Editorial
In this Christmas issue we include John Simkin's report on the Conference of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand titled 'Order out of Chaos'. Apart from the reports and summaries of events from our regional branches, also included, is a letter from Geoffrey Marrell highlighting some problems associated with language when indexing publications.

This will be the last issue of the *AusSI Newsletter* for 1993. May I take this opportunity to thank members of the Society for their contributions to this Newsletter. I look forward to more letters and suggestions in the new year.

ACT News
Geraldine Triffitt reports on the ACT regional meeting, held on 19 October 1993 at the Griffin Centre in Canberra.

Unfortunately a very small audience attended the interesting and stimulating discussion about indexing videos by Greg Blood and Janet Wardman of the National Sport Information Centre, and Bob Pymm of the National Film and Sound Archive.

Greg described the Sports Video Library at NSIC. This consists of 7-8000 videos of which 3,000 commercial tapes are lent to the 500 members who have paid $30 annual membership and $9 per videotape for postage and handling. Other users, funded by the Sports Commission have free access to the videos, many of which are concerned with training and coaching of many sports.

The audio-visual collection comprises 16,000 slides and photos, taken in Canberra by the staff photographer. There are also audio cassettes available for staff loan.

A microform collection of 5000 United States theses on sport (already indexed) was purchased from the University of Oregon.

Greg then gave a history of the development of the SPORT Database. The Footscray Institute of Technology Library indexed items about Australian sport to 1988. The NSIC had the option to takeover the database on Ausinet, but chose instead to use the Canada SPORT
Database and put Australian material on to it. Greg spent six months learning the indexing procedures at the Centre in Canada. This database is available on CD-ROM updated twice a year and next year four times a year. Twenty five Australian libraries are using it.

The NSIC is now installing Data Research which will integrate the SPORT Database and their own databases. Videos are indexed for free text searching. There are three levels of content - basic, intermediate (comprising material with a scientific or technological background) and advanced (unique research). Each record has a section heading, a record numeric code, major concept codes and an abstract of 150-200 words. The SPORT Thesaurus uses Australian terms with references to corresponding American terms. A Guide to Commercially Available Videotapes, arranged by sport is published and costs $20.

Janet Wardman has been indexing at NSIC for eighteen months. She described the indexing of slides which began in 1981. They were first indexed by sport/topic/year but after five years by sport only. Slides are housed in suspension files in filing cabinets as speed and access are very important. The collection is used by the Australian Sports Commission, coaches, the media, national sporting organisations and book publishers.

The slide database has keyword access and recent material is arranged in three runs for slides, colour photos and black and white photos. The more recent slides are arranged by sport and subject categories to give quick physical access. A short working thesaurus gives sport/name/year and aspects such as action shot/team shot or portrait. The software used is TEAMDATA.

Bob Pymm emphasised the vast array of resources needed for indexing films and videos. Training for the 8 cataloguers and 30 accessioners with technical skills who put in the catalogue records is very important. Their work is checked by a group of librarians. On the equipment side flat beds are required for viewing films. Many films have odd gauges which require specially developed equipment for viewing odd sized films or for playing wax cylinders. Viewing booths are necessary. Videos may occur in different formats and there are difficulties obtaining heads for " tape machines. Yet more equipment is required for the CDs and digital tapes.

Because of difficulty of access to these materials indexing is very important so that people know what they want and the extent of the information stored on the films or videos before they have to use the equipment. On an 8 minute newsreel there may be as many as 150 access points. The NFSA use a standard library entry with subject headings and not a keyword index, and technical information about format and condition. Materials are copied to ensure preservation, although new techniques, such as digitising are being evaluated.

There is a large collection of radio transcription disks which take a lot of indexing. The current problem is that there is so much of air broadcasting it is difficult to keep up with. Selecting what and how much to record is problematic.

There are difficulties in the cataloguing procedures inherited from the National Library of Australia. For example there is no subject indexing of fiction, yet soap operas like Number 96 could well benefit from indexing. The APAIS thesaurus is used for most material with research currently underway to find an appropriate music thesaurus.

