HOT! HOT! HOT! Madeleine Davis reports on the American Society of Indexers' conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May 2000.

The 32nd Annual Conference of the American Society of Indexers (ASI) was held at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 10-13 May 2000.

Formal Business
There were approximately 57 presentations scheduled over the four days of the conference, which were categorized into four areas or 'tracks' of interest: indexing tools, the business of indexing, the theory of indexing and specialties indexing.

Twenty-three workshops formed the formal training part of the conference—four sessions ran concurrently for two days and two afternoons. These were interspersed with 21 roundtable sessions, which were informal, interactive discussions. (A host knowledgeable on a particular subject holds forth to small group during lunch on two days.) I hosted a roundtable explaining my morphing experience from a back-of-book indexer to working as a web surfer/indexer on the AustLII web site. Four panels each featuring a different panel discussion were held during the remaining lunchtimes.

On Friday and Saturday mornings, the entire group gathered for the general session presentations—8 were held—on topics as diverse as a history of indexing style to the indexing of 50 years worth of MAD magazine on CD-ROM, to case studies of multiple index publications.

Finally a keynote luncheon was held after the Saturday morning general session. The speaker was Jeff Duntemann (Visual Developer Magazine); the topic was The Need for Human Judgment Indexing the Web. The Hubes Award for excellence in indexing were presented at that time. (NB 17 books, both soft and hard cover; single and multi-volumes were submitted. A prize of $1000 is awarded—AusSI take note!)

Evaluation forms were distributed after each session as well as an overall Conference Survey form. Informal meetings of SIGs (Special Interest Groups) across a variety of subject areas were also squeezed in.

Suffice it to say that much stamina was needed and hard choices had to be made and there was a danger of information overload at the end. But I enjoyed it all immensely—being stimulated, engaged and challenged intellectually is a refreshing and energizing experience.

Not everything was rosy. The hotel was undergoing renovations and became a construction site during the conference. The result was noise and dust, rescheduling of venues to include a temporary outdoor marquee and a lack of accessible lounge/bar areas for networking and socializing more widely, which was a pity, especially for the international delegates.

There were approximately 225 participants at the Conference including members from the UK and Canadian Societies, one New Zealander and one Australian (me!).

The identification pass given out was a pouch affair, rather like a passport holder which hung around your neck and displayed your name and country, indicated if you were an ‘ASI First Timer' (good for striking up conversations), included a list of your booked sessions and was also useful for carrying and receiving numerous business cards, room keys, money etc. The conference fee also included a large (Continued on page 104)

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Noticeboard

SI Publications
The Society of Indexers has two new publications.

*Indexing Children's Books*, by K.G.B. Bakewell and Paula L. Williams, with contributions from Elizabeth Wallis and Valerie A. Elliston, is the fifth in their series of Occasional Papers, and is based on the authors' investigation of indexes to children's information books. The paper contains ideas for making indexes as child-friendly as possible, with examples of good and bad practice.

*Indexing: the manual of good practice*, by Pat Booth, published by Bowker, is due out in November. Pat Booth is co-author of the Society's training course and has been SI workshop tutor for many years.

Wheatley Medal winner
Congratulations to Barbara Hird, Society of Indexers member, for winning the Wheatley Medal 1999 for an outstanding index to *Cambridge History of English Medieval Literature*, published by Cambridge University Press.

Chair of the Wheatley Panel, Nikki Coples ton said, 'This index is a well cut key unlocking the treasures of Medieval English Literature. Barbara Hird has risen to the challenge of indexing a unique work of scholarship, while retaining the house style of other volumes from the same press.'

NSW Society of Editors
Meets monthly (usually first Tuesday of the month) at Judicial Commission Conference Centre, 5th floor Wynyard House (just above Wynyard Station) at 6.30 for 7.00. Cost $15 including drinks and light eats.

