



Bulletin

Indexing Society of Canada
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ISC/SCI Conference

Toronto
June 3–4, 2009

The Indexing Society of Canada warmly invites you to its 2009 conference in Toronto June 3–4.

Take this opportunity to meet friends new and old at a conference designed to give a practical boost to your indexing skills and business.

Location: St. Michael's College, on the beautiful downtown campus of the University of Toronto

For more details, including conference program highlights, please see page 15.

Congrès de la Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI)

Toronto
3 et 4 juin 2009

La Société canadienne d'indexation a le plaisir de vous inviter à son congrès annuel, les 3 et 4 juin 2009 à Toronto.

Cette année, nous vous offrons de donner un bon coup d'accélérateur à vos compétences en indexation et à votre entreprise.

Profitez également de cette occasion pour revoir des amis de longue date et nouer de nouvelles amitiés.

Localisation : Collège St-Michael, sur le superbe campus du centre-ville de l'Université de Toronto.

Continue page 15.

Indexing Society of Canada

**Société canadienne
d'indexation**

ISC/SCI

P.O. Box 664, Station P
Toronto ON CAN M5S 2Y4

Web (English)

<http://www.indexers.ca/>

Web (français)

<http://www.indexers.ca/accueil.html>

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Membership Renewal Notice

Memberships that expire on June 30, 2009, will be coming up for renewal around the time of the conference.

To renew please print out and fill in the form at the following link:

<http://www.indexers.ca/application.html> (English)

<http://www.indexers.ca/applicationfr.html> (français)

and mail the form with your cheque to:

The Membership Secretary, ISC/SCI

P.O. Box 664, Station P

Toronto, ON

Canada M5S 2Y4

Important: Please remember to add the ISC/SCI membership secretary to your list of people to contact when your details change.

Audrey McClellan

Membership Secretary

Call for Bulletin Contributions

Author Guidelines: submit unsolicited articles electronically in DOC or RTF formats, artwork in PDF format, and photographs in TIF or JPG format.

Please send correspondence attention to:

The Editor, Natalie Boon natalie@booninformationservices.com

Advertising in the Bulletin

Full pageCDN \$80.00

Half pageCDN \$40.00

Quarter pageCDN \$20.00

Business cardCDN \$15.00

Please contact the editor for details. natalie@booninformationservices.com

Joining ISC/SCI

Membership Categories and Fees

Individual \$90, outside Canada \$100

Student \$60, outside Canada \$70

Institution \$105, outside Canada \$115

* Student membership is available for full-time students only.

Please inform ISC/SCI of your course name and institution.

For more membership information, please visit our website at

<http://www.indexers.ca/membership.html>

President's Message

Greening It Up

As I write this on St. Patrick's Day—a day for the wearin' o' the green—spring and the green it brings are just around the corner. Your executive is a bit greener, too, as we held our most recent executive meeting by teleconference. Usually, we meet face-to-face at the annual conference and then hold one or two other meetings a year in which several of us meet centrally and others call in for part or all of the meeting. The teleconference made us a bit greener, saved money and put all exec members from all regions on an equal footing. The last means that we all had an equal chance for participation; generally, those who call in can rarely hear everything that is said, and it is harder for them to participate fully in discussions and decisions. The teleconference worked well—we all missed the energy generated in a face-to-face meeting, but a teleconference seems to be a workable, less expensive and more equitable alternative, so we expect to try it more often.

One of the things we decided at that meeting was to develop a promotional brochure for ISC. Our publicity coordinator, Mary Newberry, has taken that on with the help of a committee of volunteers. Thanks to all of you who responded to her call on the listserv.

Another ongoing concern that we are dealing with is member communication. Membership coordinator Audrey McClellan has begun a

new process to ensure that e-mails to members are accurately and consistently sent, and she is also looking at a format for annual checks of our broadcasting system.

I have been tasked with a review of our listserv. Given the free providers that now exist (e.g., Yahoo), it is time to take a look at whether we are using the most effective and inexpensive service.

These are just some of the activities at the executive level. More deeds and details can be found in the other executive reports in this *Bulletin*. Ruth Pincoe has been far afield in her role as International Society Coordinator, our regional representatives have been stirring up enthusiasm across our country, enhancements are coming to the *Bulletin*, *Register* and web site, and our finances are in good shape.

My final word is about our forthcoming Annual General Meeting and conference, this June 3 and 4 in Toronto. Coordinator Anna Olivier and her team have been working hard on setting up a great conference for us. Angela Wingfield, venue and catering coordinator, has booked us facilities on the U of T campus. Marie Gabe, program coordinator, has lined up a terrific set of presenters, including Katherine Barber, former editor of the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, as our keynote speaker. I hope to see you all there!

