



Australian Society of Indexers NEWSLETTER

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Contact for Membership '96

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Editorial

Greetings! Max McMaster starts with a witty and interesting report on the Bristol Conference in April. Garry Cousins' paper *Conceptual indexing for CD-ROMs: beyond free text searching* continues the Indexing in the Electronic Age series. This is on our Web site too. Liz Lee's PAIR project and Garry Cousins' missive on typesetting with CINDEX end the issue. NB: **New deadline: 23 August - a week earlier.** That's all for this month. See you next month...

Dwight Walker, Editor and Webmaster

Robertson Conf Procs in LASIE

All the papers will be published in LASIE (Information Bulletin of the Library Automated Systems Information Exchange) in September and December. The Editor of LASIE is interested to know **how many people** want to order them so he can arrange back-issues. Price: \$10 + \$3.50 p/h, a total of \$27. Next issue details on how to order will be provided.

Meetings and Training:

Friday 4 Sep, 5.30pm, Brisbane - see oppos.

Tuesday 17 Sep 1996 at 6.00pm, Canberra

General Meeting at the Friends Room at the National Library of Australia. Michael Harrington of Australian Government Publishing Service will speak on "Evaluating an index." Refreshments served. \$10. Contact Shirley Campbell Ph (06)234 2225(W) (06)2851006(H)

Tuesday 1 October, Adelaide

Inaugural meeting of SA group. Joint meeting with Ed Soc (SA) - Max McMaster speaking. Contact: see p.10

Wednesday 27 Nov 1996 pm, Sydney

Combined Christmas Party / Medal Dinner

Contact: Garry Cousins (02) 9955 1525

Nov 1996, Melbourne, Indexing Course

The Victorian Branch is running a three-day Introduction to Book Indexing Course, in Melbourne in early November 1996. The minimum number of ten people has been reached so the course is on. Contact:

Max McMaster, ph/fax (03) 9571 6341, e-mail: mindexer@interconnect.com.au

Branch News

Delays to *Indexers Available* on Web

All committees are unanimous about waiting until the next edition of *Indexers Available* before considering putting it on the Web. The Vic/National Committee decided at its meeting in June to accede to NSW Branch's concerns over privacy, and to not mount the current edition of *Indexers Available* on the Web.

The committee decided to wait until the entry form is sent out for the next edition, on which provision will be made for obtaining consent to having details published on the Web. No further action will be taken until an editor for the next edition of *Indexers Available* is appointed early next year. Steve Sunter has taken over the task of checking out the required technology and sites for the future Web *Indexers Available*.



Society of Editors (Qld) welcomes Qld Indexers by Lesley Bryant

By mutual agreement between AusSI and The Society of Editors (Queensland), the 14 members of AusSI scattered throughout Queensland are receiving *Offpress* for the first time in addition to the *Newsletter*.

All AusSI Queenslanders are invited to attend The Society of Editors functions which include the monthly dinner meeting in Brisbane and workshops in regional centres too. All are assured of a warm welcome, stimulating company and informative speakers. So thanks to the Editors!

This is the second attempt to get a Queensland Branch off the ground. Again starting with an informal group but this time with the support of The Society of Editors, this fledgling group has a much better chance of survival.

The inaugural meeting will take place at 5.30pm prior to the 6.30pm dinner meeting of The Society of Editors at the University of Queensland Staff Club on **Friday 4 September**. Max McMaster will be the after dinner speaker so indexers and editors alike may find out what they have always wondered about indexing but were afraid to ask. For further information contact:

Lesley Bryant (07) 3352 6869, fax (07) 3356 7171.

→ p.10

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Conferences



A Report on the Society of Indexers Conference, Bristol, 12-14 April, 1996 by Max McMaster

The Conference started in typical English weather. It was raining! As one of the invited guests I must admit I arrived late, having got stuck in some incredible traffic jam and then having crawled out of it proceeded to get totally lost within 15 km of the destination. The Conference was held at The Hawthorns, which started its life as a respectful hotel but was converted into student accommodation within the confines of the expanded University of Bristol. I couldn't believe that such a rabbit-warren of a building could exist. Just to get to my room on the first floor was an expedition in itself. The lift to the first floor was the easy part. Once alighting from the lift I had to negotiate 7 doors and 5 flights of stairs to get to my room, and I was still on the first floor!