New members
A warm welcome to the following new member:
Mr Alexander Segger George, WA

Annual General Meeting - Victoria
The Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Branch will be held at Graduate House, 224 Leicester St., Carlton on Tuesday Feb. 27th, 2001.

Parking is available in Grattan Street or in the University Car parks—cost $2 only.

Drinks and nibbles at 7pm prior to dinner at 7.30pm.
Cost including wines, soft drinks and coffee, with a two-course meal (vegetarian meals on request) is $25 for members, $30 visitors and friends.

Dress—smart casual.

During the evening there will be a brief AGM, and the announcement of the Society's Indexing Awards.

Our guest speaker for this occasion will be Mr Michael Webster, lecturer in the School of Applied Communications—RMIT, Graduate Certificate in Publishing. He is also Chairperson at CAL (Copyright Australia Ltd), and is involved with BookTrack (UK) and the Australian Publishers Association.

RSVP by Feb. 20th, 2001 to Jenny Restarick:
(BH) 03 9545 2178;
(Home Phone/Fax) 03 9528 2539;
email: jenny.restarick@enquiries.csiro.au.

Nomination forms for positions of Vic Branch committee available from the above contact points.

The Information Architecture Guide
The bibliography to *Information Architecture for the World Wide Web* (by Lou Rosenfeld and Peter Morville, published by O'Reilly) has been put on the web at http://argus-inc.com/iaguide/.

New stuff on the web
Noticeboard

ALIA Indexers

ALIA Indexers is a mailing list for Australians involved in indexing. At a recent meeting the National Committee decided to use ALIA Indexers as an official channel for communicating with members.

If you want to know what is happening as soon as possible you should subscribe to this list. It will also retain its previous role in general communication between Australian indexers.

Information about the list (and other alianet lists) is at http://www.alia.org.au/e-Iists/subscribe.html

To join, write to listproc@alia.org.au with the following message (using your own name):

subscribe aliaINDEXERS Susan Bloggs.

ASI Conference 2001

The next ASI Conference will be held at the Park Plaza in Boston, starting Friday June 1 and ending Sunday afternoon June 3, 2001.

Visit the ASI web site (www.asindexing.org) for further details.

I wanted ASI but I got a porn site!

In one of my few experiences of Internet spamming, I did an AskJeeves search on something to do with indexing, and found that the link from the description of the ASI site took me to a porn site.

I mentioned it on Index-L, and one response was: 'You think you're peeved, think about the person who wanted a porn site but got ASI instead.'

Sidelights editor

The new email address for Beverley Winkler, the editor of Sidelights (Society of Indexers, UK) is beverley.winkler@win-tech.co.uk.

(PS Before naming anything these days we should all check the name in MS-Word, to make sure that autocorrect does not want to change it. I have to keep adding back the capital I in SIdelights).

New newsletter editor

A big welcome to Frances Paterson, who is taking over as editor of the AusSI Newsletter. Michael Wyatt will be responsible for the Newsletter's physical layout.

Frances has been indexing for about a year, and has been a member of AusSI since earlier this year. She lurks on a number of indexers' Internet groups, has edited and compiled the monthly newsletter of the Aboriginal Education Council, and has helped edit and proofread the Jung Society newsletter.

She can be contacted at newsletter@aussi.org (and also at francespaterson@bigpond.com).

Web Indexing Prize

Five entries have been received for the 2000 Web Indexing Prize and a report on these, including the prizewinner, will be in the next Newsletter.

From the editor

This is my last newsletter (cheers and sighs)! I have very much enjoyed editing the Newsletter, although I am now well and truly ready for a break.

A warm welcome to our new editor, Frances Paterson, an AusSI member who has been indexing for about a year. Her details are above, and she can be emailed at the generic address newsletter@aussi.org.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Newsletter over the last three years. This includes regular and occasional contributors, as well as the loyal band of stuffers (Madeleine Davis, Michael Wyatt, Jon Jerney, and, earlier on, Pamela Johnstone), who have met monthly in the Blue Mountains to stuff newsletters and talk about all manner of indexing issues.