— Heather Ebbs

Le message de la présidente

Le comité de direction se met au vert

J'écris ce message le jour de la St-Patrick, le jour de l'année quand tout le monde s'habille en vert. Le vert printanier lui aussi est tout près. Le comité de direction a organisé la dernière rencontre par téléconférence. Notre but est de devenir plus écologique et la téléconférence représente une première étape sur ce chemin. D'habitude on se rencontre face à face à la conférence annuelle. Par la

suite, on a une à deux rencontres par année. Plusieurs d'entre nous se rencontrent dans un local central et les autres nous appellent soit pour toute la durée de la rencontre, soit pour une partie. D'habitude, ceux qui sont au téléphone peuvent rarement entendre toute la discussion, ce qui rend difficile leur participation au dialogue et au processus de prise de décisions. La téléconférence est plus écologique et plus économique. On a tous des chances égales de participation. L'énergie d'une rencontre face à face nous manque, mais somme tout, la téléconférence est une

Le message de la présidente (continue)

alternative moins chère et plus équitable pour les participants. On s'attend à l'utiliser plus souvent.

Une des décisions prises à cette occasion concerne la brochure promotionnelle de SCI. Mary Newberry, notre coordonnatrice publicitaire, a pris en charge la création de la brochure avec l'aide d'un groupe de bénévoles. Merci à tous ceux qui lui ont répondu sur listserv.

Une autre préoccupation constante est la communication avec les membres. La coordonnatrice des adhésions, Audrey McClellan, est en train de vérifier que les courriels sont envoyés aux membres avec précision et systématiquement. Elle est aussi à la recherche d'une modalité de vérification annuelle du système de diffusion.

Quant à moi, je me suis chargée de réviser listserv. Étant donné que plusieurs alternatives gratuites existent actuellement (par exemple Yahoo), c'est le temps de s'assurer que la solution utilisée est efficace et pas chère.

Ceci est un survol des activités du comité exécutif. Pour plus de détails, veuillez consulter les rapports dans le *Bulletin*. Ruth Pincoe a travaillé très fort en tant que coordonnatrice des sociétés internationale. Nos représentants régionaux ont stimulé l'enthousiasme à travers le pays. Des améliorations au bulletin, Répertoire et site web sont à venir. Nos finances sont en bon état.

Et finalement, au sujet de la conférence et AGM qui auront lieu les 3 et 4 juin à Toronto : La coordonnatrice de la conférence, Anna Oliver, et son équipe ont travaillé assidûment pour préparer la conférence de Toronto. Angela Wingfield, coordonnatrice restauration et hébergement, a réservé pour nous des établissements sur le campus de l'université de Toronto. Le programme que Marie Gabe nous a préparé est remarquable. Katherine Barber, ancienne éditrice du *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, présentera le discours-programme. J'espère qu'on se verra tous à la conférence.

— Heather Ebbs

Traduction par Mona Lordache

Editor, comments from ...

Welcome to another issue of the *Bulletin*!

The focus of this issue is the Spring Executive Meeting. The reports start on page seven.

I would like to thank our proofreaders for this issue: Vivien Cartmell, Susana Gomes, and Gillian Watts.

If you're interested in volunteering for the *Bulletin*, please contact me.

We start out this issue with information on the upcoming conference in Toronto. I'm quite excited about it, and hope to see many of you there. We're going to need coverage of the conference, so if you're interested in writing about a session, or take any interesting photos, contact me. I'd like to have reporters arranged before the conference. If you don't sign up in advance, feel free to send in something after. Multiple perspectives are always valuable.

We're continuing with several of our new features: Maureen MacGlashan, editor of the *Indexer*, joins this issue with another letter. In "SIG Update!" we have an announcement from the Web Indexing SIG and an in-depth article from the Legal Indexing SIG.

The *Bulletin* itself is in flux. I'm currently working on a style guide and investigating shifting production software. If you'd be interested in commenting on the style guide, contact me.

We close this issue with a book review that I've written about *From Flock Beds to Professionalism*, by Hazel K. Bell. It's an interesting book on the history of indexers (a subject dear to my heart) that I just couldn't resist taking a closer look at.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Natalie Boon, Managing Editor, *Bulletin*
natalie@booninformationservices.com

From the editor of *The Indexer*

It's that time again, and I still have those same three balls in the air that I mentioned last time round: the March issue should be with you by the time you read this, the June issue is moving forward in fits and starts (contributors seem to be having even more difficulty than usual in getting to the point where they have something more than "best endeavours" assurances to offer me, but then being an editor is all about living with risk and uncertainty), the September issue (edited by the China Society) promises well and—fourth ball, I think—I'm starting to put together material for December 2009.

