Melbourne Indexers Bulletin

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Frankfurt's famous Christmas market

Frankfurt International Indexing Conference

The inaugural Frankfurt International Indexing Conference was held on October 20, 2016, during the Frankfurt Book Fair. The conference was jointly organised by DNI (Deutsches Netzwek der Indexer) and NIN (Nederlands Indexers Netwerk).

The program was split into two sessions, with the first session covering embedded indexing software and the second session covering more general aspects of indexing. There were around 30 – 35 participants at each session, with a good mix of indexers, editors and publishers from the US, UK, Canada, Australia, Netherlands and Germany.

Hendrik Case, from Abavo Software, outlined a method for embedding entries in Word using unique Smart IDs. The software, yet to be tested on a real index, is designed for commercial typesetters. David Ream demonstrated the features of some new software he is developing that allows indexers to work in their dedicated indexing software to create entries while embedding identifiers in the books' documents.

Pilar Wyman opened the second session with a presentation on 'The Added Value of Linked Indexes and Notes in E-books'. This was an interesting session providing a futuristic perspective on how linked and e-book indexes could be used to provide added-value to the content of publications. Frances Lennie also followed the futuristic line, although more from a philosophical perspective, in her presentation on 'Why Indexes Persist and Indexers Persevere'. She deliberated on whether in our increasingly electronic world would indexes still be needed, and if so, is there still a place for indexers in it. This was a thought-provoking session.

Between Pilar's and Frances' exhortations I gave a presentation on 'Indexing in the Editorial Process'. As I had presented on this topic before, I introduced a new slant and discussed what skills authors could bring to the indexing process and then compared them with what a professional indexer could bring. In this way, the commissioning editor had a means of making a choice.

After the conference, around 20 of us went to a nearby Italian restaurant, and that's when the networking really started! A number of German indexers attended so it was great to meet some new faces.

As I mentioned above, the conference was held during the Frankfurt Book Fair, which runs over five days. The Book Fair is enormous and is held in four gigantic multi-storey buildings connected by covered walkways. Each floor is around the size of an aircraft hangar, so it's big! Around 5,500 publishers attended the Book Fair, coming from all around the world. The publishers are not there to sell books per se, but to sell rights, so that books can be resold, reprinted, translated, etc. in different countries. Just to give an indication of how big a business this is, Penguin/Random House/Dorling Kindersley had around 60 staff on. You needed to make an appointment to see a staff member, and there was a solid queue of people just trying to make a booking.

Although books, of all genres, are the main focus of the Book Fair, I was surprised to find other items which might be sold by booksellers there as well. For example, calendars, which are obviously big business in Europe, were available by the thousands. Other sections were devoted to stationery, bookmarks, mugs, keyrings, etc. There were even artworks – paintings and some magnificent French sculpture. I fell in love with the French sculpture, but was held back from purchasing by the price tag! Another large section dealt with Antiquarian books.

Wandering around the Frankfurt Book Fair is a truly amazing experience. If you get the opportunity to visit, it is an absolute must.

Max McMaster

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John Simkin Medal 2016

The result was announced at the ANZSI AGM on 25 October 2016. No Medal was awarded this year but a Highly Commended was awarded to Sherrey Quinn for her index to Susanna Price and Jane Singer (editors) *Global Implications of Development, Disasters and Climate Change: Responses to Displacement from Asia Pacific* Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group 2016 (https://www.amazon.com/Global-Implications-Development-Disasters-Climate/dp/1138838179).
The Judges' Report will be published in the *ANZSI Newsletter* in December 2016.

Macquarie Dictionary podcast

The Macquarie Dictionary has launched a podcast called Word for Word. To quote their website (https://www.macquariedictionary.com.au/podcast/)

> Australian English has many fascinating stories, interesting etymologies, and wonderfully weird slang. The language is constantly evolving as the world around us changes; new words are created, meanings change, and other things get left behind. In Word for Word, we explore the surprising histories behind everyday words and phrases, go behind-the-scenes with the dictionary editors, and meet some of Australia's most interesting word-lovers, from Scrabble champions to hip-hop artists. Join us as we explore our language: the ways we use it, the ways we abuse it, and the ways we ultimately change it.
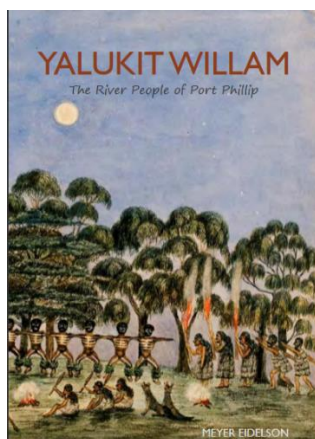

Are you preserving your digital treasures?