When you have a great idea, a quarrel with something you hear or read, or see something challenging, send it to Frances.

The next issue is the combined January/February issue, so the deadline is the end of January.

Cheers,
Glenda Browne
A canvas shoulder bag to carry notebooks, schedules of participants and sessions, and information papers handed out at Workshops etc.

The Exhibitions and Sponsors' room held demonstrations of SKY Index and CINDEX, and ASI and other related indexing publications were for sale (the discount almost made up for the dismal Australian exchange rate!)

I attended sessions all day, every day of the conference and wrote copious and sometimes (now) indecipherable notes. A full schedule of all the sessions is located on the ASI website at http://www.asindexing.org/conferences/conf2000/index.shtml

**Highlights for me were:**

**Browsing Strategies.** Barbara H. Kwasnik presented this excellent session—informative and with lots of examples flung up on the screen to analyze and discuss. Basically it was about evaluating the design and structure of an index (online or in print) in relation to how it enables or constrains various kinds of information-seeking—how important it is in the design of an interface to information on the web; how people shop in a supermarket, how they look through a list etc. Ideally, browsing should generate more ideas, allow physical connectivity (words placed next to one another) and conceptual connectivity (synonym/semantic network). A good browsing environment should allow users to make connections between terms and also invite navigation down lateral pathways and routes ie provide aerial views of the information and not necessarily enforce a rigid one-dimensional structure.

Superconnectivity is not the only goal. A multi-faceted index, which allows the user a view from different perspectives, is a rich and valuable tool for any search interface. At the same time Barbara explored whether it was better to allow the user to browse lots of information first to clarify the desired goal or provide focused information at the beginning of the search and allow browsing at the end. There was much more and hopefully this paper will be published online or by the ASI.

**Lights! Cameras! Action! Achieving the Ideal Index,** presented by Barbara Cohen, Seth Maislin, and Kate Mertes, was an outstanding general session providing all the excitement as it was being recorded by C-Span, a government TV network. The session was structured as an orchestrated conversation/debate between two experienced indexers to discuss the pros and cons of a variety of indexing imponderables—passing mentions, run-in versus indented style, reversal of terms, shallowness versus depth, alphabet order for Me and Mac, order for symbols, numbers, consistency is key etc—and along the way it examined the criteria for selecting terms, for formatting and style decisions and explored indexers' skills. The moderator posed a series of prepared questions to the two panelists, who tossed a coin to determine which side of the argument they defended. The audience participated enthusiastically also defending either the pro or con choice.

In the final hour the audience and the panel worked through an indexing sample discussing the different choices put forward. It was lively, highly entertaining and exhausting! There were in fact 80 questions, which had, been carefully constructed by the presenters (only about one eighth were asked) and perhaps, with permission from the authors, this could form the basis for a similar session for both experienced and novice indexers in other countries.

**Indexing the Totally MAD CD-ROM Archive** was a delightful general session. Dr Ellen Brodsky outlined the unique challenges she faced to index 22,000 pages of MAD Magazine. Demonstrations of the search feature in the product were a hoot and I suspect the audience indulged in a wave of nostalgia reminiscing about the magazine's hey day.

**A History of Indexing Style** presented by Francis Lennie and Kate Mertes compared historical and modern indexing styles with great flair, including papyrus scrolls as exhibits.

**The Mysteries of Fiction Indexing** was presented by Mary Ann Chulick. I had heard David Ream explain this joint indexing venture at the Conference in Tasmania last year. Hearing the project from the indexer's point of view was equally interesting and enjoyable.

Want to learn more about indexing?

If you're serious about indexing, train with the Society of Indexers. Our training course gives a comprehensive introduction to indexing principles and practice. It comes as five open learning units so you can progress at your own pace.