The Conference theme was communication and was centred around several keynote papers interspersed with short topical "Soapbox" items where views could be aired, and panel sessions. Elinor Lindheimer (President, ASI) spoke about indexing and the internet. She outlined how many of the major US publishers were happy to accept indexes transmitted electronically, but to my astonishment they would (or could?) only accept files sent as ASCII text. Graham Bell from HarperCollins (UK) also addressed this same issue of email and the internet, but more from the perspective of receiving author manuscripts in an amazingly diverse range of electronic forms, with the requirement of the publisher being to convert them into something compatible with the typesetting system.

To me one of the most interesting papers was from Noeline Bridge, current Membership Secretary and Treasurer of the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada (IASC). Noeline spoke about the tyranny of distance which affected the 113 members of the Canadian society, and the problems of regionalisation. Her paper very closely paralleled our Australian situation with difficulties in maintaining contact with widely-scattered members.

Andrea Truran, a lecturer at the University of Central England in Birmingham outlined some results from a survey she had undertaken on indexers' and publishers' views of indexing. Her survey was interesting in that it covered topics such as the qualities that make a good indexer; age groupings of indexers, and hourly rates charged. The published results will appear in the October, 1996 issue of *The Indexer*.

The issue of training and qualifications for indexers was addressed through a panel session with Elizabeth Wallis from the Training and Accreditation Board as the chief presenter. I was surprised to learn that the attainment of registration with the Society of Indexers is based almost totally on a slavish adherence to British Standard 3700 in the presented index, rather than on practical indexing which is acceptable and required by publishers.

Talking of training, my paper was on the value of training editors in indexing - the perceived advantages and possible disadvantages of such a system. The paper was very well received judging by the many questions I received afterwards. One interesting point which arose was where did we find in Australia sufficient qualified indexers to conduct training courses. The question arose because the major problem in the UK is that there are very few indexers who can run training, hence the reason there are so few courses.

Richard Raper compared wordprocessor and other computer tagging systems, including concordance and embedded indexing systems, with traditional computer-aided indexing. He considered the advantages and disadvantages of each system, but in the end came out very much in favour of the computer-assisted indexing systems.



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Conferences

One of the panel sessions also looked at the issue of fees and the desirability of setting recommended rates for indexers. A fees working party had been established and had considered how much an indexer needed to be paid to cover basic costs like the mortgage, food, gas, electricity, etc. This figure was to be the starting point in determining an indexing rate. However, it was at this point the session livened up and the thorny issue of whether the Society should set a rate at all raised its head. One of the sticking points was over the applicability of an Inland Revenue Office (UK) ruling over the use of recommended or even minimum rates. The issue was not resolved but the meeting felt a minimum rate would be desirable. I couldn't agree more, the current average rate charged by back-of-book indexers in the UK in 1996 is £11.25 per hour (around \$22.50 in Australia). [*Pretty low. Ed.*]

Drusilla and Hilary Calvert ran a session on the latest developments and enhancements with Macrex, whilst Frances Lennie and Gary Hall ran a similar session for Cindex.

The entertainment for the Conference came from Robin Bush, who is a historian, broadcaster, lecturer, dramatist and storyteller. He was previously an archivist in Somerset, and it was through this work he recounted many of his anecdotes. He was absolutely brilliant.

Like most conferences the most enjoyable part was the mingling with fellow attendees, and discussing indexing issues either over meals or in the evening over drinks. One message which came through loud and clear was that indexing issues are the same whether you come from San Francisco, Alberta, Dublin, Bath or Melbourne. There might be local variations but essentially the issues are the same. What a great feeling!

I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, and strongly recommend any member to try and attend the next conference. Two possible locations have been mooted - Dublin or York.



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

CINDEX Tip N°15

Making files for typesetters #3

Making generic typesetting files

CINDEX can make files which comply with generic markup standards established by both ANSI and the University of Chicago Press. To make an ANSI file, type **aap** in the **File type** option of the **Typesetting** menu, which you can bring up with SET TYPE, if you just want to change the setting, or PRINT/FILE, if you actually want to make a file. Similarly, to make a UCP file, type **ucp** in the **File type** option.

Customising a File type with your own typesetting codes

In negotiation with your typesetter, you may want to create your own file type, which, though a plain ASCII file, will also contain agreed upon codes for things like the start and end of italics and boldface, en rules, subheading indents, etc.

