



Bulletin

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Table of Contents

Co-presidents' report/ Rapport des co-présidentes <i>Mary Newberry, Gillian Watts</i>	1
Editor, Comments from.....	3
Web Links	3
Book Review: <i>Indexing and Retrieval of Non-text Information</i> , Diane Rasmussen Neal, Editor <i>Iva Cheung</i>	6
Interview with Ali Shiri <i>Moira Calder</i>	7
Upcoming Conferences.....	9
Book Review: <i>Powering Search</i> , edited by Ali Shiri <i>Moira Calder</i>	10
Crossword Puzzle <i>Heather Ebbs</i>	11
Solution	14
Tech Tools Hyperlinking in a Word Document <i>Brian F. Hogan</i>	12
CINDEX Hints and Tips <i>Frances S. Lennie</i>	13
Regional Reports	15
Indexing the Body: Indexer Care and Comfort <i>Brian F. Hogan</i>	15
Website Update <i>Angela Wingfield</i>	17
ISC/SCI Membership Report <i>Audrey McClellan</i>	18
Student Perspectives: <i>Isabel Steurer</i>	19
International Liaison Report/ICRIS <i>Heather Ebbs</i>	20

Co-presidents' Report Rapport des co-présidentes

The winter is always a very busy time for the executive as we prepare for the annual conference and AGM and production of the printed membership directory. This year was no exception. As well as these annual events, we were occupied with the ongoing upgrading of the website and the usual but nonetheless time-consuming business of the society—producing the Bulletin, following up with membership renewals and updates, and, where possible, organizing regional meetings, among many other essential tasks. We are a small organization with a national membership in a changing industry. It makes for busy times!

L'hiver est toujours une période très chargée pour les membres du bureau de direction, car nous préparons le congrès annuel, l'assemblée générale annuelle et la production du répertoire imprimé de nos membres. Cette année n'est en rien différente. En plus de ces événements annuels, nous avons continué à travailler à l'amélioration de notre site Web et aux activités habituelles, mais non moins prenantes de la société, dont la production du Bulletin, le renouvellement et la mise à jour des adhésions et, à chaque fois que possible, l'organisation de réunions régionales, des tâches essentielles parmi tant d'autres. Nous sommes une petite organisation qui compte des membres dans l'ensemble du Canada, ceci dans une industrie en constant mouvement. Notre emploi du temps est, pour le moins que l'on puisse dire, chargé!

At the time of writing this report, François Trahan is almost ready to unveil the new password-protected membership area of the website. This will mean a huge improvement in service to our members.

Au moment de la rédaction de ce rapport, François Trahan est presque prêt à dévoiler la nouvelle page Membres protégée par un mot de passe de notre site Web. Ceci permettra d'améliorer de manière importante la qualité du service que nous offrons à nos membres. Notre site Web constitue déjà notre principal outil

(Continued on/suite page 4)

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Membership Renewal

Please remember, with the increased frequency of *The Indexer*, the grace period for renewing is shorter. To renew online, please go to the following link:

<http://indexers.ca/contact-us/renew-your-membership/>

Our mailing address is:

The Membership Secretary, ISC/SCI
P.O. Box 664, Station P
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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

Write for the *Bulletin*

Author guidelines: Submit unsolicited articles electronically in Word or rich text format (*.rtf). Artwork should be in PDF format, and photographs in TIF or JPG format. Send submissions to Production Editor [Marnie Lamb](#).

Board members: Christopher Blackburn, Moira Calder, Marnie Lamb, François Trahan, Gillian Watts.

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Editor, comments from . . .

If you are even moderately active in cyberspace, you will have received unsolicited and unwanted communications about special offers, lottery wins, and requests for help. (At this time of year these communications seem to be about tax refunds!) In another vein, indexers don't often appear as protagonists—or even villains—in literature.¹ So I looked forward to reading Will Ferguson's recent book and 2012 Giller Prize winner *419: A Novel*,² about a Calgary freelance editor and indexer whose family is irreversibly changed by a Nigerian email scam. I wasn't disappointed. The plot is fast-paced, with unexpected twists, and Ferguson does an excellent job of conveying the family's range of emotions. The ending might not satisfy everyone—it didn't me—but life often doesn't turn out the way you expect, and people don't always do what you want them to do. My main quibble with the storyline was that a significant plot development hinged on the extraordinary generosity of a past client of the protagonist/freelance editor/indexer. I was a freelancer for many years, with many different clients, and I simply had to suspend disbelief at that point.