For more information about the course, and our other services to indexers, editors, authors and publishers, contact:

**Dept AS, Society of Indexers**
Globe Centre, Penistone Road
Sheffield S6 3AE, UK
Tel: +44 114 281 3060
Fax: +44 114 281 3061
Email: admin@socind.demon.co.uk

Visit our website at http://www.socind.demon.co.uk
Beginning CINDEX with the inimitable Maria Sullivan Young (the on-line technical support person for Indexing Research and previously only an email contact) was a very useful outline of the standard features of CINDEX for Windows.

Indexing the Whole Wide Web hosted as a Roundtable discussion by Seth Maislin, a Directory Manager at Lycos, became an interesting debate on commercialism and globalisation of information.

**Official Business**

I was also attending as the official AusSI representative at the Conference, which entailed two responsibilities:

1. Member of the International Affiliations lunchtime panel. Each panelist had approximately 10 minutes to give an update on his/her Society's recent activities and future plans. Time was also allowed for questions from the audience.

2. As the AusSI representative I also attended a planning meeting prior to the formal international meeting to be held at the Cambridge Conference in July 2000. A review of the proposed International Agreement between Societies formed the main part of the discussion.

**Fun Business**

The ASI committee had considered the needs of participants well and provided a list of bars and restaurants within walking distance of the hotel—much eating of chilli (see ref. from chilli, chile) and drinking of margaritas ensued. We learned the merits of both red and green chilli and all shades in between. Even the breakfast burrito combines scrambled eggs and green chilli. A Welcome Reception was held at the Pueblo Cultural Center which offered a New Mexican buffet (more chilli) and Native American dancers and musicians as well a museum to explore.

The traditional CINDEX Users Reception hosted by Frances Lennie (CINDEX) and David Ream (Leverage Technologies) was great fun—good food, wine, wit and jokes flowed—some of the results of the latter are posted on the AusSI website at http://www.aussi.org/ml/0006jul/indexerjokes.htm and the full list is at http://www.LevTechInc.com/ddxhumor.htm.

The ASI had also provided information about local tours—I visited the Acoma Indian Pueblo, an ancient 'city in the sky,' which stands hundreds of feet above the surrounding land on top of a sandstone mesa. Apparently it is the oldest inhabited village in the United States, founded in the 12th century AD. I also spent a whole day in Santa Fe—a joy to visit. The whole town is built 'pueblo style' with adobe-coloured buildings no higher than 3 storeys, housing shops with beautiful jewellery and crafts of all types as well as gallery after gallery of art and pottery etc. There are also several major museums of Native American history and a gallery dedicated to the work of Georgia O'Keefe.

The conference was not cheap. Unlike the UK and Australian conferences, the hotel accommodation and all Workshop and Roundtable sessions have to be booked and paid for in advance as a separate component from the conference fee which is also quite hefty. The exchange rate for the Australian dollar was around 59–60 cents when I was there. Looking at the exchange rate today I'm thankful the conference wasn't held later in the year! But, the standard of sessions was high. I soaked up many new ideas. I met many interesting people. I had a great time.

**AGIFT online and interactive**

AGIFT thesaural terms are now online and interactive in the National Archives (www.naa.gov.au/) RecordSearch database, which contains descriptive information about Commonwealth records of archival value (2.5 million items, and growing daily).

The 548 AGIFT terms and a natural language thesaurus (a dictionary of synonyms) have been added to the other thesauri used there.
The Three Muscatelles, by Glenda Browne, with information from Steve Charters.

Syrah is shiraz, and pagadebit is another name for the bombino bianco grape, but muscadelle and muscatel are different! Identifying grape synonyms is one difficulty when indexing wine books.

In the text of a wine book I indexed, different authors had used different names for some of the commoner grapes. Some were defined so I had little trouble working out that syrah was the same as shiraz, and pinot gris the same as grauer burgunder. Different authors had used others independently, and when I came to edit the index I found many similar names. For those grape synonyms not defined in the text, I relied on the advice of Steve Charters, a wine expert. When he didn’t know the answer he consulted books by Jancis Robinson (Vines Grapes and Wines, 1986; and The Oxford Companion to Wine, 1999).