You can modify the **dostext** File type (which makes plain ASCII files) to include such codes. Let's say we want **<i>** to represent the start of italics, and **</i>** to represent the end. Give the command SET TYPE and type **dostext** in the **File type** option. Press Alt-C to open the table of characters, which will be blank.

Use the arrow key to move to the **italic on** option two lines down. Type in **<i>**, then move down to the next line and type **</i>** in the **italic off** option. Press <Enter> to confirm the changes. Now (if you have an index open), you can PRINT/FILE and produce an ASCII file in which italicised characters will be enclosed within the **<i>** and **</i>** codes. Your typesetter can simply search for them and replace them with whatever codes his or her machine uses.

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

Genealogy SIG Progress

Liz Vincent our contact has had enquiries on place names and genealogical indexing training. Judy Webster can provide a directory of genealogical indexing projects in Australia (p.9).

Genealogy indexing contact:

Ms Liz Vincent, PO Box 111, Picton 2571,
tel/fax (046) 772044

Indexing in the Electronic Age Papers

Conceptual indexing for CD-ROMs: beyond free text searching by Garry Cousins

Available on the Web:

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/cousinsg.html>

In early November 1995 Macquarie Library Pty Ltd, publishers of the *Macquarie Dictionary*, asked me to consider taking on the twin tasks of proofreading the scanned text of Manning Clark's six-volume *History of Australia*, and indexing it, their plan being to issue the text of Clark's *History* as an indexed CD-ROM. Over the next two months I met with the publisher, editor and computer programmers at Macquarie to discuss specifications for the project, and also prepared some estimates. I began indexing in earnest in mid-January 1996 and at the time of writing (April 1996) I am just over half-way.

My contribution to this work-in-progress is one part of a team effort, which also includes the contribution of a publisher, an editor, production assistants, and computer programmers. Today I won't be talking about big questions like the overall presentation of CD-ROM indexes, or the design details of search engines for CD-ROMs, but rather of matters which relate to my brief for this project, which is restricted to the tasks of proofreading and coding the text with index entries. In particular, I want to tell you how the execution of these tasks for a CD-ROM have entailed some departures from normal book indexing practice. Of course, the very first departure from book indexing was the fact that I was doing all my work on-screen: the text was on-screen, not on page proofs.

In several preliminary meetings we discussed the logistics of proofreading and indexing the *History*. It was decided I would proofread the disks against the original hard copy and make corrections directly on-screen. The logistics of indexing were more complicated.

Free-text searching

Many text-based CD-ROMs already exist in the market which use free-text searching, with varying sophistication, as the sole means of information retrieval. To the credit of the publisher at Macquarie, Richard Tardif, it was taken for granted in this project that free-text searching is not an efficient way to navigate one's way precisely around a text of any size, particularly when one is searching for conceptual information as well as simple names. Relying wholly on a text-search facility which can only locate literal strings of text has several serious drawbacks for searchers:



(1) a concept which is not mentioned literally is overlooked, even though the subject may be discussed at length

(2) the search criteria must match the text exactly. For example if you are searching a text online for Mozart's date of death a Boolean search combining the elements "Mozart" and "death" will miss a piece of text which runs: '... and so Mozart died in 1791', even though that passage contains the crucial information

(3) a very successful search may oblige the searcher to scan dozens or even hundreds of entries, with no clue as to which aspect of the topic each refers.

Because of these shortcomings Macquarie did not want to rely solely on free-text searching, but wanted a comprehensive subject index, with a cross-reference structure which would take into account variations in vocabulary likely to be used by searchers. Searchers needed to be able to enter a topic discussed but not necessarily mentioned literally in the text, and have the search engine respond either with instances of text which discussed the topic, or a reference to related segments of text which did. However, we conceded that some types of information in the text could be retrieved quite efficiently using free-text searching, and did not need to be coded. When the programmers at Macquarie write the search engine for this CD-ROM they will be writing what will actually be a hybrid of a text-search capability and a text-linked index.

Choice of terms

It was simply not practical financially to code *everything* in the text: subjects, dates, personal names, corporate names and placenames. Some compromises had to be made. We decided it was essential that I make entries for:

- (1) all subjects (e.g. Aborigines, convicts, emancipation, gold rushes, transportation, etc.)
- (2) all decades (e.g. 1820s)

The terms chosen for the subjects, and the decades, would be typed in at the beginning of each paragraph in which the subject or decade was referred to. These terms and dates would be coded for the programmer by enclosing them in angle brackets, like a sort of pseudo SGML. For example, <1830s> or <emancipation>. The paragraph was our reference unit, although in many respects an arbitrary one.

