



— AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS —
NEWSLETTER

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**MESSAGE FROM THE VICTORIAN
PRESIDENT**

Welcome back to all members of AusSI following the Christmas break. Hopefully the respite has recharged the batteries for another year's energetic indexing.

As was pointed out in the December 1990 issue, the AusSI Newsletter has changed in both format and frequency with this being the first issue in the new monthly (except January) 2-3 page traditional newsletter style. This change to monthly issues means news items, snippets, forthcoming meetings details, etc. can be disseminated to members far more frequently and efficiently, hence giving the Society the higher profile it justly deserves.

Together with this change in style we have had a change in Editor from Geraldine Suter to Helen Kinniburgh. At this point I must express our heartfelt thanks to Geraldine for the valuable work she has done as Editor of the AusSI Newsletter for the past six years. Like most voluntary positions it has certainly been a thankless and difficult task. Many thanks Geraldine.

To Helen, welcome aboard as Editor and I hope you find the position both stimulating and rewarding. Later on in this issue Helen outlines the type of material she will be covering in the Newsletter plus

detailing how you can contribute.

As to our request for Newsletter correspondents in each state, we have had two positive replies from Queensland but none so far from the other states or territories. Don't be shy, make the effort and write to us today!

Max McMaster

THOUGHTS OF A NEW EDITOR

The Australian Society of Indexers exists to promote the importance of indexing - a many-faceted skill - and to obtain recognition for the role of indexers in the fields of publishing and information science. I think it is safe to say that indexers generally have a greater than average concern for quality and correctness in their work. As professional communicators it could not be otherwise.

As the new Editor of the AusSI Newsletter, I am challenged to ensure a publication worthy of such a readership. Luckily, I have the example of the previous Editor, Geraldine Suter, to follow. I hope to maintain the high standard set by Geraldine. Another challenge is to make the Newsletter 'work' for the Society and its aims. How can we best promote the profession of indexing? How can we

facilitate further training and skills-development for indexers, experienced and novice alike? Individual indexers, in what is largely a 'lonely profession', should be able to get a sense of their work as part of a growing field - a field influenced by new technology and changes in the publishing and information industries. It is my hope that through the Newsletter, indexers can continue to be attuned to developments in the field, and to thus find new directions for their work.

With a more frequently issued Newsletter, we will be hoping for more contributions from the membership. Remember, nine issues per year will be short and snappy - intended to deliver news of the moment, and to provide a forum for members.

You are welcome to submit letters, suggestions, and accounts of your experiences. We would also like members to write in and tell us about the indexes they have recently had published.

Two expanded issues per year (at this stage, planned for May and September) will have longer articles and reports of Society business. I would be pleased to receive articles on indexing as well as reviews of relevant books and new indexing software.

The next Committee Meeting will be held early in February, and there will be some consideration given to the submission of articles to The Indexer. Subsequent to this, I will be able to give details of the kind of articles that will be required for the expanded issues of the Newsletter, and those that should be submitted to The Indexer.

Finally, I would like to thank Max for his welcome, and to once again extend an invitation to members of the Society to write to us. All your suggestions will be gratefully received.

Helen Kinniburgh

1991 WILSON AWARD

The American Society of Indexers is now accepting books with a 1990 publication date for judging in the annual Wilson Award Indexing Competition. The Award, established in 1978 and funded by the H.W. Wilson Co., recognises excellence in book indexing. The winning indexer will receive a plaque and a \$500 cheque (US). The winning publisher will receive a plaque. Either indexers or publishers may submit books for judging. All submissions must be accompanied by an official application form and be received no later than 1 April, 1991. Prospective applicants should contact ASI President David Billick for a copy of an application form and the Award criteria. The Award will be presented at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the ASI on 22-23 June, 1991 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Additional information and application forms are available from:

David Billick
ASI Wilson Award
c/o University Microfilms
International
300 N.ZEEB Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Tel (313) 761-4700,
ext870/871
Fax (313) 973-2088

NEXT NSW MEETING

The next meeting of the NSW Branch of the Society will be held on March 13 at 6.00 for 6.30. It will be held in Seminar Room 1 on the 11th floor of the State Library in Macquarie Street.