The March issue has turned out to be a very practical one, with a follow-up article on the ANZSI mentoring scheme and lots of advice on how to work out what we, as professional indexers, can best offer potential clients and on how to negotiate decent terms for the work we do. We also include the results of a survey of how the SI fees recommendations work out in practice. It would be interesting to know (feedback via letters to the editor, perhaps) how experience with the ISC/SCI's system compares. The June issue will include one user's take on an automated indexing programme, an in-depth look at what full text searches can and can't do, more on usability, an author turned indexer's take on the indexer-author relationship, and a bit more on the ANZSI mentoring scheme. It

also has, I'm delighted to say, two more articles by ISC/SCI members: Thérèse Shere on environmental indexing and Julie McClung on indexing the proceedings of the Canadian Parliament. To use a favoured phrase from my diplomatic service days: "Boxing above your weight". It's great to have such a strong input.

For the rest, with deep chagrin I confess to having got behind with the online *Indexer* index—I was always just about there but never quite when the next issue came along. No excuses this time—you should find the cumulative index to issues from 1997 to March 2009 all spick and span at www.theindexer.org (just look for "index" on the home page menu).

And finally, next on my list of things to do is the ASI conference in Portland, Oregon. Another cause for chagrin—despite a lifetime of living and travelling abroad, this will be my first trip across the Atlantic. I'm much looking forward to it. Perhaps some of you will be there. If so, please make yourselves known to me.

March 2009

Maureen MacGlashan, editor@theindexer.org

SIG Update!

This new addition to the Bulletin will focus on news and updates from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focused on different types of indexing.

New Web Indexing SIG Manager!

The Web Indexing Special Interest Group is pleased to announce that its new manager, as of January 2009, will be UK-based indexer Rebecca Linford. Jessica McCurdy Crooks, who was manager since 2007, will step down at the end of this year. Rebecca is a freelance indexer, who won the Web Indexing SIG's inaugural Web Indexing Award in May 2008. It is only fitting that someone such as her will lead the charge of this dynamic Group.

As a part of her new role, Rebecca will be ensuring that the Web Indexing SIG Award continues.

Entries for the 2009 Award are now open. The Web Indexing SIG web site, <http://www.web-indexing.org/web-indexing-award.htm>, has entry details.

Rebecca's appointment continues to ensure that the Web Indexing SIG maintains its position as one of the most international of the SIGs. She is a freelance indexer and web site consultant and runs the Rebecca Linford Indexing & Website Services (www.rebeccalinford.co.uk). In fact, Rebecca is well suited for her new role, being a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals.

SIG Update! (continued)

Legal Indexing SIG

The Legal Indexing SIG was formed in June 2006 and became an officially affiliated SIG in October 2006. The SIG is for indexers who specialize in legal indexing or who are interested in learning more about it. Members' expertise covers a wide range of materials, from statutes, codes, and rules to textbooks, practitioner's treatises, legal newsletters, legal self-help, and many other types of materials.

Mary Harper had the initial idea to form the SIG and serves as moderator and primary webmaster. She asked Maria Sosnowski to join in the endeavor, and Maria became the events coordinator. Susan Barnes stepped up as treasurer. Janyne Ste. Marie and Mary Wendt volunteered to lead the marketing team. Janyne also serves as co-webmaster in charge of the member's directory.

The web site (www.legalindexing.org) serves as the centerpiece of the marketing initiative. There is a "Find an Indexer" page where members can list information about themselves for potential clients, a "Submit a Project" page for publishers, and a page for legal resources. There is also information about the need for professional indexers.

The current focus of the marketing initiative is on marketing the SIG to legal publishers. A GoogleAdWords campaign is in progress and a phone-calling campaign is in the works to inform editors about the web directory. Plans for an e-mailed newsletter are under discussion and there is a PDF brochure for members to use in their marketing.

As an affiliated SIG, the Legal Indexing SIG is open to members of indexing societies worldwide. Dues are \$20 (U.S.) per year, which covers web site and marketing expenses. The members' discussion list is on Yahoo Groups at <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/legalindexingSIG/>. The list serves as a forum for casual networking, SIG communications, and peer reviews, and as a place for members to receive assistance on topics related to the indexing of legal materials. The SIG will have its annual meeting at the ASI conference in Portland this year.

If you are a legal indexer or are interested in legal indexing, take a look at our web site. You can get in touch with the officers and volunteers through our "Contact Us" page.

(Originally published in *Key Words*, April–June 2008; this version is updated.)

The Indexer's Desk

[Editor – Vivien Cartmell sent us this wonderful tidbit she ran across in the course of her working day. We'd love to see more like it. Hint, hint...]