Indexing in the Electronic Age Papers

We agreed I would *not* index:

- (1) personal names
- (2) placenames
- (3) corporate names
- (4) specific years (eg. 1854)

This decision has been slightly modified in the course of its application. We decided that most personal names *could* be searched very well using ordinary text searching; for example, if John O'Donohue is only mentioned three times in the whole work, text searching with good software on a fast machine can find the mentions efficiently. But in order for it to work there were two provisos: there had to be relatively few homographs in the text, and names being searched could only be mentioned once or a handful of times in the entire text.

A search of the printed indexes to the six hardcover volumes revealed that homographs were not numerous (e.g. 11 in the 390 pages of volume I). Although it would mean the searcher would occasionally have to discriminate between different persons, or places and persons with the same name, we decided the risk of confusion was small, and that homographs were not a big obstacle to simple text searching for personal names.

Names which were mentioned often, however, called for different treatment. Text searches for frequently mentioned names are likely to be *too* successful: where does one start if a simple text search for William Wentworth returns 300 hits? Names such as these obviously had to be treated as they are in book indexes: they had to be subdivided into their various aspects.

This entailed the second major departure from book indexing: frequently mentioned persons were to be coded as index entries, but infrequently-mentioned persons were not. The latter were to be found by simple text-search, but the former were to be indexed/coded with a subheading. It will be the programmers' job to merge these two access points in the CD-ROM's search engine, so that when a searcher types in a name, the program will first check the differentiated, human-created list to see if it is a frequently-used name. If it is, the searcher will be shown the subtopics relating to that person; if not, the program will proceed with a simple text-search for the name.

To help me decide which names to include in the differentiated list, I consult the indexes to the hard-copy volumes. I decided to use the same rule-of-thumb that applies in book indexing, namely that a heading should be subdivided once more than 7 or 8 references accumulate. If a name in the hard-copy index had more than this number of references I provide subheadings as soon as I begin to code the name. I soon got used to consulting the hard-copy index each time a new name

appeared, but it was hard to get used to coding some names while letting others flow by untouched, so to speak.

Some compromises were needed in order to meet budget: it was decided that placenames and corporate names could also be located by free-text searching, and not subdivided. This is not a problem for the vast majority of placenames or corporate names mentioned only once or a few times, but makes searching for a handful of key places like Sydney and Van Diemen's Land difficult to do with precision. Rather the searcher needs to make their search specific. For example, to find information about the introduction of gas lighting in Sydney you would search first for gas-lighting, not Sydney. One good spin-off from this compromise is that it has forced me to index more specifically.

Budget constraints also forced us to accept some compromise with regard to indexing dates. Originally it had been hoped that dates could be coded down to the specificity of a day, but this proved far too expensive. We settled on coding decades and centuries, leaving individual dates to be found by free-text searching. This has drawbacks more apparent in some sections of the *History* than others. It is quite workable in, say, volume I which covers a period spanning from the 14th century to the 19th century, but in volume II, which covers only sixteen years, it is of limited use.

These compromises regarding names and dates notwithstanding, the primary purpose of the index was to provide subject access to the text. We decided to index all subjects, regardless of whether or not the actual topic or subject name appears in the text. Taking the paragraph as the basic unit, a keyword enclosed in angle brackets would be inserted, or embedded, at the beginning of each paragraph in which the topic was mentioned. If the treatment lasted for more than one paragraph, the coded keyword would be embedded at the beginning of each paragraph, until the discussion stopped. If a particular subject was mentioned often, the specific nature of the mention would be pinpointed with a subheading; for example, <transportation: abolition of>.

Materials and working methods

Macquarie has provided the text of the *History* in hard-copy (some 2500 separate pages) and as 19 disks containing 94 Microsoft Word files, which have been produced using a scanner. The scanning job is very good and although the detail in footnotes suffered a little, the copy is quite clean.

The six already existing indexes to the individual hard-cover volumes are of little direct use: the references to page numbers mean little once the text is up on screen as one long scrollable document, 2500 pages or 5000 screens long. But they have proved very useful as a

Indexing in the Electronic Age Papers

means of ascertaining in advance names which will require subheadings.

