Editorial

Greetings! This is my first issue as new editor. Many thanks to Ann Philpott whom I got to know when I was writing the seven articles on the internet. ;)

The Robertson Conference has not long finished. It was a very busy and enriching time. Ranelagh House had a grandeur. Robert Hyslop has written a summary of the Indexing conference to prepare you for next issue’s fuller coverage. Alan Walker has written up his speech for the Medal Dinner at Robertson. This is a very full list of those receiving mention for their work. President’s reports for NSW and ACT end the issue. Next month I print Janet Hine’s long letter about John Simkin’s ethics article and Kingsley Siebel’s answer to Glenda Browne’s article on indexer liability - quite thought provoking!

I hope to introduce some new columns in the Newsletter, specifically a World Wide Web/Internet column with news on good sites to visit and updates on our Web site, drawing on the great NFAIS newsletter which highlights Web resources of interest to indexers. I will be writing a special article on the AusSI Web site with pictures! Database indexing will be included.

I will be doing some profiles on indexers and editors in our ranks in a ‘Who’s Who’ column soon. Australians and New Zealanders are welcome to contribute.

That’s all for this month. See you next month...

Dwight Walker, Editor and Webmaster

News

INDEXER LATE

“SI apologises for the late production of the Indexer, which is entirely the fault of the printer. We hope to distribute copies by the end of May, if not sooner.”

Janet Shuter, Editor

Hans Wellisch’s tome in new edition

H.W. Wilson reports that Indexing from A to Z 2nd ed. was released in March 1996. See page 9 for press release.

Internet Registry for Editors (and Indexers)


South Australian Indexers precede Editors

Susan Rintoul reports that the fledgling South Australian branch has agreed with the Society of Editors (SA) to meet in the half hour preceding the Society of Editors meetings every two months. (the word )
Branch News
A.C.T. Region Branch
President’s Report
1995-96
Presented at the Annual General Meeting, Italian Club, 26 March 1996

1995, the third year of the Branch, was dominated by conferences. The First International Conference “Indexers - Partners in Publishing” held at Marysville, Victoria, was attended by eleven ACT participants who presented four papers and chaired two sessions.

The Committee is currently in the last stages of organising the two-day conference “Indexing in the Electronic Age” to be held at Ranelagh House, Robertson on April 20-21, which has attracted participants from NSW, ACT, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Other activities of the Branch during the year stimulated much thought and discussion. Our At Home at Robert Hyslop’s house after the Marysville Conference gave members an occasion to meet socially, but unfortunately overseas visitors were unable to attend.

On 7 June, a very lively panel discussion on the topic “are computers tools for indexers or replacements for indexers” resulted in the idea of having a conference on “Indexing in the Electronic Age.”

Three interesting talks given on 26 September showed indexers in action. Marjorie Gilby described her index to the Journal of the Canberra and District Historical Society. Beryl Strusz illustrated her talk on the indexing of postcards at the Australian War Memorial with examples of postcards from the First World War. Robert Withycombe has created calendar summaries of the information on Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in the Library of the Lambeth Palace, Headquarters of the Church of England.

Nor have we neglected our social gatherings. We had dinner at Chinese and Thai restaurants after the meetings and a special African banquet in July.

We have been very fortunate in our speakers, who have provided us with informed, entertaining and stimulating presentations throughout the year. Unfortunately our audiences were disappointingly small. This raised the question as to whether we were effectively catering for our members’ interests. We felt it was time to take stock and get some guidance from our members as to whether we should continue as a Branch and what activities were required if we continued.

We held a special meeting in November and were heartened by the comments and support from members attending the meeting. Many suggestions were made, in particular interest was expressed in training courses in indexing. We will explore this possibility, either running our own courses, or running courses in conjunction with a college or university.