Saskatchewan Legislature, March 14, 1978

When indexing the responses to the Saskatchewan budget speech in March 1978, it was amusing to read the following transcription from the Honourable E. Kramer, Minister of Highways and Transportation, who was critiquing the opposition Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Speaker, I was watching the antics and the movement back and forth—they are a fluid group over there. I have an Indian friend who is a chief of an Indian band. He came to me and said, "Those Conservatives, do you know some of them?" I said, "Yes, not any better than I want to. I know them I see them across the floor." He said, "There are some of those fellows we would like to make chiefs." I said, "Oh, you want to make them chiefs." He said, "I would like a little advice about those fellows. Do you think we are doing right? We had a contest and we have chosen the member, Mr. Lane for Qu'Appelle, and Mr. Thatcher for Thunder Creek and of course the Leader, Mr. Collver and the member for Rosthern, Mr. Katsman, we have to give them Indian names. We have finally come up with the names. The member for Qu'Appelle, we are going to call him Changing Wind and the member for Rosthern we call him Passing Wind. The member for Thunder Creek him Broken Wind. We have used those for the braves. Now for the chiefs, we honour them by calling them Hand, like Yellow Hand and Strong Hand. We got a name for the Leader, Smooth Hand." I said, "Smooth Hand, how come?" He said, "Well in Cree we got no word for slippery."

Today, the Speaker would probably not allow this kind of critique. Certainly, the actual names of members are not allowed: members have to be identified by constituency, title, or position.

Spring Executive Teleconference 2009

Officer reports presented at the executive teleconference, March 2009

Indexing Society of Canada
Société canadienne d'indexation

Treasurer: Gillian Watts

I am pleased to present the year-end financial statement for 2008. We have done well this year, producing a surplus of almost \$1,200 when we expected to break even, thanks to larger than anticipated revenues from the conference and the *Register of Indexers Available*. Our reserves are also healthy, so, in spite of the hefty increase in the cost of the *Indexer*, I anticipate good things for 2009.

ISC/SCI Year-End Financial Statement, 2008

	Budget	Actuals
Income		
Membership dues	9,700	10,969
Conference	5,300	7,072
<i>Register of Indexers Available</i>	1,800	2,240
Publications revenue	300	—
Interest income	—	322
Total	17,100	20,604
Expenses		
Membership (including directory)	840	289
Conference	4,300	4,795
Executive expenses:	1,930	3,989
Telephone	24	
Executive travel	2,263	
International liaison travel	1,342	
<i>Bulletin</i>	1,500	2,087
<i>Register of Indexers Available</i>	1,015	818
<i>The Indexer</i>	3,500	5,777
Internet expenses	300	395
Operating expenses:	760	554
Office supplies	29	
P.O. box rental	158	
Postage & delivery	367	
Bank charges	25	322
Regional groups:	1,200	341
B.C.		79
Edmonton		—
Calgary		—
Toronto		263
Ottawa		—
Montreal		—
Volunteers, honours & awards	330	—
Miscellaneous	200	50
Total	17,100	19,418
Income less Expenses	0	1,186

Treasurer (continued)

Balance Sheet

Assets

Chequing account	4,768.89
GIC	15,322.34
Accounts receivable	115.00
Total	20,206.32

Liabilities

—

Membership Secretary: Audrey McClellan

As of February 15, 2009, we have 119 members. Two members did not renew in December. One member rejoined after a couple of years of lapsed membership, and we have one new member.

The geographical breakdown of the membership is as follows:

Within Canada

British Columbia	34
Alberta	6
Saskatchewan	3
Manitoba	1
Ontario	52
Quebec	9
New Brunswick	2
Newfoundland & Labrador	1
Nova Scotia	3

Outside Canada

United States	7
Italy	1

Membership Types

Individual	107
Student	3
Institutional	9

Institutional members are distributed as follows:

British Columbia	2
Ontario	2
Quebec	2
Italy	1
United States	2

Members who have joined since the last *Bulletin*:

Pat Dales	pdales@rogers.com
Hugh Morrison	hughmorrison@shaw.ca

Please update your *Membership Directory / Liste des membres* as follows:

Address changes:

Elsbeth Richmond is at 4633 Hosking Road in North Vancouver.

E-mail changes:

- Alena Hikanik-Gregorian
alena@tweedsmuirtechnicalservices.com
- Brian F. Hogan
brian.hogan@cogeco.ca
- Clara Johnson
claraj42@yahoo.com
- Cynthia Landeen
bookindexer@comcast.net
- Sarah Lunn
sarahlunn@videotron.ca

Web site changes:

- Clara Johnson's website is
www.declaraconsulting.com
- François Trahan's website is
www.englishorfrench.com

Phone changes:

- Vicki Soon-Ai Low's office phone number is 416-825-8275.
- Naomi Pauls's fax number is now the same as her work number; her home phone is no longer in service.
- Arleane Ralph is now using only her home number.
- Gilda Spitz's work number is actually her cell phone number.
- François Trahan has discontinued his fax service.
- Gillian Watts has discontinued her fax number.