They also have a large collection of wildlife noises such as bird calls and insect noises. These can be indexed either by their Latin or their popular name.

In summary there are problems with the nature of the material, the extent of material and the resources needed for it, and the depth of indexing required.
Vic News: AGM and Dinner
The date and venue for the Victorian AGM and dinner have now been finalised. Costs and other details have yet to be decided.

Date: 2 March 1994
Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm
Venue: Spring Park Tea Rooms
3 Spring Road, Malvern

Vic Branch Book Indexing Course
This course was attended by 13 participants from various professions. Attendees were mostly librarians and from commercial publishing houses, all of reasonable experience in the indexing field. The feedback from participants suggested that the course was successful and will be held again next year. This was the third year the course has been run.

Order out of Chaos
Conference of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, September 30 and October 1, 1993
A summary of events by John Simkin

The conference, as defined by its title, aimed to identify the bibliographers' role in bringing order to the 'chaos' of recorded knowledge in Australia. Several of the sessions were concerned with specific bibliographic projects such as the Bibliography of Australian Literature Project and the Library of Catherine Martin.

Those sessions of particular interest to indexers fell into two categories:
(1) those which described specific indexing projects, e.g. the indexing of The Dawn and the Australian Women's Weekly, 1946-1971
(2) those which proposed collaborative work in indexing. It was this category which prompted the Committee of AusSI to ask me to attend.

The Bibliographical Society's interest in the subject arose from the consideration of National Priorities for Bibliographical Projects. A panel session on this topic had seven speakers. The papers will be published by the National Library of Australia.

There were several recurring themes in the seven papers:

(1) Publishing projects - these were exemplified by the work being done at the Australian Defence Force Academy in its Australian Scholarly Editions Centre.

(2) Bibliographical listing - this included such activities as the History Book in Australia Project at Monash University, the need to record book trade ephemera and the need to expand and make comprehensive, existing Australian bibliographies of monographs and serials, e.g. by publishing of agenda and index to the Ferguson bibliography.

(3) Indexing projects, individual and collaborative - lacking a complete survey of what exists, speakers identified what they believed were lacunae, e.g. an index to nineteenth century Australian periodicals.

(4) Register of indexes, complete and in progress - there are two current projects directed at the creation of a register:
(1) La Trobe University, Australian Literature Research Group - this group under the Leadership of Professor John Barnes is in the process of compiling a register of unpublished literary and cultural periodical/newspaper indexes. Procedure and format have been devised...
and a preliminary listing was circulated at the Conference.

(ii) National Library of Australia - the National Library's involvement arose from the Towards Federation 2001 Conference held in March 1992. The National Library undertook to investigate priorities for bibliographical projects. The National Library Working Group on High-Priority Cross-Sectoral Indexing Projects was set up under the chairmanship of Eric Wainwright, Deputy Director-General. The Group is at present conducting a survey of Australian newspaper and journal indexes in state/national, academic and parliamentary libraries. Allowances has also been made for recording information about indexes to non-periodical resources and to indexes in other types of libraries so far as these can be discovered through information from the libraries surveyed. The Group has established a fund for future projects. The Register will be used to determine priorities for funding projects.

(5) Technical aspects of collaborative indexing - several speakers expressed concern at the lack of standardization in the creation of indexes which will hamper input to or integration of indexes. Another aspect of this problem is the need to create suitable Australian thesauri to describe specialized topics and subjects whose terminology has changed over time, especially if the collaborative index is to include them with other twentieth century material.

It will be noted that the above activities will lead to a register strongly weighted towards the humanities and leaves a considerable amount of work to be done to produce a comprehensive register. However all those engaged in the existing projects expressed themselves willing to share results to this end. In representing AusSI I discovered an awareness of our profession and Society as being the source of help particularly in regard to the technical questions. How such cooperation can be achieved is yet to be determined.

Apart from my representation of AusSI I found it rewarding to make contact with a wider group of bibliographers, a field in which I have worked for some time. The University provided pleasant surroundings for the Conference and an excellent venue for a dinner at which many promising contacts were made.