My main problem was with the muscat family, and anything else starting with mus. This family is large, and grapes seem to have been named with the aim of confusing the most possible people—before they even drank any! Here is what I found:

Muscadelle is grown mainly in Bordeaux and also, as tokay, in Australia. Muscatel is an Australian synonym for zibibbo, which is the same as muscat of Alexadria, muscat d’alexandria and moscato de setulbal, and is probably the same as muscat d’alexandrie. Muscatel in South Africa is a synonym for muscat blanc à petit grain which is the same as moscato bianco, and is used for Asti spumante. Muskateller is the same in Germany.

Muscadine is a different sub-genus of the Vitis family (the other sub-genus, Euvites, includes both Vitis vinifera and American species). Muscardin is an obscure southern Rhône varietal.

And muscadet, which is also known as melon de bourgogne is absolutely different.

Who but an expert could readily make their way through this terminological maze?

Many thanks to Steve Charters for this information and permission to use it here.
Case studies and challenges. Jenny Restarick reports on the Victorian Branch meeting.

President Margaret Findlay, opened the Victorian Branch's first ever restaurant meeting at Da Vinci's Bistro in South Yarra on Tuesday October 31st last.

The panel of three speakers was introduced and the meeting commenced with Geraldine Suter providing an overview of the Argus Indexing Project, concentrating mainly on how the first 10 volumes were marketed to both Australian and overseas libraries. To our amazement and dismay Geraldine advised that there is no continuous coverage of Australian newspaper indexing since its early days as a colony. In the year of Victoria's sesquicentenary a number of historical projects were inaugurated—one of them being to fill the gap in indexing the Argus newspaper for the years 1860-1909. The Argus was chosen because of the written quality of its content, and the extent of events covered. Funding has been provided by a number of benefactors to cover the costs of a professional indexer, and then to provide start funding for the initial publication of the 10 volumes covering the 1860s. Volunteers read the issues and provide precis accounts of the text, following guidelines written by the project coordinator, Dr John Hirst, History Department, La Trobe University. The printed index reads like a history of Victoria.

Sales came initially from State Libraries but after two radio talks by Geraldine on the Philip Adams and Jon Faine programs, further interest in the project led to more sales, an influx of new volunteers and a number of phone calls from people whose family had either worked for the newspaper or those who remembered the Argus as being an integral part of their lives until its demise in 1957. Geraldine commented that these calls proved to her that the project had been worthwhile and must be maintained.

Max McMaster followed with a discussion of the challenges and problems he faced when indexing books on Aboriginal issues, such as 10 volumes of secondary education textbooks, and a large treatise entitled Aboriginal art and culture shortly to be published by Oxford University Press.

The major difficulties were in finding appropriate terms for the readership of these texts—how else would you index the term 'half-caste' when there is a large portion of the text covering this topic, but the editor feels that term is derogatory and asks for it to be replaced or removed. How does one index the same person who has different names: this author loved playing or erroneous titles and it was a challenge to work out the correct names for these works. This author loved playing words and frequently referred to colleagues by just one or two initials, or just a personal name or surname. This difficulty meant that the original quote for the job, based upon the first few pages of the work, proved to be quite wrong. Jenny advised all to ask for as much text as possible before placing a quote or agreeing to a fixed price set by the editor. Fortunately Jenny had considerable knowledge of the people, plays, books etc. mentioned and thus was able to work out the word games. She advised the audience not to take on jobs if they don't know anything about the subject matter.

The third example was of a biography of a Catholic archbishop. For this work, and others which she has subsequently worked on in the area of religion, Jenny had to take on a steep learning curve.