Membership Secretary (continued)

Other changes and corrections:

The name of Margaret Gibbs's company is Chattan Indexing.

The new contact for Hansard Services, Legislative Assembly of BC, is Julie McClung (replacing Christine Fedoruk). Her office number is (250) 356-0252, and the fax number is (250) 387-2943. Julie's e-mail address is julie.mcclung@leg.bc.ca, and the URL for BC Hansard is www.leg.bc.ca/hansard

International Liaison: Ruth Pincoe

International News

The biggest news on the international front is the 2009 International Triennial Meeting, which was held in Maropeng, South Africa, during the annual conference of the Association of South African Indexers and Bibliographers (ASAIB). The purpose of these meetings, which are held every three years, is to strengthen ties among the various indexing societies and indexing groups or networks around the world, and to review the International Agreement, which covers, among other things, the various privileges that each society extends to members of all other societies. Representatives to this meeting were Marlene Burger (ASAIB), Caroline Diepeveen (Nederlands Indexers Netwerk, also representing the Deutsches Netzwerk der Indexer), Jill Halliday (Society of Indexers [Britain]), Ruth Pincoe (ISC/SCI), John Simkin (Australia and New Zealand Society of Indexers), and Pilar Wyman (American Society of Indexing). Unfortunately, representatives from the China Society of Indexers were not able to make the necessary travel arrangements.

Our formal meeting was very productive, and during the conference we had additional opportunities for informal discussions on a variety of topics. The conference itself was truly international in that all six of the international representatives were assigned one of the conference sessions to chair. The ASAIB conference was magnificent, as was the setting. I will make a detailed report on the International

Triennial Meeting for the ISC/SCI annual general meeting, and will also submit a fuller account of the ASAIB conference to the next issue of the *Bulletin*. The text of the International Agreement will be printed in the upcoming issue of *The Indexer*.

Training Courses Available for Members of ISC/SCI

There has been some confusion in recent years about the availability of Society-run training courses for members of ISC/SCI, but as far as I can tell, the situation has finally been sorted out. The Society of Indexers (SI) has been running a training course for beginning indexers for quite a while. For members of SI, this course is linked to accreditation. Several years ago the American Society of Indexing (ASI) made arrangements to lease the SI course so that they could offer an Americanized version to ASI members.

These two courses are essentially the same, and both are excellent. The choice is essentially between a training course with a British accent and one with an American accent. For information about the SI course, visit <http://www.indexers.org.uk/index.php?id=140>. For information about the ASI course, visit <http://www.asindexing.org/site/certfaq.shtml>.

I hope that in a future issue of the *Bulletin* we can provide more details about these courses, and I would love to hear from anyone who is currently taking either one.

Webmaster: Cheryl Lemmens

February 26, 2009

(1) **Register of Indexers**

The 2009 *Register of Indexers Available* (<http://www.indexers.ca/register.html>) was uploaded to the web site on February 12, 2009. Thanks as always to *Register* editor Debby Schryer for her work on the print version and assistance in preparing the online version.

(2) **Conference pages**

The 2009 conference web pages were launched early in the new year with a bilingual home page and additional pages about our venue and the surrounding area. The complete list of conference pages, as of mid-March, is as follows:

- Conference home page: <http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009.html>
- Venue and Accommodations: http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009_venue.html (St. Michael's College and accommodations on the campus, as well as a history of the college and information on its buildings, resources, and public art)
- Welcome to Toronto!: http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009_toronto.html (general information about city attractions)
- Getting Around: http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009_getaround.html (airport connections, taxi service, public transit, streets and highways)
- University of Toronto: http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009_uoft.html (information about the surrounding main U of T campus and its buildings)
- Area Attractions: http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009_attractions.html (museums and galleries, Queen's Park, academic/cultural institutions, nearby historic buildings)

Additional pages on the conference program, fees and registration, etc. will be posted as soon as information is available.

Publicity: Mary Newberry

We formed a committee to produce a brochure for the ISC/SCI. We have completed the first draft. Timetable: English content written and edited by mid-March. Design and typesetting of English by mid-April, French by end of April. Proofing and final by mid-May.

Committee: Chris Blackburn, Margaret Gibbs, Jennifer Hedges, Cheryl Lemmens, Penelope Jane Bahr, Gillian Faulkner, François Trahan, Vivien Cartmell, and Jane McGuire

Work distribution

Ideas: All

Writing: Margaret, Jennifer, and Cheryl

Editing: Penelope and Gillian

French: François

Proofing: François and Vivien

Design: Penelope and Mary (I hope also to conscript a friend who is a professional designer...)