After I had read and pondered the last page, I flipped through the end matter and was delighted to find a page titled "Notes Towards an Index." The notes consisted of a list of about 40 terms, including

dreams (sleeping)
dreams (otherwise)
smiles (with eyes)
smiles (without)

This book isn't written in the first person. Are these notes meant to lend a sense of truth to the fiction? Is the indexer the storyteller? Are the circular references ("beauty: see scars"; "scars: see beauty") intentional? Most of the terms offered me a brief re-entry into the book through memories. A few baffled me, though, and I wondered what I had missed. But these were only notes, not an index, so I couldn't access the text to which the "entries" referred. Bella Hass Weinberg has called the index "a form of auxiliary memory."³ In searching, we can find what we are looking for. But sometimes an index can lead us to something we might not have thought to look for.

Moira Calder
Bulletin Editor

Notes

1. The ASI page "Indexing and Indexers in Fiction" (<http://www.asindexing.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3299>) provides a fascinating overview of this very small literary niche.
2. Will Ferguson, *419: A Novel* (Toronto: Viking Canada, 2012).
3. Bella Hass Weinberg, "Indexing: History and Theory," in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, 3rd ed. (New York: Taylor and Francis, 2009), 2282.

Links from around the World

Most of us are aware of our international colleagues and their societies. But I find that, in the busyness of my life and work, I forget to check out their resources on a regular basis. Here are a few treats.

ANZSI: The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers website has a resource page with many links to topics related to indexing and small-business ownership:

http://www.anzsi.org/site/indexing_resources.asp

ASI: The American Society for Indexing website contains a wide variety of resources. For example, you can download and listen to a recent webinar on the business of indexing, presented by Kate Mertes. Go to <http://www.asindexing.org>, then click on "Webinars." Three more are planned.

SI: The UK Society of Indexers resource page includes advice for authors and publishers on hiring indexers, including downloadable PDF leaflets. Visit <http://www.indexers.org.uk>, then click on "Resources."

Co-presidents' report/ Rapport des co-présidentes (cont'd from/suite de la page 1)

promotionnel par l'entremise de la section « Trouvez un indexeur » et cette nouvelle section protégée permettra à nos membres d'accéder aux bulletins d'information des sociétés internationales d'indexation et aux présentations protégées par un droit d'auteur, tant sous format texte que format vidéo. Lors du congrès de l'année dernière, et grâce à la généreuse participation du vidéographe Robert Barnett et des intervenants, trois présentations ont pu être filmées. Elles sont presque prêtes à être présentées, juste à temps pour nous donner un avant-goût de ce qui se passera à Halifax!

Another very important service to members is the information shared through the *Bulletin*. The executive and many members contribute hours of work, headed by our exceptionally hard-working editor, Moira Calder. She is supported by the editorial team—Christopher Blackburn, Marnie Lamb, François Trahan, and Gillian Watts—all of whom make regular contributions to its content and production through editing, proofreading, and translation.

Un autre service très important pour nos membres est le partage d'information par l'entremise du Bulletin. Le bureau de direction ainsi que de nombreux membres ont contribué plusieurs heures de travail, sous la tutelle de notre réviseuse infatigable, Moira Calder. Elle est soutenue dans sa tâche par l'équipe de révision, composée de Christopher Blackburn, Marnie Lamb, François Trahan et Gillian Watts, qui contribuent tous régulièrement au contenu et à la production de par leurs services de révision, de relecture et de traduction.

The co-presidents meanwhile were occupied with the annual conference—to be held June 7 and 8 in Halifax—and ongoing projects. Mary has taken on the organizing of this year's conference. As in Vancouver in 2011, this is to be a joint conference with the Editors' Association of Canada (EAC). In 2011 the then co-presidents, Mary and Vivien Cartmell, took on organization of the ISC/SCI component, particularly Vivien. While the EAC handles much of the administrative duties, this still leaves an enormous amount of work for the conference organizers. Never fear, however—it's shaping up very well. We're very excited about the keynote speaker and diversity of presenters.