Garry Cousins will be speaking on "Costing and quoting for an index". A general discussion will follow, so bring along your ideas and questions - you may have the definitive method of costing the rest of us have all been looking for!

If you intend to come along, please ring Garry after March 2 on 02) 9551525, or leave a message on his machine.

INDEXING SOFTWARE - INFORMATION EXCHANGE

In response to a suggestion by AusSI member, Kerry Herbstreit, we are inviting comments and articles concerning the use of specific indexing software packages. It would certainly be of value to share information on the various packages available. Further to this, anyone having a problem with indexing software may wish to solicit help via the Newsletter.

People who would be prepared to provide assistance to others on particular packages, or in the use of microcomputers generally, are also invited to nominate their areas of expertise, together with a contact phone number.

Ian Odgers

LETTERS

In response to the request for contributions I enclose two articles [Thankyou Kingsley, these will be held for a later issue - Ed.]. I also make the following suggestions:

1. A committee to be formed for the formulation of Australian standards; this may eventually take the form of endorsement or modification of the BS3700, which I understand is going through further revision, since 1988. (I noticed a mention of this by Ken Bakewell in one of the copies of The Indexer.) Consideration may of course be given to the proposed International Standard.

2. Extracts from contributions to ASI, SI and the Canadian Societies periodical publications. I understand that each of these also publish a Newsletter in addition. Apart from The Indexer the other publications are not easily available to us.

3. A 'Q & A' column or a technical forum for the exchange of views and comments and the attention to queries from even experienced indexers who may have particular problems. For example I hope to undertake a biographical index at the end of this year, but the only real help I was able to get was Hazel Bell's article. As I have not done one before I reckon this article can lead to some discussion; I find some of it difficult - may be because it is so different to what I have been doing for some time - mainly legal and commercial.

4. The publication by an Australian committee of an Indexer's manual for Australian indexers (see The Indexer 16(4) 275).

I suggest that at the Annual General Meeting of AusSI [Feb 27] a proposal be considered to hold the 1992 meeting in Sydney, and arrange for a Conference of Indexers on that occasion. I don't know whether such a meeting has been held before.

I think this should be sufficient for a beginning. I will write when I can, but even though I am a registered Indexer I do not hold myself as an expert, and I am going through a learning curve. I have just applied for the advanced course of BIPT, just to see what it offers, so that I can improve my skills.

Kind regards and all the best. I have been a publisher for over 35 years and I know only too well what it takes to be the editor of a newsletter. I think you are doing a fine job.

Kingsley Siebel

Dear Max

Here's one for your collection. It was taken from a review of The ants by Bert Holldobler and E.O. Wilson in the London Review of Books, 25 October 1990, p 12-13.

"It would be sheer ingratitude to criticise anything, but I suspect that the publisher made the index: I found it frustrating. But who is ever satisfied with an index?"

Regards, Janet Thompson

INDEX4 ON PUBLIC DOMAIN IN NSW

New South Wales members of the Society who are interested in obtaining a copy of the indexing software INDEX4 can now obtain it directly from the NSW Branch. To obtain a copy send a cheque for \$15 made out to the Society to:

The President
Australian Society of
Indexers (NSW Branch)
PO Box R598
Royal Exchange
Sydney NSW 2000

A copy of the manual is included on the disk.

School of Librarianship
University of New South Wales

BOOK INDEXING COURSES sponsored by the Australian Society of Indexers

These are short courses of 15 or 18 hours held one evening a week, over several weeks at the University of New South Wales.

Introduction to Book Indexing	February 12 - March 19, 1991 August 1 - September 5, 1991
Indexing Technical Material	April 24, 1991
Computer-Aided Indexing	March 21, 1991 May 30 - June 27, 1991

For further information, please contact:
Maureen Henninger Tel (02) 697-3589 Fax (02) 313-7092

DEADLINE - MARCH ISSUE

Contributions should reach the Editor at the address below by 20 February 1991.

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Membership of the Society is open to persons and institutions engaged in indexing or interested in promoting the objects of the Society. The annual subscription, due on 1 January each year, is \$20; a half-yearly subscription for entry after 1 July is \$10. All material appearing in the Newsletter is subject to copyright but may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes, provided that appropriate acknowledgement is made.

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