It is to be: kept short and aimed at those most likely to join ISC/SCI; a single sheet of 8½ x 11 paper, folded in three, with English on one side, French on the other, and no membership form on the brochure itself. There will be a reference to the online membership form, and we will encourage members to print out a supply of the forms to accompany the brochure when appropriate, e.g., at EAC meetings or conferences.

Register of Indexers Available Editor: Deborah Schryer

The *Register* is done again for another year. Thanks to Cheryl for wading through the primitive text I send her and producing a very professional result on the web site.

This year I asked for executive approval to hand over the electronic file to Cheryl just as soon as it was ready so that the online version could go up while I was still working on the print mailing. That is a time-consuming exercise and I didn't want to hold things up any more than absolutely necessary.

There are 54 people in this year's *Register*, 18 of them from B.C. (or almost 30 percent of the total). I think having the conference in B.C. last year was a factor in that.

Thanks to Ruth who gave me a copy of the *Canadian Publishers Directory* from Quill & Quire. I

cross-checked the addresses on my publishers list against the *Directory* and updated some of the addresses I had. In doing that, I became aware of many other publishers that might be able to use a copy of the *Register* and I'm considering doing another mailing. (I had a few extra copies printed with that in mind.)

Once again I have to mention Ruth, who told me last December that the theme of the next issue of *The Indexer* would be "indexers available—type publications." I sent Ruth a few notes about our booklet. It will be interesting to see *The Indexer* in March to get a snapshot of how other countries manage their "indexers available." Perhaps we can review our procedures once we know what others are doing and how effective other publications are.

Bulletin Editor: Natalie Boon

The *Bulletin* is proceeding along fine. We published our last issue and will have another issue coming out in March. I'm low on content for it at this point. As ever, scaring up content is problematic.

I'm working on a draft style guide for the *Bulletin*, which will help maintain a good standard. I'm thinking of asking for input on the style guide, which can be from the executive, or possibly from a few volunteers from the general membership. It likely won't fully be in place for the next issue.

I will be asking for volunteers from the general membership to help with proofreading. We used to have more, but the pool has shrunk as people have gotten busier. Nowadays, often members of the exec who do it, and it's safer to have a wider pool of volunteers. That way, if one person is too busy at that point to do it, then another person can step into the role.

I may be moving production of the *Bulletin* away from Word. Word isn't the best program for layout. It does funky things when you get too graphically heavy. The annual post-conference issue is usually the most affected by that. Because of its faults, making layout changes is far more time consuming and irritating than it should be. You're spending time fighting the program. I currently have access to some other software programs that I'm investigating. When I step down as editor, the next editor would still be able to use Word, and copies of the word template would be retained if I switch production to another program.

Regional Reports

Central Canada Representative: Gillian Faulkner

Toronto area indexers continue to meet most months, alternating peer review sessions with specific topics. An Ottawa area group is also meeting regularly. Marie Gabe coordinates these meetings. An overview of each meeting is usually sent out to members, and the sessions are always enjoyable, helpful, and informative. All are welcome to attend.

Position descriptions have been written for each executive post and will soon be available on the website.

Prairies and Northern Canada Representative: Viv Cartmell

As this part of the country seems to be a quiet part of the world of indexing, most of this brief report will be about some of the activity in the indexing offices of the Alberta and Saskatchewan legislatures.

One of our members in Alberta who runs his own business and who always responds to my e-mail requests for news writes:

“You caught me on a morning ‘between projects’ as people used to say, meaning they were unemployed. But things are not that bad. I’m indexing a book from Heartland Associates in Winnipeg that they are sending me a chapter at a time. And I recently did a book on the history of treaty-making between First Nations and European-based governments. There is also something expected from Athabasca University Press.

So things are okay. Can always use more business though, of course.”

In Edmonton the Hansard indexer responded to my e-mail request with the following.

“News? Well we just started our second session of the Leg. on Feb. 10. So far the issues have been the economy (and Alberta’s looming lack of a surplus, if not an actual deficit), the recently announced oil sands development strategy, and a kerfuffle about the Chief Electoral Officer and his report on problems with the last election.

Everybody is waiting for the Finance Minister’s third-quarter budget update from last fiscal year to see if we are in a deficit position or not. They are also asking when the current budget is going to come out, to see how the government is going to react.

From an indexing point of view, the oil sands and climate change in general are the most involved topics. Climate change especially gets referred to in multiple ways, like carbon dioxide emissions, carbon capture and storage, greenhouse gas emissions, and sometimes even climate change! What’s a poor indexer to do?”

