

Melbourne Indexers Bulletin

No. 28, November 2017



<http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/view-image.php?image=4682>

Season's greetings

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Looking back/looking forward

With the end of 2017 fast approaching, it is a good opportunity to look at what we have achieved over the year and to look forward to 2018.

Looking back

Melbourne Indexers has grown to 42 members and friends. During the year we held 6 meetings.

February – Melbourne Indexers challenge

April – updating an index

June – financial aspects of indexing

August – indexing cited authors

October – single or plural headings

December – get together – see details on page 4

With our previous venue in Kew now a building site, we moved meetings to the morning at Camberwell Library and the good indexing discussions continued.

Planning for the seminar, *Indexes through publisher's eyes*, went well with interest from the speakers. However, for various reasons, a few key speakers were not able to make the 1 September date.

The *Melbourne Indexers Bulletin* continued to be published 11 times during the year and is available at <https://www.anzsi.org/about-us/groups/melbourne-indexers/>. Almost by chance, an index to the first 24 issues was prepared.

The library is used and appreciated by members.

The history of the establishment of the Victorian Indexing Club (the VIC), the previous name of the Melbourne Indexers, was written by Mary Russell and Nikki Davis and published in *The Indexer* in March 2017.

The *ANZSI Newsletter* index project to index the first 20 years 1973–1992 is very nearly finished. With the help of several volunteers these years have been indexed and the merged years are now edited. To assist with consistency of subject headings, Michael Ramsden has created a thesaurus. These changes have been applied and the page entries have been converted into hyperlinks to the appropriate article. A final bit of tweaking is required before placing the index on the website. Hopefully, in time for the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Looking forward

We are planning for 2018 and hope to announce the program late January. However, if you have a topic you would like discussed, please let us know. We welcome your input.

We are on the lookout for a venue we can hire in the evenings and return to the possibility of sharing a meal afterwards. Do you know of a possible place?

Ideas for topics for discussion include examining the index to the chapter from the new 17th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, trivia learnt from indexing, indexing negatives (concepts, not photographs), dealing with foreign articles such as le or la, zoology indexing, introductory material and Roman page numbers.

We will see if the seminar *Indexes through publishers' eyes* can come together, possibly in March.

The Library is available for summer reads. I refer you to the catalogue (<https://www.anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MIB-Jun-2015.pdf#page=6>) Please let me know if you would like to borrow items. Perhaps you would be prepared to review the item for a future *Bulletin*?

The *Bulletin* will continue to be published. We always welcome content. Please share any unusual indexes you spot, your indexing conundrums or anything else you think our readers may be interested in.

Wishing you all the very best for the Festive Season and I hope 2018 is a good indexing year for you.

Mary Russell

Accessibility

Accessibility of books and files has caught my eye this month from a couple of different angles. Making material accessible to all readers has been of interest to me since I used to do technical research for a blind client. This was back in the early days of searching databases when it was via a dedicated phone line. I needed to reformat the results in a set way, adding appropriate codes to indicate where titles, authors, abstracts, etc. started and remove unrequired fields to make it easier for him to have the material read to him via his machine.

Australia is a signatory to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities that came into force in September 2016. This allows for copyright exceptions to facilitate the creation of accessible versions of books and other copyrighted material. Full details can be found on the World Intellectual Property Organisation website <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh/>. An article in *The Age* on 6 November explored what this might mean for books and documents of the future. It also quoted around 44 percent of Australians are estimated to have low literacy skills (<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/book-of-the-future-is-a-choose-your-own-adventure-20171102-gzdh8d.html>)

Exploring the 2016 Microsoft Office programs, I discovered a couple of new features addressing accessibility. Under the Review tab the 'Check Accessibility' option points out how the document could be improved. It is available in Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint. There are several help screens with tips on how to make documents more accessible.

Another new feature in Word is 'Read Aloud'. Again, under the Review tab. This will read the text of your document to you. Or even your index! The default voice is 'David', with an American accent. No doubt there are other voice options. On a quick look this feature appears to only be available in Word.

Both features certainly assist in reminding us to make ordinary files more accessible. I have added exploring these to my list of things to do over the summer months.

Mary Russell

What's in the new issue of *The Indexer*?

The latest jam-packed issue of *The Indexer* is now available on Ingenta and will appear on Lulu soon. Articles include:

'Think this through with me ... indexing the Dead' *Jan Wright*

'No one need ever know: the usefulness of editing checklists' *Bill Johncocks*

'Reviewing generated indexes' *David K. Ream*

'Reviews of The Book Index symposium' *Florian Ehrensperger and Mary Coe*

There's also a fabulous Centrepiece on:

19th-century advice for book indexers from the USA (J. Ben Nichols) and the UK (H. B. Wheatley) with thoughts and analysis from *Alan Walker*.

Enjoy the read!



Melbourne Indexers end-of-year dinner at Café La Q

Catch up with your fellow indexers for a purely social evening at our favourite venue.

Date: Wednesday 6 December

Time: 7:00 pm

Address: 223 High Street, Kew

RSVP: By 1 December to Mary Russell (mruss@ozemail.com.au)

It's your *Melbourne Indexers Bulletin* so feel free to contribute!

Found a neat way around an indexing conundrum? Borrowed a Melbourne Indexers Library resource that you found helpful (or maybe not so helpful)? Have an idea for a discussion topic? Get in touch by sending an email to melbourneindexers@gmail.com