Occasional Paper: 'Indexing legal materials'
Published by The Society of Indexers (U.K.), 1993, 90pp, bibliog., US$ 18.00 (surface); US$21.00 (air mail).

An Occasional Paper 'Indexing Legal Materials' has been published by the Society of Indexers on 1st November 1993. It contains over 90 pages of text, including a bibliography. The book is intended primarily as a practical aid for indexers working with any of the various types of law texts. Written by experienced legal indexers Elizabeth Moys, Anne Coles, Moira Greenhalgh and Ben Wynne, the book deals with the structure of indexes, subject analysis, legal vocabulary, the form of entries and references, and cases and statutes. An important chapter deals with the special problems associated with documents produced by or about the European Communities. The book contains illustrative examples from several modern indexes and two publications from the time of Good Queen Bess.

This is the first exposition of the principles of law indexing for sixteen years. 'Indexing Legal Materials' will prove invaluable to indexers new to the subject and to the more experienced.

Law librarians will find the book useful both for the production of in-house
indexes and to find their way round complex law indexes.

This is the second in a series of Occasional Papers published by the Society of Indexers. Prices have been listed above. A discount of 10% is available on orders for ten to forty-nine copies and of 25% for fifty or more copies.

LETTERS....

The languages of indexing

You have been asked to index a book destined primarily for the Australian market. The publishing house that has accepted it does not have the editorial resources or will to change the author’s American words to equivalent Australian words. Or maybe the author is self-publishing the work and his/her newness to Australia has allowed him/her insufficient time to assimilate our language. Do you index the book in the language of the author? Or in the language of the majority of the readers? Or do you do both, supplying cross-references were necessary?

Whichever answer you come up with — and it is beyond the scope of this short paper to provide one — it is important to recognise that you will need to be alert to the differences between American and Australian English. Indeed, the same is true whatever species of English the text you may be indexing is written in.

The simple point, here, is that there is no one English language. British English, American English, Australian English, the English spoken in New Zealand, in Canada, and India: all these are species of the English language, each legitimate and owing no deference to any other. This may seem like labouring the obvious, but if talk-back radio and letters to editors are any indication, there are still many people unwilling to shake off the notion of linguistic correctness. These people see the evolution and consequent variation in English as unnecessary and lazy, and something that should be stopped and even reversed. As always, there is a middle ground: a recognition, on the one hand, that without standards of correctness in, say, grammar — standards which need not be fixed in perpetuity — the power of language as a communicative tool is weakened, and, on the other, that it is as unnecessary as it is impossible to impose similar standards on all of the other elements that make up a language: its vocabulary, for instance; and its spellings.

This is a plausible position for indexers to adopt, for indexing is a descriptive, not a prescriptive, endeavour. It is not for indexers to challenge what they might consider to be grammatical, semantic and stylistic infelicities in the text they are indexing. That is the job of the copy-editor. Rather, their job requires them to accept the language of the author, even if it is a source of some anguish (as it might be if it compelled them, say, to make an index entry for alternate medicine when they themselves would only ever write alternative medicine). The point I want to emphasise here is that the author’s language — though it is English — may not be the indexer’s language, though it, too, is English.

The manifold variations within English — in spelling, vocabulary and meaning — have withstood not merely the rapid internationalisation of English, but the dominance, in all fields of communication, of one particular species of the English
tongue: American English. Given our seemingly unhesitating willingness to absorb the cultures of other countries, it is surprising, perhaps, to find a species of English that is peculiarly Australian. We have adopted our own vocabulary and meanings — and even spellings — sometimes at variance with both American and British English. An indexer indexing material for Australian use needs to be aware, then, of the English used in Australia, for it is this peculiar and distinct English that most users of that index will bring to it.

Our linguistic independence is not owed, however, to the sort of solipsism entertained by the Académie Française. Foreign English words — American and others — enter Australian English seemingly without pause, some usurping useful, hard-working home-grown expressions, others happily replacing our less colourful alternatives, and others still, necessarily adopted because we have no equivalent expressions in Australian English. An indexer needs to be able to recognise these foreign visitors, and, should they be incorporated into an index, be confident that they have taken root here and are not limited to one city, region or group of speakers.