In Saskatoon, an independent indexer, Maha Kumaran, has completed a first index: congratulations and may you get many more!

In Regina, the spring portion of the second session of the 26th Legislature begins on March 2, 2009. Provincial budget day is March 18, 2009... hmm, just a day after St Patrick’s Day, so it will be interesting to see how many green programs will be announced. As with the rest of Canada, the state of the provincial finances and the economy are bound to be front and centre of the budget.

I’ll be busy grinding my way through about fifty-six speeches in the budget debate. Right now I’m working through the budget debate for 1978: another period of recession in Canadian history. One member of the opposition (G.H. Penner) referred to it as the “lipstick and powder” budget because he said it was basically cosmetic in nature. I couldn’t resist: “lipstick and powder” appears as a subentry under “Budget.”

Western Canada Representative: François Trahan

ISC/SCI-BC Vancouver members had their most recent meeting at the Vancouver Public Library on Saturday, January 17, 2009.

There were a dozen of us again, and after short introductions we went through a list of upcoming conferences (ISC, ASI, EAC, etc.) and local associations' events where people can network. Karen Griffiths, who had assembled the list, emphasized the importance of making contacts and letting everyone know about our freelance work.

We then talked about e-books and their effects on indexing, and about indexing of policy and procedures manuals, before doing a peer review of an index done by a team of two indexers. Many questions were raised about the process, the indexing decisions and challenges, and interactions with the authors, the editor, and the publisher.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the same location. We discussed agenda items and ideas for that day.

Eastern Canada Representative: Meral Alakus

March's meeting was a special one as the ISC/SCI members and other interested indexers and librarians took part in a panel discussion at the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University.

We had a great panel which the students of the Indexing and Abstracting class enjoyed and found very enlightening.

The panel members were:

Noeline Bridge - Librarian, freelance indexer, and long-time member of ISC/SCI.

Barbara MacKenzie - Librarian, teacher at NSCC, freelance business information consultant. She is taking an indexing course and also planning to become an ISC/SCI member soon.

Penny Logan - Librarian, in charge of Capital Health Library Services, Halifax.

Linda Lefler - New indexer, engineering background, new ISC/SCI member.

John MacLeod - Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management archivist/indexer, indexing pictures.

Two ISC/SCI members, Noeline Bridge and Linda Lefler, talked about book indexing, courses available for indexers, ISC/SCI as a professional group and the advantages it offers to its members, and how to start an indexing business. Noeline, being a very experienced indexer, and Linda, just starting her business as a new indexer, made an excellent combination given their perspectives.

As usual, our special thanks to Noeline for coming all the way from Moncton to join us again, and also to the other speakers who gave us almost half a day of time away from their offices.

Katherine Howlett, member of ISC/SCI, and Dr. Marina Pluzhenskaia, who is also attending our monthly meetings regularly and is interested in ISC/SCI, attended the discussion. Katherine answered quite a few questions that came from the students.

After the panel, we all went to have lunch at Istanbul Café. Almost every one of the speakers and librarians mentioned that they had also learned from each other. So did I. Altogether, this was a great monthly meeting for the indexers, librarians, and students who are about to take their place in the professional world.

Book Review



From Flock Beds to Professionalism, a history of indexers
By Hazel K. Bell
(New Castle, Delaware:
Oak Knoll Press, 2008.
333 pp., also published by
HKB Press, UK)

Reviewed by Natalie Boon

I was delighted to receive a copy of this book. I'd heard it was to be published. The *Bulletin* published some information on it in the Summer 2008 issue (Vol. 30, No. 3, pg. 34).

The first part of the book is biographical, giving short biographies of sixty-five indexers from the Renaissance to the present day. Some of the names weren't a surprise—indexing notables including Henry B. Wheatley, Hans Wellisch and Nancy Mulvany—others were a complete surprise.

I had no idea that Lewis Carroll, Friedrich William Nietzsche, and Georgette Heyer had been indexers! The more I read, the more I wanted to read. Of Nietzsche, Bell writes,

In the first section, the biographical focus is on the indexing lives of the subjects. How they indexed is also discussed, within the context of their lives.

The gradual change in techniques was interesting. It became evident that as in many other technologies, the rate of change had radically increased in the modern period.

In the biographical coverage, we are treated to insights into the way that indexers have thought for centuries. In my opinion, that way

of thinking will remain crucial, though the format may evolve.

The second half of the book deals with the growth of indexing societies. The problems that the early societies faced is described in loving detail. I found the history of the development of SI's indexing awards particularly interesting.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that the early history of our own ISC/SCI was included. If you're looking in the index, it's under "Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada."

The index itself is lovely, using many subtleties that I rarely see in practice. Distinctions are made between entries dealing with the main entry of a subject, works by a subject, where a subject is cited, and illustrations. I must admit that seeing that level of detail in an index is wonderful.