Les co-présidentes, pendant ce temps, ont travaillé à l'organisation du congrès annuel qui se tiendra les 7 et 8 juin à Halifax ainsi qu'à d'autres projets courants. Mary s'est chargée de l'organisation du congrès de cette année. Tout comme à Vancouver en 2011, ce congrès sera conjoint à celui de l'Association canadienne des réviseurs (ACR). En 2011, les co-présidentes de l'époque, Mary et surtout Vivien Cartmell, ont pris en charge l'organisation de la composante SCI/ISC. Bien que l'ACR s'occupe de la plus grande partie des tâches administratives, il reste malgré tout un travail énorme aux organisateurs du congrès. Mais, pas de panique, tout se présente très bien. Nous attendons avec impatience la présentation de notre intervenante principale et nous nous réjouissons de la diversité des autres intervenants.

While Mary has been handling the bulk of conference planning duties, Gillian has been working on formatting last year's conference videos and posting them to the website—a task that involves a massive learning curve! She has also been working with Jennifer Hedges in our attempts to establish a viable archives for the society.

Alors que Mary s'occupe de la plus grande partie des tâches de planification du congrès, Gillian a travaillé au formatage des vidéos du congrès de l'année dernière et de leur affichage sur le site Web, une tâche qui s'accompagne d'une courbe d'apprentissage ardue! Elle a également travaillé en collaboration avec Jennifer Hedges pour tenter de créer des archives fonctionnelles pour notre société.

Annual Conference: Mapping Between the Lines (Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 7 and 8, 2013) Congrès annuel : Cartes entre les lignes, à Halifax, en Nouvelle-Écosse les 7 et 8 juin 2013

We have organized a dynamic lineup of speakers and presentations, beginning with Nancy Mulvany, author of *Indexing Books*, our keynote speaker. Her presentation is titled “The Repurposed Book Index and Indexer.” The range of conference subjects extends from tagging as user-generated metadata (Louise Spiteri) to indexing memoirs (Marnie Lamb), and so much in between—team indexing (Caroline Diepeveen), bilingual taxonomies (Elaine Ménard), discovery tools (Pilar Wyman), and EPUB 3 updates (David Ream)—as well as the opportunity to attend the editors' conference.

*Nous avons réuni une série d'intervenants et de présentations dynamiques, à commencer par Nancy Mulvany, auteure de *Indexing Books* et notre intervenante principale. Sa présentation est intitulée*

« The Repurposed Book Index and Indexer ». Les sujets traités lors du congrès vont du marquage en métadonnées générées par l'utilisateur (Louise Spiteri) à l'indexation de mémoires (Marnie Lamb) en passant par l'indexation en équipe (Caroline Diepeveen), les taxonomies bilingues (Elaine Ménard), les outils de découverte (Pilar Wyman) et les mises à jour de EPUB 3 (David Ream); vous aurez également l'occasion de participer au congrès des réviseurs.

Macrex is planning a reception on the Thursday evening before the conference begins (details to come), so plan to arrive in time for that. And this year's banquet (only \$50 this year), on Friday, June 7, is to be held at the Dalhousie University Club.

Macrex organise une réception le jeudi soir avant le début du congrès (nous recevrons de plus amples détails sous peu); prévoyez donc d'arriver à temps pour pouvoir y assister. Et le banquet de cette année (50 \$ seulement) se tiendra le vendredi 7 juin au Club de l'université Dalhousie.

This is an odd time in our industry. We are all acutely aware of developing technology that is only nipping at our heels at this point.

Ceci est une période étrange pour notre industrie. Nous sommes tous particulièrement conscients des nouvelles technologies qui ne sont, pour l'instant, qu'en train d'émerger.

Many of us are still creating indexes that lie flat on the page, whether it's paper or in PDF format. When will the vision so eloquently described to us by Jan Wright and David Ream at last year's conference become a reality? What form will it take? Full-text search continues to be the standard, but once we've exhausted its capabilities, what tools will guide us through the ever-denser piles of digital information? (And what is the right metaphor for these stashes—piles? clouds? banks?)

