

Melbourne Indexers Bulletin

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Index to the first 20 years of ANZSI newsletters

The index to the first 20 years of ANZSI Newsletters is now available at (<https://www.anzsi.org/publications-home/newsletters/>). A detailed report on the project will appear in the *ANZSI Newsletter*, however I promised to discuss the thesaurus in more detail.

A thesaurus builds on the decisions made in the style guide and focuses on the subject headings to be used in the index. It provides the guidance to help ensure material is indexed consistently and appropriate cross-referencing is added.

Why wasn't the thesaurus developed earlier? It is only when you combine years and see the scope of material that you can realistically determine what terms to include in the thesaurus. Also, various indexers index concepts differently. The range of terms helps you decide which term should be the preferred term. Alternative ways to index conferences, for example, highlighted a specific style needed to be developed for conference year, place and title.

Michael Ramsden kindly took on the task to create a thesaurus. He used the subject headings in the index as the basis for the thesaurus terms. As with indexing, authors use different words to refer to the same thing, so the main task is deciding which term to use with links from alternative terms. While the notation used in a thesaurus is slightly different to an index, cross-referencing is similar with additional links to broader and narrower terms. Appropriate subheadings are also included. This means terms used are specific. Unlike indexing a book where you might remove a subheading with only one page number, the thesaurus needs to cope with the possibilities of more on that topic in the future.

Below is a sample thesaurus entry for Indexers. Bold means the heading is used. Abbreviation sa is for see also, x for refer from, xx indicates a broader term and dp is an instruction to double post.

Indexers

sa Good indexers

x Freelance indexers

xx Indexes

Indexing

— Agreements with publishers

dp Publishers : Agreements with indexers

- **Authors as**
dp Authors : as indexers
- **Children as**
dp Children as indexers
- **Europe**
dp Europe : Indexers
- **Knowledge requirement**
- Professionalism
see Indexing : as a profession
- **Relations with other professionals**
- — **Consultants**
dp Consultants : Relations with Indexers
- — **Editors**
dp Editors : Relations with indexers
- — **Publishers**
dp Publishers : Relations with indexers
- Remuneration
see Rates of pay

The term quotations turned out to be unexpectedly complicated. There were articles on indexing books containing quotations, quotations about indexing, quotations about indexes, general quotations and then quotations as in prices. The thesaurus helped sort this out into quotations (pricing) and quotations (literary), with appropriate subheadings such as 'about indexing' and 'indexing of'.

The thesaurus was developed with all years of the newsletters in mind. This means there are old and new terms used within the thesaurus. For example, even though it is now called Accreditation, the term used in early years was Registration. Not all headings used appear in the thesaurus as it is thought some concepts may only appear once. Entries could be added as more recent newsletters are indexed.

A meeting was held to discuss the terms in the draft thesaurus and clarify which terms should be preferred terms. This often involved referring to the article to check if correctly understood what it was about. The thesaurus is being tweaked to reflect the headings and style used in the final index and will be added to the website.

This was a big project, made much easier with the pro-bono help of many people. All connected with this index have been included in the acknowledgements at the end of the index. I thank them all for their assistance, including members of Melbourne Indexers.

Nine of the next 20 years have already been indexed. Editing the work will be a lot easier with the thesaurus. There are 11 years still to be indexed. Any volunteers?

Mary Russell

Fiona Price – Professional name reader

Cultural diversity consultant, Fiona Swee-Lin Price is known to ANZSI members through her presentations on Asian names at the 2011 and 2013 ANZSI conferences. Since then Fiona has developed quite a reputation for reading thousands of names at university graduation ceremonies – all perfectly pronounced of course! This link includes audio of her describing her job <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/the-name-doctor-wont-make-a-meal-of-monikers-with-a-high-degree-of-difficulty-20171220-h080ce.html>

NGV Triennial publication subject index



Photo: Nikki Davis

A visit to the NGV Triennial exhibition (on until 15 April) is well worth it. It features the work of over 100 artists and designers from 32 countries, and even includes an 'index installation'.