There's an extensive reference list, as well as a chronology of print-only indexing.

The book ends its coverage in 1996. In the closing paragraphs Bell discusses the rise of the Internet, and the probable negative effects of computers on print indexing.

As a newer indexer who came to the craft during this "post-print indexing" period, I'd like to see a book that deals with indexing through the modern period. (I realize that's beyond the scope of this book, and not a criticism of it at all.)

I have to strongly recommend this book for anyone wanting to immerse themselves in the history of our shared profession.

Opportunity for Publicity and Fellowship in the Canadian Indexing World

Our biennial executive elections will be held at our annual general meeting in Toronto on June 4.

Is one of these roles for you? This is a great opportunity to become known, learn, serve your organization, and work with grand people from across Canada.

Term of office: June 2009 through May 2011

Meetings: three per year (two by conference call and one in person, at the annual conference)

Positions open:

President (or two co-presidents)

**Vice-President

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Member-at-Large--Publicity

Editor, *Bulletin*

Editor, *Register of Indexers Available*

Webmaster

BC Representative

**Central Canada (Ontario) Representative

Eastern Canada Representative

Prairies and Northern Representative

International Liaison

Notes:

- I welcome nominees for every position.
- For the positions marked **, we have no candidates so far.
- Position descriptions are available from me.
- Heather Ebbs will remain on the executive as Past President.

For you to do:

1. Consider nominating yourself for one of these positions.
2. Suggest candidates to me. Don't concern yourself about whether they're available or would like to serve on the executive—I'll invite them and let them decide.

Please send your suggestions and nominations (by mid-April if possible) to:
Elizabeth Macfie,
Past President and Nominations Chair
tel. 819-827-4237
macfie@editors.ca

ISC/SCI Conference

Toronto
June 3–4, 2009

Conference Program

- keynote presentation by Katherine Barber (Canada's "Word Lady" and Editor-in-Chief of the first and second editions of *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*)
- developing and marketing indexing niches (Sylvia Coates)
- public policy indexing (Enid Zafran)
- networking for freelancers (Elizabeth Macfie)
- cross-references (Ruth Pincoe)
- CINDEX workshop (Frances Lennie)
- peer review
- panel on marketing

For details about the conference program, registration, and Toronto attractions, see www.indexers.ca/conf2009.html. And to make the most out of your trip, consider touching down at two other industry gatherings: the Editors' Association of Canada conference, June 4–6 (www.editors.ca/conference), and MagNet, Canada's magazines conference, June 2–5 (www.magazinescanada.ca/magnet/).

Plan your trip now. We're looking forward to seeing you.

"A publisher who issues a book without an index should be hanged." This modest proposal, attributed to Carlyle, is one of many vigorous assertions spicing Sir Edward Cook's essay "The art of indexing," which appeared in his collection *Literary Recreations* in 1918. The moderateness of this position is conclusively shown by Cook's rejection of an earlier plan by "a friend of Francis Douce, the antiquary" to damn such publishers "ten miles beyond Hell." "For my part," says Cook, "I think that simple damnation is enough in the case of a single book, and that the extra ten miles of Douce's friend might be reserved for those who collect an author's works without indexing them." —from Hazel Bell's *From Flock Beds to Professionalism*, p. 79

Congrès de la Société canadienne d'indexation

(ISC/SCI)
Toronto
3 et 4 juin 2009

Programme du congrès

- Invitée d'honneur : Katherine Barber (« Reine des mots » du Canada et rédactrice en chef des deux premières éditions du *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*)
- Développer et faire valoir les niches en indexation (Sylvia Coates)
- Indexation des publications gouvernementales (Enid Zafran)
- Réseautage pour travailleurs autonomes (Elizabeth Macfie)
- L'art des renvois (Ruth Pincoe)
- Atelier CINDEX (Frances Lennie)
- Évaluation par les pairs (Ruth Pincoe)
- Table-ronde sur les stratégies de marketing (Clive Pyne, Noeline Bridge, Yvonne van Ruskenveld, Mary Newberry)

Consultez notre page consacrée au congrès pour tout renseignement sur le programme, l'inscription et votre visite à Toronto. www.indexers.ca/conf2009.html [text in English] Pour profiter au maximum de votre voyage, vous pouvez participer également à deux autres congrès liés à notre profession : celui de l'Association canadienne des réviseurs, du 4 au 6 juin (<http://www.editors.ca/fr/congres/congres2009/index.html>), et celui des magazines canadiens, MagNet, du 2 au 5 juin (www.magazinescanada.ca/magnet/). Planifiez votre voyage dès maintenant ! Nous comptons sur vous.