We have probably all learnt the hard way the importance of backing up our work, but are you preserving your digital treasures in a suitable way? The family photo albums and box of letters are now more likely to be in digital form. What is the best way to preserve those digital family photos or the email correspondence you had with someone overseas? As part of the recent 'Born digital' campaign, National and State Libraries Australasia promoted a video on preserving your digital treasures http://www.nsla.org.au/publication/digital-archive-toolkit together with links for further information. Why not give this a thought in the quiet moments over the summer?

Melbourne Indexers Challenge 2017

The ever-popular communal indexing event is back with a twist!

The Challenge

To prepare an index to the small publication *Yalukit Willam: The River People of Port Phillip* by Meyer Eidelson. Available at http://heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au/Aboriginal_heritage/Yalukit_WillamThe_River_People_of_Port_Phillip

Send your index to the coordinator (Mary Russell) by 31 January 2017. The prize will be the satisfaction of participation, the

fun of the fellowship and the AUD$50 prize.

The rules

1. The Challenge is open to all and is not restricted to members of Melbourne Indexers.
2. There is no entry fee, but entrants must register that they are taking part by 31 January 2017.
3. All indexes are to be submitted to Mary Russell before 31 January 2017 so they can be allocated a number, copied and circulated at the meeting as well as sent to those not able to attend on the night.
4. Judges will be restricted to those attending the meeting on 1 February 2017 and those who submitted an index.
5. The indexes will be judged based on the criteria below. Judges will supply scoring for each part and an overall mark out of 30 for each index.
6. The judges' vote will be final.
7. Results will be collated by the coordinator. In the case of a tied vote a second ballot will be conducted between the tied entries.
8. The winner will be notified as soon as possible after the meeting.
9. Melbourne Indexers reserve the right to publish the winning index in the Melbourne Indexers Bulletin.

Judging

Part of the reason for having the Challenge is to enable members to understand how to evaluate an index. Members and those submitting an index will examine each index using the criteria below. A score for each part will be recorded with an overall score out of 30 determined.

Judging criteria

Part 1 Accuracy 5 points

Consider the following aspects:

- Accurate spelling
- Correct punctuation
- Correct alphabetical order of index headings (mains, subheadings and cross-references), or correct order of filing if arrangement is other than alphabetical
- Accurate locators (locators at index headings match discussion in text)
- Locators sorted correctly
- Double-posted entries have matching sets of locators
- Accurate cross-references
- Correct entry element for compound names or names in languages other than English (cross-referencing used if necessary to assist the reader).

Part 2 Comprehensiveness and consistency 5 points

Consider the following aspects:
- The index covers the metatopic and other topics systematically
- The index treats the subject matter in a consistent way
- No significant subject content is omitted
- The index as a whole is consistent and suitable for its audience.

Part 3 Analysis 5 points

Consider the following aspects:

- The metatopic and other topics are analysed appropriately and logically
- Scattered pieces of like information are gathered
- Synonyms are handled by gathering and/or cross-referencing
- There are multiple entry points for key concepts
- The number and level of subheadings to main headings is handled well: appropriate number; appropriate depth of treatment
- Excessively long strings of undifferentiated locators are avoided
- Over-analysis is avoided
- Double-posting is employed where appropriate
- Cross-references (*see …*) lead from alternate entry points to the relevant entry/entries
- Cross-references (*see also …*) lead to related topics
- Passing mentions in the text are not indexed.