Bon nombre d'entre nous continuent à créer des index sur page, que ce soit en format imprimé ou en format PDF. Quand la vision si éloquentement décrite par Jan Wright et David Ream au cours du congrès de l'année dernière deviendra-t-elle une réalité? Et quelle forme prendra-t-elle? Les recherches plein texte continuent à être la norme, mais lorsque nous aurons épuisé toutes les avenues, de quels outils disposerons-nous pour nous guider à travers les piles de plus en plus denses d'information numérique? (Et quelle est la bonne métaphore : des piles, des nuages, des banques?)

Most concerning to both of us about the future is this: where will the really interesting work be? Many of us have expanded our practice to include other forms of information management, for example, working with databases and various electronic applications. But our experience so far has been that the interesting work is still that which comes to us in the traditional print format—books and journals. So how can we keep our practices vital and interesting? Come and join in the conversation as it continues at the 2013 conference in Halifax.

Mais ce qui nous inquiète le plus pour l'avenir est ceci : où trouverons-nous le travail intéressant? Nous avons déjà, pour la plupart d'entre nous, élargi nos horizons professionnels et avons commencé à inclure dans nos activités d'autres formes de gestion de l'information, par exemple, le travail avec des banques de données et avec de nombreuses applications électroniques. Et pourtant, il semblerait que le travail le plus intéressant soit toujours celui qui se présente sous le format imprimé traditionnel, à savoir les livres et les revues. Alors, que pouvons-nous faire pour que notre travail reste intéressant et dynamique? Venez continuer la discussion en participant au congrès 2013, à Halifax.

Mary Newberry and Gillian Watts, Co-presidents
Indexing Society of Canada / Société canadienne d'indexation



**Indexers' and Editors' Joint
Conference June 6-9, 2013,
in Halifax**

June 6 is dedicated to indexing, and June 7 will have both indexing and editing sessions. See the ISC/SCI website for more information:
<http://indexers.ca/annual-conference>

Halifax Harbour. Photo in the public domain, available from Wikimedia Commons.

Book Review:

Indexing and Retrieval of Non-text Information

Diane Rasmussen Neal, editor

I expected to learn a lot from *Indexing and Retrieval of Non-text Information*, edited by Diane Rasmussen Neal (published by Walter deGruyter in 2012). What I didn't expect was to enjoy reading it as much as I did. Neal and her team have put together a timely and fascinating collection of texts that explores the challenges of indexing non-text material in an online world. Although geared much more towards academically minded information scientists than to back-of-the-book indexers, this book nevertheless has a lot to offer indexers who work with illustrated books or digital documents with embedded multimedia.

Covering everything from music information retrieval systems to *World of Warcraft* as a case study for gaming indexing, Neal's wide-ranging book features voices from all over the world—including Bar-Ilan University in Israel, Universidade Federal Fluminense in Brazil, and Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf—but it also showcases the strength of Canadian research in the field, with contributions from doctoral students and faculty at the University of Toronto, McGill University, and Western University, where Neal is an assistant professor.

Although I read the chapters about music with interest (Jason Neal, for example, looks at the problematic definition of *classical* in his probe of genre in music-recommender systems), I generally focused on the content most relevant to book indexers—namely, image indexing. Chris Landbeck's chapter about editorial cartoons was eye-opening as he explained that several factors contribute to the complexity of indexing these images:

- 1) editorial cartoons are time sensitive; 2) there is no tradition of describing editorial cartoons for the Electronic Age to draw on; 3) editorial cartoons do not exist in a vacuum, but in a rich and active world that a reader must be familiar with in order to

both perceive the visual part of the cartoon as well the message within it. (61)

This distinction between an image's "ofness" and "aboutness" is echoed in Kathrin Knautz's chapter about emotions in multimedia: indexing must take into account that, because "an emotion may arise for various reasons (induction, empathy, contagion)" (359), an emotion depicted may not be the same as the one evoked. Pawel Rygiel extends Landbeck's thread about the time sensitivity of an image, showing the complications that can arise when indexing photos of architectural objects "whose name, form and function might have changed throughout their history" (288). The chapter by Renata Maria Abrantes Baracho Porto and Beatriz Valadares Cendón about an image-based retrieval system for engineering drawings was also interesting. I once worked on an art book in which the designer included details of the artwork next to the "tombstone" data—a lovely visual index—and this chapter in Neal's book made me wonder whether a closer relationship between indexer and designer might yield surprising and useful results for carefully chosen projects.