The committee has worked very hard this year. We have been meeting fortnightly to plan the conference, using Robert’s place as the meeting place. He and his wife, Dorothy, have overwhelmed us with their hospitality. I would like to thank everyone on the committee this year - Shirley Campbell, Robert Hyslop, Lynn Farkas, Laurelle Tunks, Joan Jensen, Kerrie Grimmond, Barbara Dickens, Susan MacDougall for their wonderful support enthusiasm and loyalty.

Geraldine Triffitt

Office Bearers
President: Geraldine Triffitt
Secretary: Shirley Campbell,
Treasurer: Laurelle Tunks

Committee
Robert Hyslop, Joan Jensen, Lynn Farkas, Susan MacDougall, Robert Withycombe.

New South Wales Branch
President’s Report
1995–1996
Presented at the Annual General Meeting, Ranelagh House, Robertson, 20 April 1996

Officers
At its first meeting, the Committee appointed the following officers:
President: Michael Wyatt
Secretary: Garry Cousins
Treasurer: Kingsley Siebel
Committee members:
Lorraine Doyle (publicity)
Neale Towart
Mary Turner
Alan Walker (Medal coordinator)
Dwight Walker (Internet coordinator)

General meetings
The Committee has continued its search for suitable meeting rooms, but so far has not found anywhere superior to the State Library.

12 April 1995
The Fifth Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Branch was held on 12 April 1995. After the meeting, we were joined by members of the ALIA Cataloguers’ Section for a series of reports on the...
Branch News

International Conference held earlier that month in Victoria. Two overseas speakers from the Conference, Betty Moys and Irene Wormell, were present and gave us their views of the Conference.

13 July 1995
Jonathan Jermey spoke on indexing and the Internet, and demonstrated how the Internet can be used.

1 August 1995
The Society was invited to hold a joint meeting with the Society of Editors (NSW) on “Negotiating a brief”. Garry Cousins spoke on the panel from the indexer’s perspective.

Coordination with related societies
The Branch held joint meetings with the ALIA Cataloguers’ Section and the Society of Editors, and has arranged a joint meeting with the Australian Society for Technical Communication (NSW) for later in 1996. We have begun negotiations with the ALIA Information Science Section, and the Law Librarians’ Group.

Services to members
The Branch now keeps an up-to-date list of NSW members and their addresses.

In response to a request from the National Executive, the Committee wrote to lapsed NSW members asking why they had not renewed their memberships. Most responses were uncritical of the Society, but one comment was that the Society emphasises book indexing at the expense of database indexing.

The Committee also agreed to taking over the recruitment duties of the National Membership Officer. Although we spent a lot of time on it, so far we have not been particularly successful in our effort to develop effective recruitment methods. However, we have ascertained that there has been an increase in country membership, particularly in the Blue Mountains, and will canvass the possibility of holding events which they are more likely to be able to attend.

The Committee has discussed the establishment of a branch library, and will approach the membership for their views at the AGM.

Education
The Branch continued to sponsor courses conducted through the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies at the University of New South Wales. Two four-day courses covering an “Introduction to Book Indexing” (Alan Walker and Michael Wyatt) and “Computer-Aided Indexing” (Garry Cousins) was held at the School in June and November 1995. In return for this sponsorship, the Branch receives a royalty from the University.

AusSI medal
The NSW Branch was asked by the National Executive to take over the organisation of the award of the Medal in 1995. Alan Walker agreed to convene a Medal Committee; his report is presented separately.

Indexing in the Electronic Age Conference
The Committee suggested to the ACT Region Branch that a workshop or conference be held in conjunction with the Medal Award, and they agreed to organise and run it. Two NSW members, Garry Cousins and Dwight Walker, are speaking at the Conference.

Internet
Dwight Walker has written a series of introductory articles on the Internet for the Newsletter and The Indexer. He has worked jointly with a Victorian member in establishing up a World Wide Web page for the Society, with links to and from similar societies around the world. He has been appointed the Society’s Webmaster, and initiated the Web Indexing Prize.