Her final comments were that if the text of a book is distasteful, the indexer must distance herself from the written work, as it is not our business to condemn nor criticize.

The Branch then gave their newer guests a short rundown on the services offered by the Society and all were encouraged to check out our website especially the Application for membership page.

Most stayed on for a very enjoyable dinner and we feel that this novel experience for the Vic Branch was a great success.
Letter from the President.  Garry Cousins looks back on the last year.

Members with good memories may recall that back in May I identified six issues I thought deserved our priority in the coming months:

1. The registration of database indexers
2. Indexers Available
4. April 2001 issue of The Indexer
5. GST
6. New members

Now, six months later, what progress has been made?

1. The registration of database indexers: A committee, comprising Max McMaster, Margaret Findlay, Sandra Henderson and myself, has been working on a draft proposal for the registration of database indexers. The proposal is now in its second draft and was discussed by the national committee last month. The suggestions of the national committee have been forwarded to the database indexers' registration committee, which is now considering them. The main feature of the draft is the proposal that database indexers be assessed by sample: database indexers would be required to index and abstract a selection of articles from two subject areas, one of general content using a thesaurus like APAIS, and one a subject specialty using a specialist thesaurus.

2. Indexers Available: In May I expressed the opinion that I would like to see registration become a prerequisite for appearing in Indexers Available, but also made the point that, in order to be equitable, this depends on database indexers having a means of achieving registration. Of course, it also depends on the what the rest of the membership wants! More on this subject when we have established a process for registering database indexers.

3. Canberra conference: This conference is being organised by the ACT Branch in conjunction with the Canberra Society of Editors. Planning is now well underway and an outline of the conference can be viewed on the Society's website at http://www.aussi.org/conferences/conference2001.htm. The conference will be held at Rydges in Canberra, on London Circuit in the City Centre, from 20-23 April 2001.

4. April issue of The Indexer. As part of an international rotation, Glenda Browne and Alan Walker are coordinating the ‘Australian’ edition of the April 2001 issue of The Indexer. This is proceeding well, with a number of our members offering to contribute articles.

5. The GST: The GST is now well and truly with us, and those of us who are freelancers will have grappled with their first BAS by now. Glenda Browne published an article on the ramifications of the GST for freelancers in the June issue of the newsletter.

6. New members: The National Committee has embarked upon several initiatives in an attempt to attract more members into AusSI. We have made an offer of reciprocal membership to related societies, like ALIA and the Societies of Editors, we have elected a publicity officer (Jon Jermey), and Madeleine Davis has been busy researching the advertising costs of various journals with a view to advertising AusSI, and Indexers Available in particular, in them. A publicity budget was agreed upon at the October meeting of the national committee.

The last, but by no means least important, thing I would like to mention in this letter is that Glenda Browne is finishing up as the editor of our newsletter. Glenda has done a magnificent job for the past three years, often providing most of the copy for the newsletter herself! I am sure all of us appreciate the effort she has made, and join me in thanking her for her hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes for the Christmas season,

Garry Cousins

The diary of a man I never met

‘Publishers make a great mistake when they include an index of names mentioned in memoirs and published diaries. Once you look up your name and see what the writer has said about you there seems to be no point in buying the book unless it is to take it to your lawyer’.

So challenges Louis Nowra in The Heckler (Sydney Morning Herald 15 Nov 2000, p22), after using many indexes while browsing in bookshops.

Nowra highlights the triviality of some published diaries, and reassures us that although he keeps diaries he will never impose them on the public. Although he was entered three times in the index to Barry Oakley’s published diaries, he does not find Oakley anywhere in his own diaries (without an index, how long did he spend looking?)

It’s a sorry state when the only perceived value of a published book is to satisfy the vanity of those who might be in it. Let’s conclude that a quality memoir should have a quality index, and leave the trivial ones to the fate they deserve.

Thanks to Tricia Waters for finding this article.
From the Literature

Indexing for Africa:
Papers read at a Conference held in
Johannesburg on 6th October 1999.

