips — Using groups and labels
American Society for Indexing

Wednesday 27 April 2016
(US times: 9:00 am Pacific; 10:00 am Mtn; 11:00 am Central; 12:00 pm Eastern),
(Aust time: AET Thursday 28 April 2016 2:00 am, please check time at your location)

During this webinar we will delve into the nooks and crannies of CINDEX to uncover settings that can make your indexing more efficient and enjoyable.

http://www.asindexing.org/webinars/lennie-cindex/

EAC / ACR Conference 2016 — “A Correction Connection”
Editors Association of Canada / l’Association canadienne des reviseurs.

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 June 2016, Vancouver, British Columbia

http://www.editors.ca/conference/2016

ASI & ISC/SCI Conference — “The Drama of Indexing”
American Society for Indexing & Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d’indexation.

Thursday 16 - Sunday 18 June 2016, Chicago, Illinois

http://www.asindexing.org/conference-2016/

SfEP AGM and Conference 2016 — “Let’s Talk about Text”
Society for Editors and Proofreaders

Saturday 10 - Monday 12 September 2016, Birmingham, West Midlands

SI Conference and AGM 2016 — “Back to the Future”
Society of Indexers
Tuesday 13 September 2016, Birmingham, West Midlands

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ANZSI Council

President: Mary Coe
Vice-President: Daphne Lawless
Secretary: Kerry Anderson
Treasurer: Michael Wyatt
Council members: Shirley Campbell, Terri Mackenzie and Elisabeth Thomas

Branch and regional contacts

Please consult the ANZSI website for details of regional and interest groups, and their contact people.

Newsletter

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Please send contributions by email to the editor, Elisabeth Thomas, at editor@anzsi.org

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