Michael Wyatt
President
19 April 1996

 Aussie medal
The NSW Branch was asked by the National Executive to take over the organisation of the award of the Medal in 1995. Alan Walker agreed to convene a Medal Committee; his report is presented separately.

Indexing in the Electronic Age Conference
The Committee suggested to the ACT Region Branch that a workshop or conference be held in conjunction with the Medal Award, and they agreed to organise and run it. Two NSW members, Garry Cousins and Dwight Walker, are speaking at the Conference.

Internet
Dwight Walker has written a series of introductory articles on the Internet for the Newsletter and The Indexer. He has worked jointly with a Victorian member in establishing up a World Wide Web page for the Society, with links to and from similar societies around the world. He has been appointed the Society’s Webmaster, and initiated the Web Indexing Prize.

Michael Wyatt
President
19 April 1996

MACREX INDEXING PROGRAM

Don't be left in the dark, join other enlightened MACREX users to become
Master Artisans Creating Refined EXcellence

For details how, contact your Australian, New Zealand and South-East Asian agent
Max McMaster
Master Indexing
Phone/fax +61 (0)3 9571 6341
Email: mindexer@interconnect.com.au

Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter, Volume 20 No. 4, May 1996 3
Conferences

Indexing in the Electronic Age Conference Report

On 20-21 April 1996 at Robertson NSW the ACT Region Branch mounted a highly successful conference ‘Indexing in the electronic age’. There were eighty registrants - indexers, editors, publishers, librarians and other users.

On Saturday, Lynn Farkas began the conference by summarising the issues that are arising from the need for better access to the burgeoning mass of information being created by new technologies. She called for ideas on how indexers can contribute to this accessibility.

After a presentation of a variety of electronic indexes and finding aids by Roxanne Missingham, the conference heard case studies of indexing from organisations who have produced products in the multi-media field, including those of CCH Australia, Seantext and ACEL.

The current activities of publishers in this field were represented by Paul Mullins of AGPS, Helen Routh from CCH Australia, Richard Barber from ACEL and Evan Predavec from Butterworths. Garry Cousins contributed a concept of indexing on CD-ROMs.

Dinner on Saturday evening was hosted by the NSW Branch to present a report on their stewardship of the Society Medal for 1995.

On Sunday Tony Barry gave his views on indexing for the internet, Dwight Walker explained an exercise in hypertext navigation, and Geraldine Triffitt told of a case study of dictionary conversion.

Talks and papers at the conference will be available for publication in the Society Newsletter, in The Indexer, in LASIE. [All articles will also be published on the AussI Web site - Ed.]

The prominent thought that arose from the conference was that the complexity of the issues of indexing in this electronic age calls for action to achieve a new and closer relationship of author, publisher, editor and indexer. It seems that the indexing profession is well placed to take some new initiatives to ensure that we can make an optimum contribution in these exciting times.

Robert Hyslop

CINDEX Tip No 12

Getting started with patterns #2

Using *: the asterisk is used to indicate any number of occurrences of the preceding character. This command would find any two-digit number ending in 8:

FIND/PATTERN [0-9]*8

So, 18, 28, 38, etc. But add an asterisk to the command and it finds all sequences of numbers ending in 8:

FIND/PATTERN [0-9]*8

So 18, 168, 598, 1978, etc. Open an index and try it. You can also use the asterisk in combination with the question mark (which stands for any character) to search for any number of occurrences of any character. This command, for example, would find anything enclosed in round brackets:

FIND/PATTERN (?)

Using ^ and $: you can make a search more specific by using the caret or the dollar sign to find the pattern at the beginning or end of a field, respectively.