(Association of Southern African Indexers and
Bibliographers Publication, No. 9) ISBN
0620260467.

Welcome from Jacqueline Kalley, Chairperson of
ASAIB.
Kalley writes: '...this conference represents ASAIB's
first tentative attempt to explore our Eurocentric past.
Obviously we are not suggesting that we deviate from
the superb standards and principles that were
determined by the past but rather to build on this
excellence in the recognition that we have problems
and foibles that are particularly our own. How do we
treat them?'

Opening address by Errol Tyobeka, Chief Director,
Science and Technology, of the Department of Arts,
Culture, Science and Technology.
Tyobeka writes of: 'The ability to read, the love to
read, well-stocked libraries within easy reach, access to
information in general, self-empowerment through
knowledge all these are aspects of the development of
our country's most important resource, its people.'

Bibliographical control in the SADC region: the
scenario at the turn of the millennium. Rueben
Musiker.
Musiker discusses: '...the necessary infrastructure, for
the national bibliographic control of a given domain
to be successful. They include:
* an organised book industry;
* a designated national bibliographic agency;
* a means of obtaining copies of materials that
are published;
* bibliographic standards.'

Information see Learning: the role of information
literacy. Peter Underwood.
Underwood, reminding us how well-off we are in
Australia, writes: 'As one who is concerned with the
education of professional information workers I
believe that my task is changing fundamentally. I do
not believe that the many of my present students will
ever work in libraries which are adequately resourced
but, paradoxically, that does not diminish the need for
their services. Rather, it enhances the need for people
who understand how to get the best out of what
resources are available.'

Yesterday is History: the evolution of the Weekly
Mail Index. Christopher Merrett.
In 1985 the Rand Daily Mail closed down. 'In a move
that can only be described as a triumph of hope over
realism in a climate of increasing State repression,
lawlessness and outright violence, the redundant
journalists put their severance packages into a new
title that they named The Weekly Mail.'
'‘Thus the WM became an academic tool as well as a
resource for those determined to counter the
suppression of anti-apartheid viewpoints by security
and emergency legislation; but in order to be
accessible an index was essential and this project was
taken on by the University of Natal Library,
Pietermaritzburg.'

Indexing policy was based very much on the nature of
the newspaper and the needs of the community at the
time. For example, indexing was restricted to
information about South Africa and Namibia, and
emphasis was placed on names of organisations rather
than of people or concepts. This was done because
the authorities were trying to suppress information
about opposition organisations. The reasons for
ignoring most personal names were that personalities
did not play a large part in the causes of the time,
and individuals often had good reasons to keep a low
profile.

Indexing policies have now changed, and there is a
feeling that indexing by concept would have been
better from the beginning as it promotes greater
constancy.

Indexing: is more better? Johan van Wyk.

Depth of indexing, recall and precision. '...both recall
and precision performance can benefit by increased
depth of indexing. More is better!'

Indexing traditional African musical instruments was
in The Indexer? Presented at the Canterbury
conference.

Offpress, the newsletter of the Society of
Editors (Queensland). August 2000

The Alphabet Abecedarium by Richard A. Firmage

This book apparently contains much of interest, including
the following facts: Roman letters were initially all capitals
(around BC700). Around AD400 lower-case letters were
devised, and circa AD600 monastic scribes had the bright
idea of separating one word from another with a space.
The things we take for granted!
Newsletter, Webmaster and Registration contacts

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ISSN: paper: 0314-3767  
electronic: 1326-2718

This newsletter is sent free to all members of the Australian Society of Indexers. It is published 11 times a year, with a combined issue for Jan/Feb. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.

Copy should be sent to the editor by the last day of each month for publication in the middle of the next month. Please contact me if you have any questions about suitable items for publication. The editor reserves the right to cut and edit material. If greater than one A4 page, please send files on a disk or via email.

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