Now that I have been working for some time I have settled into a routine: I proofread a file, usually a chapter long, on-screen first, with the original hard copy by my side as the master copy. I soon learnt that the scanner made some regular mistakes like translating the letters "cl" as "d", or "in" as the letter "m", or replacing em dashes with hyphens or en dashes, and have devised a list of such errors which I look for as a matter of course each time I open a new file. I make corrections directly on-screen.

Then I start coding the text. After reading a paragraph I decide on appropriate dates and keywords and insert them in angle brackets at the beginning of the paragraph. These coded terms will, of course, be hidden from the reader in the final product, which is just as well, because they can occupy considerable bulk. A paragraph might have seven or eight keywords, often with subheadings, attached to it, so that the coding runs for several lines. The paragraph beginning might also carry one or more dates; if several dates were mentioned in the paragraph, several dates would be coded and inserted: <1820s><1830s><1840s><1850s> etc. I have included a sample of coded text at the end of this paper.

It is essential to keep a thesaurus or authority list to maintain consistency in the choice of keywords. I decided to use a dedicated indexing program, CIN-DEX, to compile my authority list. Because I am coding the text in Microsoft Word for Windows I can also have CIN-DEX open in a window simultaneously, so that after inserting a keyword in the text, I can copy it to the Clipboard, switch to CIN-DEX with one keystroke (Alt-Tab), and paste the entry into the authority list. I just have to be careful to duplicate every term when I am inserting five or six keywords in the text. Although they won't be in the final subject index, I include file numbers in the page field of the records in the authority list, so that when I have to go back and edit a heading I can locate the relevant file quickly. So a record might look like this:

>population
>in Van Diemen's Land (1850)
P>43

In this record, "43" refers not to a page, but to File 43 (which contains, say, pages 180-197 from chapter 9 of volume 3).

The authority list also includes *see* and *see also* references, made in exactly the same way as for book indexing. On the final product I imagine the searcher will click on the cross-reference in order to bring up the related or preferred topic.

Generally the 94 files correspond to chapters, but the match is not always perfect, so I also use CIN-DEX to compile a chapter list with corresponding file numbers and pagination. For example:

File 1 = vol 1, chapt 1 (pp 1-24)
File 2 = vol 1, chapt 2 (pp 25-29) ...

File 41 = vol 3, chapt 7 (pp 140-160)
File 42 = vol 3, chapt 8/9 (pp 161-179)
File 43 = vol 3, chapt 9 (pp 180-197)
File 44 = vol 3, chapt 10/11 (pp 198-216)
File 45 = vol 3, chapt 11 (pp 217-239) etc.

This has proved to be of considerable help in navigating my way around the files when editing.

Sample of coding in one paragraph from Manning Clark's *History of Australia*

<1840s><1850s><moral campaigns><women: moral protection of><Grey, George: recommends resumption of immigration><immigration: to South Australia><labour: employment agencies>No other colony besides New South Wales produced a woman of the stature, **single-mindedness** or industry of Mrs Chisholm, but in all the others reception committees, immigration officers and philanthropists laboured for the protection of the immigrants' morals and encouraged the growth of those virtues of self-reliance, industry, purity and family affection so dear to the heart of Mrs Chisholm. In Melbourne there was a Ladies' Female Immigrant Society, presided over by the head of the Anglican Church, a fine example of benevolent usefulness, and a most necessary antidote to the rottenness, sloth and moral evils to which the migrants too often succumbed because of the monotony of their long journey. In South Australia, after Grey recommended its resumption in January 1843, assisted immigration resumed with such a bang that 35 per cent of all assisted migrants going to the Australian colonies were sent to South Australia. There a Benevolent and Strangers' Friend Society administered relief to the needy and promoted the moral and spiritual welfare of immigrants. Its secretary, a Mr Maguire, activated by much more exalted principles than gain, and a seasoner of all his work with true Christian humility, placed unmarried females in homes and found employment for the afflicted and disconsolate who were far from the land of their birth. There was also a Colonial Labour Committee which assumed the responsibility of finding employment for members of both sexes and of influencing both employers and workers to uphold agreements, taking care not to interfere with the price of labour but requiring master and man to make their own terms. In that colony the zeal to protect the morals of female

Project Automatic Indexing And Retrieval (PAIR)

by Elizabeth Lee

The index to *Order Out of Chaos* (mentioned in the April 1996 Newsletter) forms the initial stage of the thinking through of an aspect of the automatic indexing component of Project Automatic Indexing and Retrieval (PAIR), i.e. the detail of indexing necessary for effective retrieval where the indexing of the contents of material on the Internet is the goal.