Working from home

Bernard Salt has been examining the results of the last Census and writing up results in *The Weekend Australian*. On Saturday 17 December 2017 the focus was on those who worked from home on Census night. Not surprisingly, it isn't as popular as it was predicted decades ago. About 504,000 worked from home. Removing farmers, who typically work from home, that leaves 431,000 or 4.1% of non-farm workforce. Up from 2011 but the proportion in 2006 was 3.8% so not a big shift in the decade. About 60% are female and that drops from aged 45 (kids grown up enough to change type of work?). The cohort isn't middle Australia. It is either struggling writer/artist or management working from beach house. This is because popular spots are typically beach house locations like Noosa Heads (top spot). In Victoria top locations were Flinders, Daylesford, Pt Lonsdale, Mt Eliza, Pantom Hill/St Andrews. Those working from home are more likely to have a postgraduate degree; 10.4% compared with average of 7.3% of workers. There are trends with religion, such as more common amongst Jews and Jehovah's Witnesses. They are also more likely to be born in Norway, Latvia, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Workforce is typically highly skilled or highly creative.

Chatting about this with friends I was referred to the *World Happiness Report 2017* (<http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2017/>). In this report they studied happiness at work. Not surprisingly there is a strong link between having a job and happiness.

As might be expected, we find that those in well-paying jobs are happier and more satisfied with their lives and their jobs, but a number of further aspects of people's jobs are strongly predictive of varied measures of. Work-life balance emerges as a particularly strong predictor of people's happiness. Further factors include job variety and the need to learn new things, as well the level of individual autonomy enjoyed by the employee. Moreover, job security and social capital (as measured through the support one receives from fellow workers) are also positively correlated with happiness, while jobs that involve risks to health and safety are generally associated with lower levels of subjective wellbeing. (p. 145)

Many of these factors are identifiable with working as an indexer. The report specifically looked at self-employment:

Being self-employed tends to be associated with higher life evaluation and positive affect (as compared to being a full-time employee) across Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and East Asia. However, individuals that are self-employed in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa tend to report lower life evaluation and less positive affective experience. Interestingly, however, although in some regions self-employment is associated with higher levels of life evaluation, most regions do converge in terms of showing that employing oneself and running one's own business is generally associated with the experience of more negative emotions such as stress and worry. (p. 153)

Many of us work from home and wouldn't have it any other way. It is interesting to have the benefits confirmed.

Mary Russell

Indexing through publishers' eyes seminar

Sometimes things just don't come together, and this seems to be the case with this seminar. It is thought it would be better to link it in with the Editors, and the fact they are holding their next conference in Melbourne in May 2019, may be an avenue to explore.

Melbourne Indexers events 2018

We have a fresh new program of events coming up, and the good news is that if you found it difficult to get to our daytime meetings last year, we are returning to our original format of monthly meetings held in the evening.

New day: First Thursday of the month

New venue: Hawthorn Library meeting room 1 (called Glenferrie), 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

New regular time: from 6.00 – 8.00 pm

Carparking is available down the side of the building. If you are travelling by public transport there is a tram stop nearby, and Glenferrie Station is just a couple of tram stops away.

After the meeting we will go to a local restaurant for a meal (at own expense).

Thursday	Topic	Description
February 1	Index to the <i>Chicago Manual of Style</i> index chapter	The chapter on indexing in the <i>Chicago Manual of Style</i> is published separately with its own index. The content of the 16 th and 17 th editions is very similar, yet their indexes are very different. Comparing the indexes raises questions on how best to index material on indexing. Copies of the indexes will be available to compare.
March 1	Five things you like to have at hand while indexing	You have the indexing software and a copy of the item you are indexing, what else do you require or like to have at hand to work effectively? It could be specific reference books or Apps, a touch screen, the Look inside feature on Amazon, or even chocolate or Panadol. Come and share your favourite five things.
April 5	Embedded indexing	What is embedded indexing? One form is to embed the index in MS Word. How is this done and can indexing software be used to assist? Various options will be discussed and demonstrated.

Future meeting dates:

May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6.

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