If the ^ is used as the first character in a pattern, CINDEX will find records which match the remainder of the pattern only if the patterns occurs at the beginning of a field. So this command will find all records which have fields beginning with the word or letters “as”:

FIND/PATTERN ^as

Similarly, using the $ at the end of a pattern will find matches of the pattern at the end of a field. So to find records which have anything in parentheses (like a date or an acronym) at the end of a field use:

FIND/PATTERN (?)*$

If you have a tip for other CINDEX users, or a problem, write to the Newsletter or contact Garry Cousins Phone/fax (02) 9955 1525

WEBIX Web indexing software

$5 demo disk DOS, Windows 3.1+
Contact Editor for a copy

Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter, Volume 20 No.4, May 1996
Yellow Pages Creates Publishing Support Headings

Yellow Pages National Headings Committee has approved the creation of new headings for indexers and editors. This is in response to Max McMaster's suggestion on behalf of the Society. They will become effective in the 1998 issue of the Yellow Pages Metropolitan and Country Directories. Below is from the letter by Judy Elliott, National Administration Manager:

A new Heading:
PUBLISHING SUPPORT SERVICES
- See Also
Proofreading
Writers, Consultants &/or Services

Amended Index Cross References:
EDITORIAL SERVICES - See
INDEXING SERVICES - See
Publishing Support Services

(available for 1997 directories)
EDITORIAL SERVICES - See
Proofreading

NSW Committee for 1996

The following office-bearers were elected on 9 May:
President: Kingsley Siebel
Treasurer: Pamela Johnstone
Secretary: Madeleine Davis
Publicity: Lorraine Doyle
Medal Coordinator: Alan Walker
Committee Members: Caroline Colton, Garry Cousins, Caroline Jones, Dwight Walker, Michael Wyatt

Welcome aboard to the new committee members!

Formation of Genealogy Special Interest Groups

Colin Mills, the newsletter editor of the Society of Indexers Genealogy Group (SIGG), has approached our Society to see whether any indexers are interested in forming genealogy special interest groups (SIGs) in our Society's branches and amongst members around Australia. Currently in the UK, the Federation of Family History Societies Computing Working Group has teamed up with members from the Society of Indexers to form family history groups. It is suggested that members not only include professional indexers but also amateur family history and local history indexers. Examples of indexes used by genealogists include St Catherine's House index.

For those interested please contact your nearest committee or for those without a local committee, please write to the Editor and I will circulate your names and contact phone numbers in the next issue of the Newsletter.

I have contacted a few members of the Federation of Family History Societies to see what they are doing with the Society of Indexers.

John V. Addis-Smith is the chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) Computer Working Party. He is in contact with the SI Genealogical Group (SIGG) because they are cooperating on a project to produce a large UK historical gazetteer. He is not a member of SIGG.

email: jaddis@rmplc.co.uk.

David Hawgood is editor of the computer section of Family Tree Magazine, a member of the computer committees of the Society of Genealogists and the Federation of Family History Societies, and an ordinary member of SIGG. (He has also written a few books on the use of computers for genealogy). He got involved in SIGG through some work on a gazetteer of UK place names, and joined so he would see the journal. SIGG and FFHS are working together on the gazetteer.

e-mail: 100534.1066@CompuServe.COM

URL: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/David_Hawgood/

David Squire is also on the Society of Genealogists computer committee and has run courses and conferences with David Hawgood.

e-mail: 100277.243@CompuServe.COM

URL: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/David_Squire/sigg.htm

SIGG contact address:
Colin Mills
70 Chestnut Lane, Amersham Common,
Buckinghamshire, HP6 6EH, UK, tel +44 1494 726103

Society of Indexers (UK)

TRAINING IN INDEXING

Open-learning course for indexing books, periodicals, images and other information media.
Write to:
the Training Administrator,
Society of Indexers, 38 Rochester Road,
London NW1 9JJ, England, UK

Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter, Volume 20 No. 4, May 1996
Awards

MEDAL FOR 1995 JUDGES’ REPORT

by Alan Walker, on behalf of the Judging Panel

Presented at the Indexing in the Electronic Age Conference, Ranelagh House, Robertson, NSW, 20 April 1996

1. ENTRIES

In 1995, the Australian Society of Indexers again offered a Medal for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

This year, a record number of twenty-eight indexes were submitted for the medal. By publication type, ten of the entries were tertiary textbooks, seven were scholarly works (three of them scholarly editions of letters and journals), two were reference books, two were technical manuals, two were periodicals, and the remaining five (not falling into any of the above categories), were the sort of publications which often appear in publishers’ lists under “General”.