Given the size of the task, the emphasis of the project is on the development of efficient and cost-effective means of indexing and retrieving data which by-pass the need to standardize data and user requirements:


- The automatic indexing component of PAIR will result in a software package which will allow indexing across
 - (1) print, microform and electronic files (including full text files and the Internet),
 - (2) languages and scripts (e.g. Chinese and Japanese characters, Cyrillic and Arabic script, both printed and handwritten), and enabling individuals and the institutions to index data to their own specifications. Thus it will assist with the increased provision of data generally as material is progressively indexed.
- The database searching component will allow subject searching both within and across subject areas, formats, categories of material within publications, languages, scripts, geographical areas, types of data and the Internet.

The era of standardization it seems to me is past. Standardization is by its very nature costly and inefficient and given the scale of the information explosion, resistance to the loss of individuality, the time involved in negotiations around standard forms and ongoing authority control, and the complexities caused by the sheer scale and international nature of the ever-expanding problem, it is time to look at radical alternatives.

The aim of the indexing software package is to allow indexers to continue to gear their indexes to the needs of the specific subject area and clientele, while providing a framework which will accommodate non-standard data in the wider electronic environment.

The database searching structure similarly aims to accommodate individual searching styles using automatic linkages to data based on surveys on user requirements by subject area.

The project is somewhat expanded since our earlier discussions. We are currently looking at ways of mapping the thinking processes of indexers and database searchers, i.e. the collection of data relevant to the choice of subject headings/keywords etc, preparatory to the development of automatic pathways for the database searching structure. The Society's involvement in this and other aspects of the project would be most valuable and I invite you to nominate a contact person

immigrants reached such a pitch by the beginning of 1851 that the first mate on the *Joseph Soames* had £5 deducted from his gratuity for speaking to the female immigrants, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the surgeon on the ship not to do so, and despite testimony that in all other ways his conduct had been decorous and proper. In Hobart Town in Franklin's day the wife of the Lieutenant-Governor, the wife of the head of the Anglican Church and the wife of the Chief Justice appointed themselves guardians of the material and moral welfare of migrants. 


Bios for July/August papers

Garry Cousins, 2/27 Whatmore St, Waverton 2027

Garry Cousins qualified as a librarian but has been working as a freelance book indexer since 1988, mostly in the social sciences and law. Garry teaches indexing at the University of New Wales and Macquarie University, and has also taught indexing to editors at LBC Information Services. He is the Australian editor of *Brief Entry*, a newsletter for law indexers. Garry was accepted as a registered member of the Australian Society of Indexers in 1990 and was the inaugural New South Wales branch president of the Society from 1990 to 1992.

Glenda Browne, PO Box 307 Blaxland NSW 2774

Glenda is a freelance indexer with a background in biotechnology and information management. After a stint in sole charge of a small hospital library she moved into library teaching at Mt Druitt TAFE, which she now combines with indexing (in partnership with her husband Jonathan Jerney) and caring for their six-year old son. She has indexed articles for the CSIRO Index database, and has created book indexes on subjects ranging from Communication to Chemistry. Glenda's index to Pharmacology and Drug Information for Nurses was Highly Recommended in the 1995 AUSSI medal awards.

[Glenda wrote 'Automatic Indexing and Abstracting' which was published in July 1996. Ed.] 


New Members

Ms B. Bessant, Lane Cove, NSW
Ms M. Cody, Mt Waverley, Vic.
Ms J. Forrest, Bridgeman Downs, Qld
Mrs A. Jukiel, Campbelltown, NSW
Mr R. Leydon, Surrey Hills, Vic.
Ms J. Patterson, Magill, SA
Mr D. Schubert, Highgate, SA

Rejoined

Dr E. Wood-Ellem, Alphington, Vic.

Registered (correction from June 96 issue)

James Anderson	Roger Frey
Simon Cauchi	Richard Maynard
Dora Chai	Margaret Shand
Cecilia Clarke	Bruce Shaw 

with whom we can initiate more detailed discussions.

Contact: Elizabeth Lee, 4 Gray St, Norwood 5069

email: liz@dvcr.adelaide.edu.au

If interested, write to the Editor for next issue.