The book's biggest weakness, ironically, is its unforgivably anemic index. Only three pages in a 428-page book, the index is virtually useless—its entry for "indexing" consists of 108 undifferentiated locators.

Indexing and Retrieval of Non-text Information offers indexers a lot to ponder, especially in its look at the strengths and weaknesses of social tagging and the question of whether crowd-sourcing the task of indexing will ever put us out of a job. For the working book indexer, however, this book is probably overkill. If someone would extract only the information that is relevant to book indexers and edit it into a smaller, more manageable resource, that abridged volume would be a welcome addition to any indexer's reference shelf.

Iva Cheung

An e-Interview with Ali Shiri

Author of *Powering Search*

Dr. Ali Shiri is an associate professor in the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies. He teaches a course in advanced topics in the organization of knowledge, including indexing, abstracting, and thesaurus construction. He is the author of Powering Search: The Role of Thesauri in New Information Environments (Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2012). Moira Calder interviewed him by telephone.

MC: Information professionals and researchers, including indexers, come from a wide variety of backgrounds and work in many areas.

AS: Indeed. ... The role of the indexer is more diversified now and more versatile, I believe. When we talk about indexers, we're obviously talking about different types of indexes. It can be back-of-the-book indexes or indexes created by databases vendors, providers, or corporate agencies. Now, this whole area of digitization, the mass digitization projects around—you see a lot of content is actually digitized and is available online—in fact provides a wider range of opportunities for indexers to actually be involved in and to use their skills. I always say to my students in my indexing class that these skills are transferable, and if they know the general principles of indexing, it is a set of very powerful techniques that they can use for the analysis and representation of information.

As for the indexer, in my book I'm basically trying to capture these new information environments using an umbrella term to refer to a wide range of digital libraries, institutional repositories, content management systems, open archives. They are in some form or fashion new information environments. But you could even label them as new information indexing, representation, and retrieval environments. I think the value and the quality of indexing obviously play an important role in this whole process because we are still talking about how we represent the subject about-ness of items. And with all these new search engines, even with Google being the number one search engine for the past 10 years, there are a lot of digital repositories that basically apply metadata and indexing approaches simply because general free-text searching is inherently problematic. It may be useful for certain search tasks but not for all tasks ...

MC: What about e-books, specifically Amazon's advice to its authors not to include an index?

AS: I must say that I was not aware of that statement on Amazon. I think that's a very radical approach, because I can name two specific projects, one in the U.K. and one in Canada. These are research projects, funded projects by SSHRC [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council] and one in the U.K. They actually focus on the notion of meta-indexes. What that means is, basically, how can we best benefit from the back-of-the-book indexes in a digital environment? One of the projects looks at how we can take advantage of back-of-the-book indexes in the electronic books to create a superindex, using that subject structure, that intellectual asset ... to create a knowledge map or a map of a particular domain or different domains. If you are talking about e-books in the area of civil rights or human rights, for instance, you can actually create a very nice index using back-of-the-book indexes for that domain and incorporate access points from different sources into one big index. What I'm saying is to actually advocate for the importance of these ... indexes.

Another project in the U.K.—the title of the project is BOBI, Back-of-the-Book Indexes—on usability ... examined the search and interaction behaviour of 45 students looking at three different electronic books. They designed search tasks and compared three different finding and retrieval tools. One was the back-of-the-book index, one was free text, and the third one was the table of contents. The result of that study was that definitely the back-of-the-book indexes for those electronic books outperformed the two other approaches, followed by the table of contents. That means that this structure that BOB indexes provide certainly adds value to the whole search process as users interact with the electronic book [see references about this project below].