Part 4 Expression 5 points

Consider the following aspects:

- Index entries reflect the language of the text
- Main headings are nouns or noun phrases (no isolated adjectives as main heading)
- Main headings and subheadings are succinct
- Main headings and subheadings are precise
- Main headings and subheadings are unambiguous (glosses explain headings that are homonyms, similar or which might otherwise be ambiguous)

- Main headings have the key word/phrase first
- Subheadings have the key word/phrase first (unless a preposition is used for clarity; initial prepositions are usually ignored in sorting)
- The subject matter is dealt with even-handedly, with no apparent indexer bias
- Terminology is appropriate for the intended audience.

Part 5 Usability 5 points

Consider the following aspects:

- A headnote explains special typefaces, special treatments, departures from convention, codes and abbreviations used in the index. The headnote should be clear and well expressed
- The index is clearly laid out and easy to scan
- Style (e.g., fonts, locator elision) is consistent throughout
- Relationship between headings and subheadings is obvious
- Heading turn-over lines are readily identifiable
- Cross-references aid navigation without being excessive
- Cross-references are valid (have targets, are not circular).

Part 6 Overall impression 5 points

Consider the index overall as well as the following aspects:

- Length of the index in relation to the publication
- Simplicity and elegance

Total out of possible 30 points

(These criteria are based on that developed for the John Simkin Medal https://www.anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/John-Simkin-medal-criteria-2016.pdf)

You may think learning how to assess an index is only a skill needed by very experienced indexers. This is far from the truth. Assessing is a valuable skill for all indexers to learn. By being able to spot errors in other indexes and knowing how to avoid/fix them, means you are less likely to introduce those same errors into your own indexes. Nothing like improved knowledge to help your indexing career!

For further information and to register, please contact Mary Russell (mruss@ozemail.com.au)
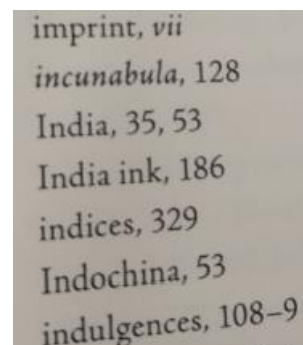
Surprise package

Surprise packages have become something of a tradition with Melbourne Indexers. Recently released is Keith Houston's *The Book: A cover-to-cover Exploration of the Most Powerful Object of our time*. Publisher WW Norton's blurb says:

We may love books, but do we know what lies behind them? In *The Book*, Keith Houston reveals that the paper, ink, thread, glue, and board from which a book is made tell as rich a story as the words on its pages—of civilizations, empires, human ingenuity, and madness. In an invitingly tactile history of this 2,000-year-old medium, Houston follows the development of writing, printing, the art of illustrations, and binding to show how we have moved from cuneiform tablets and papyrus scrolls to the hardcovers and paperbacks of today. Sure to delight book lovers of all stripes with its lush, full-color illustrations, *The Book* gives us the momentous and surprising history behind humanity's most important—and universal—information technology.

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Indeed it does delight, and it certainly surprises, as a search for coverage on the topic of indexing reveals!

Upcoming meetings

December: How are books constructed?

Have you ever made your own book? After a brief discussion on the process of how a book is bound there will be a chance to make your own simple booklets from sheets of A4 paper.

Date: Wednesday 7 December
Time: 6:00 for 6:30 pm
Venue: Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kew

Followed by dinner at Café La Q

Handbound book by Mary Russell

Month	Details
1 February 2017 Melbourne Indexers Challenge **6 for 6:30 Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Kew** **7:45 meal at Café La Q**	Please see full details for this event on page 3.
5 April Updating an index **6 for 6:30 Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Kew** **7:45 meal at Café La Q**	How do you update an index? What are the tricks to doing it successfully? What software features in Macrex and Sky, for example, can assist with this process?
7 June Financial aspects **6 for 6:30 Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Kew** **7:45 meal at Café La Q**	Various financial aspects such as: - The actual cost of doing the index comes in well under your initial quote or the publisher's budget. What do you do? - You are approached by an author or not-for-profit organisation who are not able to afford to pay the real cost of the index. What do you do? - Company paid super is offered by some publishers as part of a contract. What is it and are you eligible?

Wishing all members and friends of Melbourne Indexers a joyous and relaxing holiday season. The next issue of *Melbourne Indexers Bulletin* will be published in late January. See you in 2017 for another productive year of indexing.

Contributions to *Melbourne Indexers Bulletin* are welcome at melbourneindexers@gmail.com