AUSI LAPEL PIN



To make AusSI members stand out from the crowd, the Society has produced a lapel pin featuring the AusSI logo which can be worn at anytime. It can be worn to AusSI get

together to enhance professional recognition, but equally importantly can be worn on other occasions where it can be used to initiate conversation, when someone asks "What is that pin?" The pin will provide good PR for the Society and for the profession.

The pin is based on the design of the face of the AusSI Medal. It is silver plate, 20 mm in diameter (about the size of a \$2 coin - actual size above) and has a secure fastening for the pin. The price is \$7.00, which includes postage within Australia. All proceeds will go towards furthering the aims of the Society. To honour future Life members of AusSI, they will be presented with gold lapel pins.

To order your silver AusSI lapel pin, please send your cheque made out to the Australian Society of Indexers, to:

AusSI Lapel Pin
Australian Society of Indexers
GPO Box 1251
Melbourne VIC 3001

Honorary Life Membership

The National Committee is now seeking nominations from Branches, Groups and/or individual members for the first award of Honorary Life Memberships of the Society.

Initially nominations, by a nominator and a seconder accompanied by an outline of the case supporting such nomination should be sent to the Secretary.

The National Committee will select two nominations for presentation to the next Annual General Meeting, for voting by members, where a two thirds majority decision will apply.

In April 1996 Newsletter criteria for nominations of candidates and Guidelines for Election of Honorary Life Members were set out.

The criteria for nominations may be summarized as:

1. The member nominated shall have at least 10 years membership of the Society.
2. The case supporting the nomination will be evidence of outstanding service by way of committee membership; service as an office bearer; and/or outstanding contribution to the Society and/or to the Indexing profession.



ACER Education Thesaurus

Indexers in education and related fields are advised that the second edition of the Australian Thesaurus of Education Descriptors has been produced. Released in April 1996, it is available for the cost of \$150 plus freight / handling charges.

The thesaurus has been revised, updated and expanded significantly since the 1984 edition. This new edition features:

- 9,690 vocabulary terms with scope notes and cross references to broader, narrower and related terms;
- over 1,000 new descriptors
- many additional cross-references and scope notes to help the user locate and define the right descriptors
- comprehensive extension of the areas of educational and information science technology, languages, national, cultural, and racial groups, restructuring in education, training and labour market reform.
- The thesaurus presents the terms in an alphabetical descriptor sequence as well as in forty one broad subject groups, and a rotated descriptor display which provides a permuted alphabetical index to all words that form the Thesaurus terms.

Enquiries can be directed to Margaret Findlay, Manager, The Cunningham Library, at Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Tel: 03 92775549; Fax 03 92775500; email: findlay@acer.edu.au. Orders to Customer Service, ACER, Private Bag 55, Camberwell 3124; Fax 03 92775678. (Please quote Cat. No. 501BK).

1995 Wheatley Medal Winners

An index to the illustrations in the well known Victorian journal *The Builder* wins the prestigious 1995 Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index. Ruth Richardson and Robert Thorne are the compilers of the *The Builder Illustrations Index 1843-1883*, published by Hutton and Rostron in 1994.

Dr **Ruth Richardson** is Leverhulme Research Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. She teaches Victorian Studies at Birkbeck College, London and has written a number of articles on architecture and public health. Her book *Death, Dissection and the Destitute* was published by Penguin in 1989.

Robert Thorne is a Senior Associate at Alan Baxter and Associates, structural engineers. He is the editor of the journal *Construction History*, and author of many books and articles on nineteenth century architecture and engineering, including *Covent Garden Market: Its History and Renovation* (1980) and (with Michael Hunter) *All Change at Kings Cross* (1990).

(Library Association Reference Awards - Society of Indexers)



Register of Genealogical Indexes

I was most interested to receive your letter (re the formation of indexing genealogical SIGs in Australian Society of Indexers)...

Enclosed are flyers about the Central Register of Indexing Projects, [and] the 1996 edition of my book *Specialist Indexes in Australia: a genealogist's guide...*

As I'm sure you are aware, the genealogical and local history indexes being compiled in this country are variable in quality. The two things which I notice most often are (1) the lack of adequate explanatory / introductory notes with information about the source material, date range, and so on; and (2) incorrect or inconsistent arrangement and/or use of index headings. In *Specialist Indexes* I have listed a couple of reference texts which I recommend to those compiling indexes; these books are recommended reading for the unit on indexing in the Graduate Diploma of Local and Applied History (University of New England, Armidale NSW)...

