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John Simkin Medal 2018: call for nominations

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.
PO Box 2069
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
https://www.anzsi.org/

John Simkin Medal 2018 – Call for Nominations

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) invites nominations for the John Simkin Medal – an award recognising an outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

Previously known as the ANZSI Medal, this award was renamed in honour of John Simkin, one of the founding members of the Society. John promoted the ideals of indexes and indexing throughout his 40-year association with the Society, so it is with pleasure we acknowledge his enormous contribution to indexing in this way.

The ANZSI Medal was first awarded in 1985. Due to the prestigious nature of the Medal, it is awarded only when merited. Details of previous winners are available:


To attain the award, indexes must be of the highest calibre. The index should be substantial in size, the subject matter complex, and the language, form and structure should demonstrate the indexer’s expertise in serving the primary needs of the text and the reader. There are no restrictions on the subject matter of the book. The book may be in either paper or electronic format.

To be eligible for the award, the book must be commercially available and have an imprint date of 2015 or later. The index must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand, although the text to which it refers may have been published elsewhere.

All nominations will be acknowledged. Nominations are confidential and anonymous, in that nominees’ names are known only to the Receiving Officer, not to the Judging Panel. The Judging Panel may make no award, or one or more awards.

Publishers, booksellers, editors, librarians, indexers and interested persons are invited to provide nominations. Indexers are encouraged to submit their own work.

The winning indexer will receive the John Simkin Medal and a framed certificate. The publisher will receive a framed certificate.

Nominations

A completed nomination form together with a hard copy of the book or a link to the electronic file of both book and index is required. Hard copy books will be returned after judging. Nomination forms are available at https://www.anzsi.org/about-us/awards/the-john-simkin-medal/

Applications must be received no later than 5.00 pm AEST, Friday, 29 June 2018 at PO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia or (in the case of digital books) by email to the Receiving Officer at councilmember1@anzsi.org

Applicants who have posted books must advise the Receiving Officer that they have done so. All nominations received will be acknowledged.

Announcement of the award(s), if any, will be made at the ANZSI Annual General Meeting in October 2018, and the presentation made at an appropriate event in late 2018 or in 2019.

Shirley Campbell, Receiving Officer, John Simkin Medal on behalf of the Judging Panel
Council update

The principal focus of Council’s attention in February and March was National Indexing Day (29 March 2018). A very successful promotion campaign included social media posts (Facebook, Twitter and the ANZSI website), news items and paid advertisements in editor’s and writers’ newsletters, press releases posted to editors’ and librarians’ e-lists and publishers in Australia and New Zealand, group activities and photos to mark the event.

The Society of Indexers (UK) and the Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d’indexation (ISC/SCI) also celebrated National Indexing day on 29 March, so it was a collaborative international effort as the three societies shared information and posts, using both the generic #indexday hashtag and their own specific tags.

Read the coverage of the activities for National Indexing Day elsewhere in this Newsletter and a full report will be presented to Council at its next meeting. Activities and procedures are being documented for use in future National Indexing Days.

On other matters:

- The call for nominations for the John Simkin Medal 2018 have been emailed to ANZSI members, has been included in this Newsletter and will be promoted widely.
- Council has been investigating administrative and bookkeeping support options.
- The ICRIS International Agreement and how ANZSI might be represented at the ICRIS Triennial Meeting later this year will be considered by Council; information will be distributed to members through Council minutes and the Newsletter.

Minutes of the 5 February 2018 meeting and associated documents are in the members’ area of the website, on the Official Documents page: https://www.anzsi.org/member-area/official-documents/.

The next meeting of Council is by teleconference, on 29 April 2018 at 4.00 pm.

Sherrey Quinn, Secretary
Aotearoa/New Zealand Indexers

Some members of the Aotearoa/New Zealand Group met for lunch on the 15 March 2018 at the National Library café in Wellington. We are currently updating our Freelance Directory which we have not updated for a number of years. We intend to send this out with the media release about the National Indexing Day to all publishers in New Zealand. Our library is running well with another suggestion for a book purchase made at the meeting and all members present reported using the library in the last year. The group subscription of *The Indexer* is also proving of benefit to our members, most of whom would not be willing to take out an individual subscription.

