

# Melbourne Indexers Bulletin

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process of indexing and working with indexers.

## Indexing Books as a Career

A new free, self-paced indexing course, comprising 6 hours of instruction, is being offered through the Canvas Network. The course is a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) and has been designed by Sylvia Coates, who developed the University of California Berkeley Extension online course, "Indexing: Theory and Application".

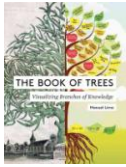
According to the website <https://www.canvas.net/browse/canvasnet/courses/indexing-books>, the course provides basic information on writing back-of-the-book indexes and working as a professional indexer. It is not intended to substitute for a comprehensive indexing course but is appropriate for individuals wanting to explore indexing as a career. This course will also inform both editors and self-publishing authors by providing an overview of the

This course will enable participants to:

- Understand who indexers are and how they work.
- Become familiar with index structure, format, and specification options.
- Gain familiarity with the process of term selection and writing an index.
- Learn what indexers wish editors and authors knew about indexing

The course commences on September 26, 2016. Enrolment can be made through the website. As of 18 September, 2016, the course had received 167 enrolments. There is no limit on the number of enrolments and the course will run again in the future. Sylvia Coates was pleased to tell me there are no assignments to be marked!

*Max McMaster*



## Book review: *The book of trees* by Manuel Lima

This may seem like an odd title for indexers to be interested in, however the subtitle 'visualizing branches of knowledge' gives you a better clue. This book examines the history of the use of tree type diagrams to represent information. The introduction sets the historic scene. Here Lima points out that several religions and early civilisations worship trees, sometimes particular types of trees. The Tree of life is depicted in many early manuscripts and temple reliefs. Genealogical trees are one of the earliest forms of using trees to depict kingship. One example given is from the *Nuremburg Chronical* of 1495.

The tree metaphor flourished when scholars like Francis Bacon and René Descartes started using them to categorise knowledge. From here they were picked up by scientists such as Charles Darwin and Carl Linnaeus. For Darwin the tree diagram was essential to demonstrate his evolutionary thinking. As the use of tree diagrams increased they were manipulated in many ways. The main part of the book contains examples of the use of various types of tree diagrams with detailed captions explaining their use. Lima has scoured libraries and museums around the world to find examples and then the internet for more modern examples.

The first section looks at the use of figurative trees spanning 800 years. As you turn from one example to another the wide range of subjects they are used for is revealed. On one spread is the tree used to describe Portuguese civil code, the mythological tree and the plan of the organization of New York and the Erie Railroad. A few pages on is a tree with the title 'In Obama's words'. It is a visualisation of the words used in 800 of US President Barack

Obama's speeches from January 2009 to November 2011. Less frequently used words are placed on the fine external tips.

The next section looks at vertical trees. These are the more stylised top down trees such as genealogical representations, that became popular for representing taxonomical knowledge. These are then rotated to become horizontal trees depicted in the next section. Icicle treemaps are a boxy modern version of these. Then there are multidirectional trees and radial trees, progressing to hyperbolic trees and the more modern sunbursts or radial treemaps.

Rectangular treemaps are very popular in modern data visualisations. I was intrigued to see an early example from 1845 of a comparative chart of the extent of countries. Other types are Voronoi treemaps and circular treemaps.

As you move through each section, historical, artistic and often hand drawn examples develop into engraved and later computer generated examples. Some types, such as the rectangular treemaps are older than you might have thought. As with all visualisations, some work better than others in getting their message across.

This is a fascinating book. Try to track a copy down and borrow it via inter-library loan. It is perfect to dip into. It also has a detailed index.

*The book of trees: visualizing branches of knowledge* by Manuel Lima, New York, Princeton Architectural Press, 2014. For a taste see Look Inside at <https://www.amazon.com/Book-Trees-Visualizing-Branches-Knowledge/dp/1616892188>

*Mary Russell*

## Surprise package:

### David Crystal's *Words in time and place*

I am always on the lookout for indexes that are surprise packages in some way. Readers will remember the December 2015 meeting where we shared some examples

<https://www.anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MIB-Jan-2016.pdf> .

I have a new one to share and welcome other suggestions from readers.

### Chronological indexes

David Crystal is a prolific writer and great supporter of indexes. One of his more recent books caught my eye as it has an unusual index. *Words in time and place: exploring language through the historical thesaurus or the Oxford English Dictionary* was published by Oxford University Press in 2014.