While the range of publication type was thus quite varied, the disciplines and subject matter of the publications were more limited. Most were publications in the social sciences; six were social or cultural histories; five were on contemporary social sciences and policies; five were works on commerce, economics or management; and four were on politics. Surprisingly, in terms of the current employment pattern for Australian indexers, and also considering the history of indexing awards throughout the world, only two entries had any connection with the law, and neither of these were legal treatises or reference works. The only other disciplines with more than one representative were the biological sciences (five books) and the history of science and technology (three).

As we have already announced, no medal was awarded this year, but many high standard indexes were submitted and examined, and the judges would like to make some comments on some of them, particularly the two indexes which were highly commended.

2. THE JUDGING PROCESS

There were two parts to the judging process.

First, all indexes submitted were examined by at least two members of the preliminary assessment committee. This committee consisted of the five members of the New South Wales Branch committee of the Society who were not themselves candidates for the Medal. Each index was rated against a checklist of technical criteria, and also given an overall assessment of Outstanding, More than competent, Competent or Less than competent. Most entries submitted were at the very least competent, as one might expect; perhaps what is surprising is that one or two were borderline.

The judging panel, consisting of three non-indexers with a variety of expertise and experience in the information industry, plus one professional indexer, who is a former winner of the medal, made the final decisions at an all-day meeting where all the indexes rated highly by the preliminary assessment panel were re-examined in detail.

3. THE JUDGING PANEL

The panel consisted of:

- Prof. W. Boyd Rayward, Professor of Librarianship and Dean of the Faculty of Professional Studies at the University of New South Wales.
- Janet Donald, information consultant, editor and librarian.
- John Nieuwenhuizen, editor of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s 24 Hours Magazine, and formerly publisher, Reed Reference Publishing.
- Alan Walker, freelance indexer, and a previous winner of the Medal.
- Jeremy Fisher, who was the first recipient of the Medal, and is now an editor and publisher, originally agreed to be a member of the judging panel. Among the books submitted for this year’s Medal, however, were two with which Jeremy had been associated, as an editor and publisher. He therefore considered it inappropriate for him to contribute to the assessment for the Medal, and so we were sorry that we were not able to use his services this year.

4. JUDGING CRITERIA

The checklist of technical criteria which was used by the preliminary assessment panel was merely a guide to the overall competence and an indication of any outstanding features of the indexes. In the final analysis, the judges were looking particularly for outstanding qualities, for creativity, for imagination, for innovation, for solutions to complex problems, for indexes which complemented and added to the informative quality of the text.
Awards

For the record, however, the checklist of technical criteria which were considered as part of the preliminary assessment was as follows:

- Length of the index, compared with the length of the text.
- Accuracy of spelling, alphabetical order and locators.
- Number of undifferentiated locators.
- Appropriateness of punctuation; treatment of abbreviations and acronyms.
- Choice of headings.
- Quality of subheadings.
- Quality of cross-references.
- Appropriateness and quality of typography.
- Comprehensiveness of coverage and detail of entries.
- Presence, appropriateness and quality of the preliminary note.

The judges expected indexes on the short list to be at least competent on all these criteria, and preferably outstanding, but indexes which scored well overall were not eliminated merely because of trivial flaws or a poor rating on a single criterion.

It should be recorded that the number of minor flaws encountered, even in otherwise very good indexes, was surprisingly high. In common with previous judges of this and the equivalent overseas awards, we are bound to say that a perfect index appears to be very rare. But we emphasise that the final assessment was made not by counting errors, but by assessing the positive contribution made by the index to the overall quality of the publication.