Comments about the publishing industry in New Zealand included that there seem to be more academic books available, especially about New Zealand history, with some members having plenty of work from the university presses; however commercial publishers are finding it increasingly difficult to sell books when competing with online book depositories like Amazon; a big publisher in Auckland has moved their production to Australia; there seem to be quite a few indexers who are not a member of ANZSI working in New Zealand.

Everyone liked the café we met at and the consensus was that a meeting earlier in the year was preferable to one at the end of the year when we are all busy. We propose to meet again next year around Feb/March.

*Tordis Flath*

Left to right: Tordis Flath, Robin Briggs, Judith Wilson and Michael Steemson.

*Photograph: thanks to Tordis Flath*
Canberra Region Indexers


*Sherrey Quinn*

Left to right: Kerry Anderson, Geraldine Triffitt, Shirley Campbell, Carolyn Page, Ali Bell, Jean Norman, Tracy Harwood, Sherrey Quinn.

*Photograph: Sophie Quinn*
In 1872 businessman Emanuel Solomon commissioned photographer Henry Jones to create ‘The Old Colonists Banquet Group’ of men. It commemorates a free banquet Solomon held at the Adelaide Town Hall on 28 December 1871 for fellow colonists ‘who date their arrival before 1841’.

Jones also began a mosaic of women, partly as a consolation to those who applied for tickets only to be told that the banquet was for ‘the Male Sex’. The ‘Group of Old Colonists’ women took Jones nine years to complete and has since been celebrated as unique in the history of Australian photography.

These mosaics are two of several held by the State Library of South Australia and were accompanied by scant and error ridden indexes, especially the index to the women’s portraits. Over a number of years State Library staff have laboriously researched what they could of the arrival and life details of these 1,100+ faces and collected the data in spreadsheets. Metadata Coordinator and ANZSI member, Janet Wilkinson was tasked to convert the data captured in the spreadsheets into MARC catalogue records and later into finding grids (or indexes) that are now on display next to facsimiles of the mosaics on level one of the Spence Wing of the State Library of South Australia.

View the old colonists in more detail in the State Library’s catalogue.

The men: https://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/record=b2053729~S1
The women: https://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/record=b2074769~S1
Melbourne Indexers

The National Gallery of Victoria’s (NGV) current exhibition, NGV Triennial, celebrates contemporary art and design practice and features the work of over 100 artists and designers from 32 countries. It’s timely that on National Indexing Day the exhibition also includes an ‘index installation’ – a feature wall that displays an enlarged extract from the index to the NGV Triennial publication. Visitors can enjoy the installation and peruse copies of the publication scattered on the seating around it. The index was compiled by NGV Publications staff.

Mary Russell (left) with Megan Patty (National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) Publications Manager) in front of the NGV Triennial Publication Subject Index on 26 March 2018.

 Photograph: Nikki Davis

National

Denise Sutherland was interviewed on the Australian Writers’ Centre blog ‘So you want to be a writer’ on 20 March: ‘Ep 227 To celebrate National Indexing Day on 29 March 2018, meet indexer and crossword creator Denise Sutherland’. Denise highlighted the value of indexing, dispelled the computer myths, and enlightened listeners (and the interviewer!) on the process of indexing.
Go to https://www.writerscentre.com.au/blog/ep-227/ to listen to the interview or read the transcript.

On Tuesday, 10 April, Madeleine Davis was interviewed on ABC Radio National's The Hub on Books to talk about all things indexing.

The program website is at http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-hub-on-books/.

You can download the program here:
http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2018/04/bhb_20180410.mp3

The full program lasts about an hour; Madeleine was interviewed in the last segment: ‘the unsung art of indexing’. The segment starts at 44:09 of the 53:52 program’s minutes:seconds timeline.

Elisabeth Thomas

The last event for the first ever Australian National Indexing Day was an online presentation by Mary Coe and Madeleine Davis for students at the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University. The seminar ran from 6:30 – 7:30 pm on Thursday, 29 March 2018 and was attended by 21 students.