Each of the 15 chapters examine the history of words for a particular topic. Chapters cover words for dying, nose, being drunk, a privy, money, terms of endearment, etc. After a brief introduction the words used for that concept are described in date order set out in a table. There is sometimes quite a long list of words.

Not surprisingly the book has an index – well three actually: words, people and general topics. Page numbers are not used. The best way to describe the indexes is to quote the introduction to the three chronological indexes:

As with any thesaurus, an alphabetical index, organized letter by letter, is an essential aid to quickly finding the location of a word or phrase. To facilitate this process in the present book, the indexes reflect the book's ethos, and are chronological in character, referring to chapters and dates rather than pages: 2:1300 refers to the entry for the year 1300 in

Chapter 2. In chapters where there is more than one chronological listing, reflecting the presence of numbered subcategories, the number of the relevant subcategory is given after the year: 11:1957 [3] refers to the entry found in Chapter 11, year 1957 in section 3. *Introduction* refers to the opening essay in this book. *I* refers to the introductory essay in each chapter, preceded by the chapter number: 9:I refers to the introduction to Chapter 9.

Multi-word terms are indexed under their content words: *yield up the soul* will be found under both *yield* and *soul*, and *space platform* under both *space* and *platform*. Grammatical words are ignored in the alphabetical listing: *by jingo* will be found only under *jingo*. Words appearing in citations or OED definitions are not indexed, nor is the repeated use of a word if it is mentioned in a chapter introduction.

rabbit/rabbits, what the 8: 1701 [4]  
ragamuffin 14: 1986 [4]  
raga rock 14: 1966 [2A]  
ragga(muffin) 14: 1986 [4]  
ragged 14: 1986 [4]  
rai 14: 1986 [5]  
railway hotel 9: 1839 [2]  
raise a dust 11: 1607  
rake in the shekels 11: 1883  
rancho 9: 1648 [1]  
R and/& B 14: 1978 [5]  
rap, gangsta 14: 1989 [5]  
rap (music)/rapping 14: 1979 [5]  
rap and scratch 14: 1982 [5]  
rarzo/raspberry 2: 1899  
rat 8: 1691 [4], 8: 1701 [4]  
rat, drunk as a 3: 1330, 3: 1982  
rat, pissed as a 3: 1812  
rat-arsed 3: 1984  
rat it/me me 8: 1691 [4]  
rats 8: 1816 [4]  
rat's ass, don't give a 3: 1984  
ratted 3: 1982  
rave 14: 1992 [5]  
rawk 14: 1987 [2A]

*From the chronological index of words.*

While you may or may not like the approach you are sure to get a chuckle at the list of words in the index. See the indexes at

<https://www.amazon.com/Words-Time-Place-Historical-Dictionary/dp/0199680477/>

*Mary Russell*

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## History Week 2016



Melbourne History Week runs from 16 to 23 October and includes a number of events in Melbourne and across Victoria. Biomedical breakthroughs, the life and times of Henry Handel Richardson, wild colonial boys, pearling, cycling, and fashion and style in Dandenong in the 1950s and 1960s (seen left) are just some of what's on offer. For more go to <http://historyweek.org.au/>

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## Upcoming meetings

The Melbourne Indexers programme of events for 2017 will be announced soon. Suggestions for topics can be emailed to [melbourneindexers@gmail.com](mailto:melbourneindexers@gmail.com)

### Next meeting – What was your most challenging index?

What was your most challenging index? What aspect of the job made it challenging? Perhaps it was your first job, the clients were difficult or the book itself was massive or intellectually challenging. Come and share your experiences. Who knows what will be discussed?

Date: Wednesday 5 October

Time: 6:00 for 6:30 pm

Venue: Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Kew

Followed by dinner at Café La Q

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| <b>Wednesday 7 December</b><br><b>How are books constructed?</b> | 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. |
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## ***Melbourne Indexers Bulletin* is now online**

Missing an issue or want to go back and look at an old one? Past issues are now on ANZSI's website at <https://www.anzsi.org/about-us/groups/melbourne-indexers/>. Issues appear on the website three months after publication.

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### **Correction**

Oops! In last month's *Bulletin*, it was incorrectly stated that the August meeting with the topic "Editing the AusSi Newsletter Index" was held in July.

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| Contributions to <i>Melbourne Indexers Bulletin</i> are welcome at<br>melbourneindexers@gmail.com |
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