5. COMMENTS ON SOME INDEXES CONSIDERED

The variety of the items on the short list—this term is used rather loosely, since books other than those discussed here were considered in the final round of judging—well reflects the range of subjects and publishing categories of the works submitted for the Medal. Among the items considered in the final round were both of the highly specialised technical manuals, two very detailed biological works (a textbook and a reference book), and a well-known scholarly publication.

The following comments on these are not intended as detailed assessments of the indexes submitted, but they may throw some light on the indexing requirements and problems in the categories which these indexes represent.

Technical Manuals

The two manuals on the short list referred to IBM and Hewlett Packard products.

Michael Wyatt compiled the index to the IBM Database 2 Performance Monitor Version 3. Report Reference. 1st ed (1985, 1993). The manual is in six volumes, each of which has an individual index; there is, in addition, a separate volume which is the Master Index to the entire manual. This was the most substantial work submitted for the award this year.

Hedley Finger compiled the index to Hewlett Packard’s 155/622 Mbs ATM Analyzer User’s Guide, which is an operating manual for an instrument designed to test high-speed digital telecommunications equipment and transmission systems, such as repeaters, switches and multiplexers.

In both of these cases, the indexers had to expend much energy in designing an appropriate index, the degree of difficulty for the jobs was high, and the indexers operated under some constraints of house style. The IBM index was also compiled under some software constraints, which had a strong effect on the indexing process. In both cases good, useful indexes were produced.

The judges were pleased that good quality indexes to technical manuals were submitted (perhaps for the first time?), and it does underline a number of questions which have been raised recently about the scope for the Medal, the range of work which might be considered for the award, and the appropriateness of the present rules of eligibility. One of the judges will make a separate report on these matters.

Biological Publications

Five works in this category were received, and we make a few comments on two which reached the short list.

Australian Beetles, by John F. Lawrence & E.B. Britton (Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1994) is a comprehensive reference book which was indexed by Max McMaster.


Both of these indexes were outstanding in the amount of detail, though neither was found to be fully comprehensive, consistent nor free from error. Both handle the large number of scientific names well, but also go beyond this, especially the Biology textbook, which provides extensive access to the topics covered in the
text. They also demonstrate, as biological indexes usually need to do, that indexes set in three or four columns in very small type need not be illegible.

**Scholarly Works**

The good-looking books submitted in this category generally had detailed indexes, which on close examination did not live up to the promise of the typography. Some indexes which were compiled by non-professional indexers (usually compilers or editors) did not demonstrate familiarity with established indexing principles, often excluded important categories of information and generally provided poorer access to the contents than the reader might expect.

An exception was one of the three indexes to scholarly letters and journals which we received. The publication was the widely known and highly regarded edition of literary correspondence, *Patrick White: Letters*, edited by David Marr (Milsoms Point, NSW: Random House Australia, 1994), which was also indexed by Michael Wyatt (who must have been kept busy in the past few years). This was by far the best index to books in this category, thoroughly competent in structure, and giving access to a great deal of detail in the text. Nevertheless, it did not always assemble the topics in ways which showed that the indexer had taken up all the main threads (personal, literary and political) of White’s life. We expect users of the book to include researchers in many fields of contemporary Australian life; we considered that those wishing to track some of White’s well-known concerns (with the environment, for instance) might find it difficult to identify all the relevant items through the index. In assessing this, and other indexes to works of this kind, we were looking for the imaginative complement to the text which an outstanding literary, social or historical index can achieve.

6. **THE TWO HIGHLY COMMENDED INDEXES**

Glenda Brown is highly commended for her index to *Pharmacology and Drug Information for Nurses* (Sydney: Harcourt Brace and Co., 1995).