Mary started things off by explaining the difference between an analytical index and a concordance and emphasising that an indexer’s job is to help people find information. She then walked the students through her professional career working as a book indexer, database indexer, and website indexer. She also touched on metadata analysis and search engine optimisation, which require skills similar to indexing. Mary introduced the students to the many indexing societies around the world and the international journal, The Indexer. She finished off with a few words about her research into the use of e-book indexes as a PhD student at Charles Sturt University.

Madeleine then took over with an illustration of where indexing fits in the wider world of information organisation. She talked about her professional career and entertained the students with amusing stories about the many interesting books she has indexed over the years. Getting a bit more serious, she provided details on indexing software, the types of materials that can be indexed, and the skills required of indexers. She also talked about subject specialisation, bias, how indexes differ from search engines and contents pages, and the usefulness of indexes. Finally, she donned her ANZSI President hat and explained what the society has to offer, including training courses, events, accreditation and conferences.

The presentation finished with a few words from both Mary and Madeleine on the future of indexing and a collection of indexer jokes. Judging by the comments in the online chat box, the students were amused by the jokes! There was time for questions, and the students had lots of them. They included queries about subject specialisation, search engine optimisation, the process of indexing, archival indexing, and acknowledgment of the indexer in books. Several students also expressed their admiration of indexers and thanks for the work that they do, which was a sweet note to end on. ☺

Madeleine Davis and Mary Coe

Image: Charles Sturt University
NSW Indexers


Left to right: Glenda Browne, Denise Holden, Jon Jermey, Jenny Browne, Michael Wyatt.

Behind the camera: Madeleine Davis

The Lawson Library building played an important role in the late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries as the Blue Mountains Shire’s first Council Chambers. Built in 1915, its distinctive Federation freestyle building is listed on the NSW heritage register.

Madeleine Davis

The early start to celebrations by NSW Indexers for ANZSI National Indexing Day included selecting some 'private label' wines for the occasion.

The label features the promotional graphic with the added quote from *The Wines of France* by Cyril Ray (London: Allen Lane, 1976).

‘A book without an index is like a wine without a bouquet.’

**Madeleine Davis**

*Original photograph: Jon Jerme*

*Amateur image manipulation [and puns]: Elisabeth Thomas*
About the Thesaurus to the Index to the *ANZSI Newsletter* indexing project

The index to the first 20 years of ANZSI newsletters is available at [https://www.anzsi.org/publications-home/newsletters/](https://www.anzsi.org/publications-home/newsletters/).

A detailed report on the project appeared in the February 2018 issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter*, however, I promised to discuss the Thesaurus in more detail.

What follows is a recap of, and expansion upon, the discussion of the thesaurus for the project.

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. Abbreviations: 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**
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*

---

**Got a sideline in editing?**

If you do editing work alongside your indexing jobs... or perhaps editing is taking over the jobs coming to your desk...

You may want to consider seeking some extra letters to add to your business card: the post nominal ‘AE’.

The Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) is holding its next Accreditation exam soon – on Saturday, 19 May 2018.

The exam is held every two years and is seen as a significant achievement and recognition of editing skill. The exam is rigorous, with a high pass mark.
It is too late to consider taking up the challenge this year as registrations have closed, but editors involved with, or who have done the exam, tend to recommend that you would need at least a few months to prepare.

This year most IPEd branches around Australia held workshops on preparing for the exam, and, for the first time, two webinars. Such training plus practice doing sample exams are considered valuable preparation.

“Prospective employers and clients are starting to recognise that ‘AE’ is a reliable indicator of competence.

An immediate benefit of accreditation is the validation of your competence by your peers. Being able to call yourself an accredited editor means you have passed a peer review that certifies your competence in applying the standards set out in *Australian standards for editing practice.*” (IPEd website)

For more information, go to the IPEd website: [http://iped-editors.org/Accreditation.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/Accreditation.aspx).

