

Reflect, refresh, and celebrate 40 years of indexing
ISC/SCI Conference 2017 Program
 June 2 & 3 in Montréal, Québec



Friday, June 2

8am **Registration** begins (light breakfast provided)

9:00–11:00 **Keynote and Panel Discussion**
Case Study of a Bilingual, Multi-volume, Team-Based Indexing Project

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) has produced a comprehensive record of the Indian residential schools system and a six-volume bilingual report with recommendations to government concerning the system and its legacy. A team of six indexers, working from coast to coast, was recruited to produce a PDF index for each volume, to be accessible online in French and English. The challenges were multiple: communication, decision-making about consistency and name forms to be used, ethical considerations about what to include or not, etc. This presentation will examine the process and share lessons learned.



Mary Newberry, Alex Peace, Margaret de Boer, Anna Olivier, Louise Saint-André, François Trahan.

Panel discussion on indexing and the publishing industry, with particular reference to but not confined to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report:



Ryan Van Huijstee

Panellists: Ryan Van Huijstee (managing editor at McGill-Queen's University Press), and the TRC presenters.

11:00–11:15 **Break** (snacks provided)

11:15–12:15 **More Food for Thought: Grains and Granularity** (cookbook indexing)



Gillian Watts

Cookbook indexing is popular with foodie indexers, and this follow-up to an earlier presentation tackles some of the details. Many new cookbooks combine health information and recipes, while others focus narrowly on specific ingredients, cooking techniques, appliances, or

cultures. Deciding what to index then becomes more challenging. Which ingredients are staple pantry items and which should be indexed? How important are seasonings? How much can you assume your reader knows? And what do you do when health issues intertwine with tempting recipes?

12:15–1:15 **Lunch** (provided)

1:15–2:30 **Annual General Meeting**

2:30–2:45 **Break** (snacks provided)

2:45–3:45 **Developing a Business Strategy: Case Study for Indexers**



Sergey Lobachev

Running an indexing business is a challenging task, especially for newcomers to the profession. The path to success depends on various factors, including effective marketing campaigns, strong customer relations, and sound project management. All these factors, however, should align with a unique business strategy. Sergey will discuss the main components of business strategy development and share his experiences in building a successful indexing business.

3:45–4:00 **Break** (snacks provided)

4:00–5:00 **IXMLEmbedder: A New Tool for Embedding Index Entries**



David Ream

IXMLEmbedder allows users to work in Word, InDesign, or XML and other markup languages to insert document IDs while writing the index in their standalone software. The index entries are then inserted into the source document via IXML files. A demonstration will be done for a real-life Word project.

6:30 **Banquet and awards, Novotel Hotel**



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Saturday, June 3

8am Registration begins (light breakfast provided)

9:00–10:00 Seven Types of Specificity: The History of Alphabetic-specific Indexing



Allan Walker

In the late 19th century, a number of writers codified a set of principles for alphabetic-specific indexing, including C. A. Cutter in the United States and H. B. Wheatley in Britain. These principles are now generally accepted as the basis of many types of English-language indexing, ranging from library dictionary catalogues to back-of-the-book indexes and rules for thesaurus construction. Over time, associated terms of art that support the specific entry method were coined and defined, including natural language, direct order, syndetic structure, and alphabetical order itself.

10:00–10:15 Break (snacks provided)

10:15–11:15 Indexing for Our Users, Not Ourselves



Val Nesset

It makes sense that indexing and classification systems are developed by information professionals who are knowledgeable in information structure and management. Or does it? Often users find many of these systems non-intuitive and confusing to use, meaning that the systems are not meeting the users' needs. This presentation looks at the development of user-friendly indexing and classification practices by addressing information behaviour, usability, and user experience.

11:15–11:30 Break (snacks provided)

11:30–12:15 Size Does Matter: Fitting the Index to the Pages



Heather Ebbs

Ensuring that your index is the correct length for the book is a basic quality standard. To gauge an appropriate depth of indexing given the space available, indexers need to know how to calculate the pages remaining in a book and how to calculate how much space their index will

take up. This practical session will cover the basics of page counts and measuring index length.

12:15–1:15 Lunch (provided)

1:15–2:15 Thesaurus Creation and Indexing Compared



Heather Hedden

Creating a thesaurus—a structured kind of controlled vocabulary or taxonomy used to support indexing and retrieval—is in many ways similar to creating a back-of-the-book index, but there are also subtle yet significant differences that might not be readily apparent. This presentation compares key points, including creating multiple points of entry, forming a hierarchical structure, and indicating related topics, with examples in all cases. A comparison with periodical indexing is also included.

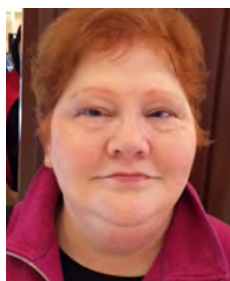
2:15–2:30 Break (snacks provided)

2:30–3:30 Getting the Most Out of Your Indexing Software: Ask the Experts

Frances Lennie (CINDEX), Gale Rhoades (MACREX), TBA (SKY Index).

3:30–3:45 Break (snacks provided)

3:45–4:45 Term Selection for Indexing Efficiency



Term selection is perhaps the critical step of the indexing process, but how do you actually do it? And how do you do it efficiently and effectively? Even the most experienced indexers can get bogged down in the minutiae of a complex text. Kate Mertes will walk you through her own process for generating good terms in good time.

4:45–5:00 Wrap-up

5 pm Closing reception (appetizers provided with a cash bar)

Note: Conference schedule is subject to change. Photos courtesy of conference presenters.