This is both a reference book and a textbook. (The publishers describe it as a “reference text”.) In this edition, the preface states, the format has been radically changed to speed its use. The index is an integral part of the structure of the book, providing, through a thorough system of cross-references, access to a great many technical terms, scientific names and brand names, in a way which is clear and convenient for the users of the book. As the title indicates, the book is intended to be used by nurses, including student nurses, to provide accurate information about the clinical use of drugs, of which they may not have detailed knowledge. A number of features of the index indicated that the indexer had imagined how people would actually use the book, on the job.

The typography of the index is excellent, with a clear display and helpful differentiation of generic drug names (in bold) and trade names (in italics).

The introductory note indicates the thoughtful way in which the index has been compiled with the needs of the user in mind. The topical, or subject indexing is much fuller than is usual for an index to a book of this type, which is too often restricted to proper names. So, we have entries for topics such as “fibre, in constipation”, “first aid for poisoning” and “fluid replacement”, as well as topical subentries under the names of drugs to differentiate their various uses, such as “methadone, in heroin withdrawal”, “methadone, in pain relief” and “methadone, in pregnancy”.

The few minor flaws and omissions which were identified by the judges were insignificant compared with the generally high level of professional competence demonstrated by the indexer, and the evidence of her thoughtful application of indexing principles to the needs of this specialised text.

Also highly commended is Pamela Johnstone for her index to the periodical *Online Currents*, vol. 9, 1994 (Willoughby, NSW: Enterprise Information Management, 1995). It is interesting that the index is also available on the Internet through the web home page of the State Library of New South Wales. For the purpose of the medal judging, however, the index was assessed on its quality as a published periodical index, rather than as an online index.

The index covers one year (ten issues) of a periodical, which since 1986 has published articles, comments and news items about the Australian and international online information industry. As befits a periodical covering the cutting edge of a high-technology industry, a great deal of its contents is news, reporting on both technical and business aspects of the industry. One expects that the periodical would be read and consulted regularly by users of online information, including librarians and other information professionals, as well as by publishers, database developers and other online information providers. The judges commend the index for the unusual and thorough detail with which it indexes the contents of the periodical, including advertisements, product notices and details of conference, all of which are important for users of a current awareness publication such as this. While the typography is not distinguished, it is clear, and the use of cross-references is mostly as thorough as it has to be in a field in which obscure and inelegant acronyms sprout daily. The indexer has tried to anticipate the users’ needs by providing both a full range of cross-references...
Awards

and, very often, informative expansions of headings and subheadings to indicate the nature of the information being indexed.

While the judges identified some minor errors and inconsistencies, and found the topical subject headings to be limited and fairly broad (e.g. "Schools"), this is a thoroughly competent periodical index, which must increase greatly the value of Online Currents to its subscribers and users.

7. THE MEDAL

Finally, in deciding not to award the Medal this year, the judges were motivated by the value of the Medal to the Society as well as to individual recipients and their publishers. Over and above the honour the Medal brings to the recipient, the glory reflects on the Society's own standards. The Medal is the Society's highest accolade, a recognition not just of quality, but of outstanding work of a standard which sets it apart from the very many good indexes which are produced in Australia and New Zealand each year. This year, no one index was considered to fulfil all the requirements which the Society expects of its medal-winner, and therefore the judges reluctantly, but unanimously, decided not to award a medal for 1995.

We applaud the two fine indexes which we have highly commended. We congratulate their compilers. And we hope that the judges for the 1996 medal receive entries at least as varied and exciting as the field we enjoyed assessing—and preferably even more so!

Indexers Available 1995-96

The new edition of Indexers Available has recently been published, and copies have been distributed free to publishing houses throughout Australia who provide work for indexers.