**Elisabeth Thomas**

(Disclosure: like quite a few of you, dear readers, I am one of those who took up editing work as well. I also double up as a member of ANZSI Council and a member of Editors NSW, a branch of IPEd, committee.)

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**Membership renewal reminder**

It’s that time of year again as June draws ever closer – it will soon be membership renewal season! Membership starts 1 July each year. So, as you start getting your financial papers together for EOFY, plan to include your ANZSI membership for 2018–2019.
What's in *The Indexer*?

The March issue of *The Indexer* is out in hardcopy and on Ingenta and Lulu.

Did you know that the electronic version of *The Indexer* is available to subscribers in the last week of the month **before** the month of publication?

More info at [https://www.theindexer.org/online.htm](https://www.theindexer.org/online.htm).

If you don't subscribe, here's just some of what you're missing out on!

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Lunching with editors

Editors NSW (a branch of the Institute of Professional Editors, IPEd) hosted a lunch recently in Katoomba, in the News South Wales Blue Mountains. ANZSI members are often invited to join this networking lunch. The recent event, a most 'congenial' gathering (as opined by one attendee Giuliano Sterrantino), was enjoyed by a mixed crowd of editors and indexers.

‘When running a busy freelance business from home, the opportunity to get out of the office to network and socialise ‘in person’ with professional kith does not often present itself. So, when the editors’ lunches come around I try to attend – even if the venue is a little far afield. ‘Far afield’ for me was the location of the February editors’ lunch, hosted by Margie Tubbs in the beautiful Blue Mountains. Lindy Ferris carpooled with me and we enjoyed light traffic and conversation on the drive ‘up the big hill’.

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*Image: CCO*
Katoomba’s air was noticeably ‘refreshing’ when we stepped out of the car and made our way to the lunch venue – the charming Old City Bank Brasserie.

The lunch was well attended by a mix of local and not-so-local editors and indexers (see photo). We enjoyed delicious pub food – great for a chilly day – along with plenty of great conversation (and wine, of course, for those who were not driving).

If you have not been to an editors’ lunch, I highly recommend you try to attend one at least once a year. You get to share stories, have a whinge, and have a laugh – so treat yourself to a break from the daily grind.’ Sally Asnicar

‘I have been to a few of the editors’ informal weekday lunches. They are great opportunities to catch up with other indexers, and especially editors. I cannot remember talking about any work issues at our lovely Katoomba lunch last month. But we did touch on travel, the joys of retirement, book clubs and taking grandchildren to the library! Most of the ‘lunchers’ are freelancers, so we share all the joys and challenges of the freelance life. Editors are the most important professional group for indexers and meeting up with them broadens our horizons, so we can understand the publishing process from another perspective.’ Glenda Browne

Left to right: Mary Coe, Glenda Browne, Jenny Browne, Sally Asnicar, Denise Holden, Lindy Ferris, Susie Pilkington, Margie Tubbs, Robin Appleton, Jennifer Mosher, Giuliano Sterrantino, Tricia Dearborn.

Photograph: thanks to Susie Pilkington, Editors NSW

(A version of this article first appeared Editors NSW’s Blue Pencil in March 2018.)

Photograph: CCO
Inaugural DReam to Index Scholarship

The DReam to Index Scholarship, in memory of David K Ream, announces its winners for 2018. Congratulations to Travis Hale, Shannon Li and Sarah McIntosh.

The overwhelming response of generous contributions benefits three new indexers in the scholarship’s inaugural year. Each of the three winners will receive the base registration fee (US$465) to apply toward the American Society for Indexing (ASI) national conference in Cleveland, Ohio, on 26-28 April 2018.

Dave Ream, who passed away in December 2017, provided unwavering support to the indexing community. He was instrumental in planning ASI’s 2018 conference to be held in his beloved hometown of Cleveland.

Winners in future years will be eligible to use the award for registration at the ASI conference or at its sister societies’ conferences.

The DReam to Index Scholarship is a privately funded scholarship, organised by the Friends of Dave Ream.

For more information about the scholarship and about Dave Ream please visit http://dreamtoindex.com/.

Please check back early in January 2019, to apply for 2019’s scholarship.