I look forward to keeping in touch, as I am sure we can be of mutual assistance.

Judy Webster, PO Box 2044, Salisbury East 4107

6/7/96



AusSI Web Indexing Prize

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of writing to you personally, but I read with great interest your article in the April issue of *the Indexer* (*AusSI Web Indexing Prize*) and came to the realisation that this was the way I wanted to go.

Indexing portions of the Internet appeals to me greatly since I have had considerable experience in online searching. To date most of my experience has been on databases such as Dialog, Datastar, Orbit, Profile etc. I believe these are all now on the Internet.

Basically how do I begin? I use Macrex, have Windows and will shortly be gaining access to the Internet.

Where does one obtain Webix and HTML Writer?

Are there people indexing the Internet already and who are they? Can I contact them?

Is it at the moment only individuals offering a sort of freelance current awareness service for users?

I am enclosing my Curriculum Vitae, in case you know of someone who might be able to help me. I would be extremely grateful however for any information or guidance you might offer me. If you wish, I can be contacted through my friend's e-mail address:- 100265.2771@compuserve.com.

Anne Solamito

3 Coast, Inverasdale, Poolewe, Ross-shire,

IV22 2LR, Scotland

email: 100265.2771@compuserve.com

31/5/96

See the Web site or Editor for software and indexing projects. Write to the Editor for a copy of Anne's CV.



University of Technology, Sydney

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

PhD Master of Arts (thesis)

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has places in these research degrees for people interested in exploring issues and problems in information studies and communication studies.

For further information contact
Associate Professor Hilary Yerbury
on (02) 330 2310 (Ph.) or
H.Yerbury@uts.edu.au (Email) or
Ross Karavis on (02) 330 1959 (Ph.) or
R.Karavis@uts.edu.au (Email).



Writing to the Editor



COPY DEADLINE: Friday 23 August 1996

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email: dwight@zip.com.au

If greater than 1 A4 page, please provide articles on a disk in one or two of Rich Text Format, WordPerfect 5.1, Word for Windows 6.0 or plain text (ASCII).

Please provide images such as adverts in TIFF, WMF, CorelDraw or EPS format with fonts.

Photographs/camera-ready can be scanned.



Advertising Rates

AusSI Newsletter	The Indexer (UK)
Full page: \$80	Full page: £120
Half page: \$40	Half page: £80
Quarter page: \$20	Quarter page: £55
	Eighth page: £35

There is a special order form to be completed when lodging advertisements in *The Indexer*. For order form and copy deadlines, please contact:

Janet Shuter, Hon. Editor, The Old Chapel, Kings Rd, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, UK. PO35 5NB
email: Shuter@cix.compulink.co.uk

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Conference, Monash, Sep 16-17

Teaching Communication Skills in a Technological Era, September 16-17, 1996, hosted by Department of Computer Science, Monash University, Melbourne

Enquiries: Anita Jawary, Dept of Computer Science, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168

Phone: +61 3 9905 5210, **Fax:** +61 3 9905 5146

Email: anitaj@cs.monash.edu.au

WWW: <http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/~anitaj/conferencecall.html>

Keynote speakers: Paul Anderson, Miami University
Steven Youra, Cornell University
Registration: \$160. Late after: 6 September.

Quotable Quotes

- ① "Being a canny chap, Fallows has intentionally omitted to index the book. 'I knew that people in journalism would simply not read the book if it had an index because what would happen is that they would look for their names, read that page and that would be it. That is how books are read in Washington.'" *Breaking the News. How the Media Undermines American Democracy* by James Fallows, in *The Observer* 21/1/96.
- ② "Within a mere five years, at the present rate of growth, science periodicals would consume the entire library budget ... build a veritable Library of Babel to house it. For about 20 years now, scholars have been experimenting with something that may alleviate this problem, ... what most of us commonly mean by "virtual" scholarship - digital storage, retrieval and, most importantly, **indexing of information**." *Virtual scholars in the Library of Babel* by McK. Wark, *Aust* 8/5/96

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Indexing Rates

The 1996 recommended rate for freelance *back-of-book* indexers has been kept at **\$35.00 per hour** in line with rates for freelance editors. Although the Society recommends this rate, individual indexers are at liberty to charge above or below this rate as they deem appropriate.

Database indexing rates are more variable, and are usually charged on a per record basis, so rates will vary depending on the complexity of the indexing required.