Let us look now at some of this linguistic variation. Consider, firstly, vocabulary. Our terms hire-purchase, lay-by, torch, station, jeep and squatter are instalment plan, layaway, flashlight, ranch, shopping cart and homesteader respectively in American English. In Britain, our kerosene, private school, semi-trailer, freeway and bottle-shop are referred to as paraffin oil, public school, juggernaut, motorway and off-licence. There is even some trans-Tasman variation an indexer may need to be alert to. Our building lots, for example, are called sections in New Zealand. These illustrations are but few of many.

Indexers also need to be wary of like terms that have different meanings in different English-language groups. An American professor might not so called if she held a similar position in an Australian or British university. Unlike an Australian or British graduate, an American graduate may not have passed — or even studied for — a university or college degree. And a British lay-by has more to do with ways to park than ways to buy.

Spelling, too, provides a striking illustration of Australian independence in matters linguistic. For example, Australian English has gone alone in resolving the question of -ise versus -ize endings. As any recent dictionary of Australian English will show, Australians have widely adopted the -ise ending, much to the dismay of purists. We write patronise, colonise, and organise where the British and Americans write patronize, colonize and organize. We also prefer racquet to racket when referring to the item of sporting gear. But mostly we side with the British, as when we prefer kerb, tyre, sulphur and ageing to the American curb, tire, sulfur and aging. Yet sometimes it is the other way round, as when we prefer the American appendectomy to the British appendicectomy.

Less well-known are variances in the way English is used within Australia. If you are indexing a book on marine life written by a West Australian, it may, for example, be useful to know that most Australians call a lobster what a West Australian calls a crayfish. Furthermore, a prison is more likely to be referred to as a gaol in NSW and South Australia but a jail elsewhere. There is a similar regional variation in the use of liquorice for licorice. Indexing such terms may well call, then, for the use of cross-references.

When indexing for the international market, care may need to be taken not to introduce words that are peculiarly Australian but are yet to find recognition in foreign English dictionaries. Words like rort and dob are two such words. Furthermore, what we call public holidays, the Americans call national holidays, and the British, bank holidays. Another example — and one which further illustrates variation within Australia — is stobie pole. This is the expression native South Australians still use to refer to their peculiar power poles. Such an entry in an index to a book destined for the US market on, say, public electricity utilities would only baffle the reader unless the entry had a suitable cross-reference.
In a word, good indexing requires one to absorb the meanings of the text being indexed and to compare the symbolisation of those meanings with corresponding symbols in the language or languages of the intended audience. It may call, then, for an appreciation of a sub-language that is not one's own. At one end of the spectrum, that sub-language may be a species of Australian English; at the other, it may be some foreign offshoot of that mirage much loved by cranky old gerund-grinders: English English.

Dr Geoffrey R. Marnell

A Christmas Wish...
For some cooking enthusiasts, a Christmas wish has been answered a little early this year. It has come to my attention that for the first time since it's publication in 1904, the P.W.M.U Cookbook, includes an index. The P.W.M.U Cookbook has undergone twenty one reprints since its initial publication. And it is this most recent revised edition which contains the index. Where previously, recipes could only be located by using the table of contents pages (organised into subject headings), recipes are now indexed alphabetically according to title.

Delicious recipes such as the following are now much easier to find. So, with Christmas only 4 weeks away, cooking those culinary delights will be a treat!

Christmas Cake p.198
Christmas Pudding p.174
Roast Turkey p.62
Roast leg of Pork & Crackling p.99
Fruit Punch p.267
Pineapple Fruit Cup p.264

The Australian Society of Indexers would like to wish all its' members a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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News, views and reviews are always welcome.
Floppy disks will be appreciated where articles are longer than one A4 page (preferably 3.5" Macintosh disks; Microsoft Word software; IBM is also OK).

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