(Text of email to SKY Index users)
ANZSI events

For full details, follow the link from the title of each event, or go directly to the Events webpage.

Sunday, 29 April 2018
ANZSI Council: Meeting
4:00 – 5:30 pm, teleconference

Thursday, 3 May 2018
Melbourne Indexers: Comparing indexes to biographies
6:00 – 8:00 pm, 'Glenferrie' Meeting Room, Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Victoria. Optional dinner afterwards.

With all the variations possible in structuring an index, what features would be most useful to biography readers? What indexing tips can we learn by examining various biography indexes? Bring along an example to share.

Monday, 1 June 2018
ANZSI Council: Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 pm, teleconference

Thursday, 5 June 2018
Melbourne Indexers: Five thing from the indexing puzzle bag
6:00 – 8:00 pm, 'Glenferrie' Meeting Room, Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Victoria. Optional dinner afterwards.

The indexing puzzle bag contains a collection of topics we may puzzle over: What is the common way to display page ranges? How do you index book introductions or the long preface, particularly those with Roman page numbers? How and why do you turn an indexing job down? American spelling – traps for Australians. How do you index concepts known in professions by acronyms or abbreviations? How do you file them?
**Other events**

**American Society for Indexing (ASI) Annual Conference 2018**

26-28 April 2018, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

‘...this lakefront city will have you falling in love with its beauty and charm. Playhouse Square offers the country’s largest performing arts center outside of New York City. The Cleveland Museum of Art, named the second-best museum in the United States, is ALWAYS free and sits within walking distance of the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Downtown you’ll find a pedestrian-friendly throughway packed with popular eateries on East Fourth Street. With memorabilia, interactive exhibits, and live performances, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is famously located in Cleveland.’


**Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers (ASAIB) Annual Conference 2018**

11 May 2018, Accolades Conference Venue, Midrand, Gauteng Province, South Africa

‘Embed the future in indexing’. Conference fee: R1100 per person includes conference attendance, conference pack, coffee/tea and refreshments, and lunch. The programme, registration form, map, etc will be communicated as soon as possible.


7–10 June 2018, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

‘Navigating the confluence of text and context.’ Conference venue: the historic Fort Garry Hotel. The programme is now available at


**Society of Indexers (SI) Annual Conference 2018**

9–10 September 2018, Lancaster, England, UK

‘The 2018 conference will be held at Lancaster University, where we will share a plenary session and a gala dinner with the Society of Editors and Proofreaders, who will be having their own conference at the same venue.’

[https://www.indexers.org.uk/training-development/conferences/](https://www.indexers.org.uk/training-development/conferences/)
China Society of Indexers

18 October 2018, Shanghai

‘Meeting with members. 2018 on 18th October jointly participated in 2018 Annual International Index Alliance Summit.’

2018 Triennial Meeting of International Committee of Representatives of Indexing Societies (ICRIS) in Shanghai on 18 October 2018

*** Remember to contact ANZSI Council if you are interested in formally representing ANZSI at a conference. Subsidies for registration and/or partial expenses may be available.
Contact information

General email: info@anzsi.org

ANZSocietyIndexers
@ANZSI_indexers

ANZSI Council 2017–2018

President: Madeleine Davis
Vice-President: Terri Anne Mackenzie
Secretary: Sherrey Quinn
Treasurer: Sherrey Quinn (a/g)
Council members: Shirley Campbell, Michael Wyatt, Elisabeth Thomas, Denene Cavanagh and Juliet Richters.

Branch and regional contacts

Please consult the ANZSI website for details of regional and interest groups, and their contact people.

Newsletter

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About the Newsletter

The Newsletter is published six times a year, every two months.
Opinions and statements expressed in the Newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.
Submissions may be edited for clarity, space and uniformity of style. Selection of content is at the discretion of the Editor / ANZSI Council.

Schedule

The next Newsletter will appear in June 2018.
The contribution deadline is Friday 25 May 2018.
Please send contributions by email to the editor, Elisabeth Thomas, at editor@anzsi.org

Advertising rates

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Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers

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Indexing the world of information