The cost to others is $15 per copy. Please make cheques payable to: Australian Society of Indexers and post to:

Indexers Available,
Australian Society of Indexers,
GPO Box 1251,
Melbourne, VIC 3001

Book Reviews

Press Release from H.W. Wilson
New Edition of Wilson's
Indexing from A to Z by Hans H. Wellisch

Like its highly praised predecessor, Indexing from A to Z will help authors, students, and beginning indexers, as well as experienced practitioners and specialists, with both back-of-the-book indexing and the indexing of periodicals and nonprint material.

The Second Edition also cites the newest standards in the field, addresses new topics like automatic indexing and the indexing of legal and medical texts, and updates many other sections, including the extensive bibliography.

Indexing from A to Z, Second Edition is arranged alphabetically in articles that cover all aspects of indexing, including such topics as alphabetical, chronological and classified order of entries, automatic indexing, corporate names, cumulative indexes, exhaustivity, keywords, the indexing process and its techniques, legal and medical texts, length of indexes, natural and controlled languages, personal and place names, proofreading, specificity, string indexing, technical manuals and reports, and thesauri. Also addressed are topics of interest to professional indexers, such as author-publisher-indexer relations, contracts, copyright, costing equipment, fees, reference works, and typography.

The volume was written by Hans H. Wellisch, Professor emeritus at the College of Library and Information Services of the University of Maryland, and former president of the American Society of Indexers. Professor Wellisch received the first H.W. Wilson Award for Excellence in Indexing for the index he compiled for his own work The Conversion of Scripts.

Positive comments for the First Edition:

"On balance... this is probably the most useful resource available today for the person who must compile a print index and wants help in learning how to go about the task." — Library Quarterly

"The author’s style is easy and informal, his carefully researched text enlivened with illustrations from history and personal serendipity." — The Indexer

"A must for any school, research or public library." — ARBA

Indexing from A to Z, Second Edition
U.S. and Canada, $45 other countries
For more information: Barbara Ottervik, Advertising email: bottervik@wb.hwwilson.com
URL: http://www.hwwilson.com
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

NATIONAL/ VICTORIAN BRANCH
GPO Box 1251
Melbourne Vic. 3001
Phone: (03) 9571 6341
Email: mindexer@interconnect.com.au

World Wide Web URL:
Webmaster Email: aussi@zeta.org.au

President: John Simkin (03) 9429 8817
Vice Pres: Max McMaster (03) 9571 6341
Secretary: Ian Odgers (03) 9398 4988
Email: igo@interconnect.com.au

Minutes Secretary: Sandra Whitbourn
Treasurer: Joyce Gillespie (03) 9654 8527 or
Phone/Fax: (03) 9710 1270

Editor: Dwight Walker
2/1 Nelson Street, Randwick NSW 2031
Phone: (02) 398 6726, Fax: (02) 438 3729

Committee Members:
Margaret Findlay
George Levick
Josephine McGovern
Ann Philpott
Michael Ramsden

NSW BRANCH
PO Box R598
Royal Exchange
Sydney NSW 2000
Email: dwight@zip.com.au

President: Kingsley Siebel (02) 477 3149
Fax: (02) 476 4378
Secretary: Madeleine Davis
Phone: (02) 438 5343
Treasurer: Pamela Johnstone
Phone: (047) 57 3045

Committee Members:
Caroline Colton, Garry Cousins
Lorraine Doyle, Neale Towart
Caroline Jones, Alan Walker
Dwight Walker, Michael Wyatt

ACT REGION BRANCH
GPO Box 2069
Canberra ACT 2601

President: Geraldine Triffitt (06) 246 1177
Fax: (06) 249 7310
Email: grt@aiatsis.gov.au
Secretary: Shirley Campbell (06) 234 2225
Fax: (06) 234 2237
Email: Shirley.Campbell@Radford.act.edu.au
Treasurer: Laurelle Tunks (06) 234 1139
rodtunks@netinfo.com.au

Committee Members:
Robert Hyslop, Joan Jensen, Lynn Farkas,
Susan MacDougall, Robert Withercombe

© Australian Society of Indexers, 1996