Now I haven't talked yet about thesauri ... The one at UBC, at the University of British Columbia, talks about the notion of a meta-index [see references about this project below] for mapping the terminology of a domain using back-of-the-book indexes. These two projects, I believe, are trying to leverage the power of indexes in a way, at least in terms of back-of-the-book indexes in electronic books.

MC: What do you think indexers need to know about other information knowledge domains?

AS: In the book that I published, part of my argument was that there are certainly a number of domains that indexers can become more familiar with. Indexers have been involved in this process of subject analysis and indexing for decades. Now you will see these new tools and all of the digital [attempts at indexes]; some of them are actually reinventing the wheel. You'll see that they are struggling with what LIS professionals and indexers have been struggling with for decades, and they have even found solutions, but people think they're finding something new or different. Particular areas, like information architecture and information search behavior, I think, indexers need to become familiar with or at least read. I think that reading the research literature on the information search behaviour, information interaction behaviour, and information retrieval behavior of users helps them actually to re-find the value of their skills. You know, we could be talking about indexing in our own domain for hours and months and years, but the value of it and how it can be applied to relevant issues and questions—in other words, relevant search and retrieval issues that we are currently wrestling with—even Google wrestles with. So if I want to name those areas, it would be information architecture and information search behaviour.

Also, probably, the area of metadata. I see that some of these areas, basically, are converging, because if you look back a few years ago, even Google entered into a contract with WorldCat because they found the value of metadata and intellectual analysis of documents rather than an automatic analysis of content by thousands of crawlers. I think indexes and index tools are very similar. It's a matter of how we can actually apply this knowledge and skills that the indexers have to new information environments or environments that are different: not just books or e-books but subject databases, portals, subject repositories, digital repositories, open archives, as I mentioned. So to answer your question, I think it is important for them to read the literature on information search behaviour. I'm not talking about broad information behaviour or human information behaviour. People could be sources of information. I mainly talk about more interaction with computerized information services—search behavior, web search user studies. Those are very useful. I'm sure they will find things that they have answers for and that many people struggle with mainly because they don't look at them from an indexing or an information representation and retrieval purpose.

MC: Natural language versus controlled vocabulary?

AS: I know that there is an argument about natural language processing and applications. You know, the indexing of content has come a long way and has made progress. I remember, back in 2006 in Vancouver, I attended the Information Architecture Summit for the first time. There were about 600 web designers, information architects, webmasters, and managers. They were enthusiastically and excitedly talking about how they can use facet analysis to create nice organizational structures, information structures for websites, as if they had found something new, whereas facet analysis was introduced by Ranganathan back in the 1960s.

Why does this community of information architects think that some form of vocabulary control is important for findability and retrievability and searchability of content? At least for a look at current search systems and search tools, you don't see fully functional natural language processing-based tools that function perfectly. That's why a lot of corporate websites use indexing and metadata applications to provide more focused and more efficient access points ... When you look at the literature on controlled vocabulary versus free-text searching, there are a number of articles published over the past 30 years or so. The short, brief, and succinct outcome of all these studies is that these two even now complement each other. Each lends itself to different types of search tasks. That's what we can say for sure. That's why even corporate websites such as ebay or Zappos—online shopping sites—try to somehow provide predetermined or preset categories for faceted browsing purposes, so that users don't have to get lost [in searches] purely based on free-text searching and thinking up terms. They're probably not aware of what the system or the site is using or has used before.

These are some of the challenges that we are facing, I guess. Google and Ask.com are the best natural language processing tools around. They are good for certain tasks, right? But Google started introducing some level of metadata for refining and narrowing down searches by date, by time, even by document type. So it's very clear that users would like to have browsing functionalities and features, not just a simple search box.

MC: Any comments generally?

AS: Yes. I think what I can say, as I have said in the book, is that there are many thesauri and controlled vocabularies available that could nicely be used in new information environments and in indexing in particular. I have worked with some of the people who are actually working on a number of different metadata projects, and my students have. What they have said is that these skills are quite transferable in their capacities as metadata or metadata developers or people in charge of digital libraries or digital metadata. I think indexing has a

significant role in these new information environments. It's just becoming more familiar, first of all, with this wide range of information environments and then how these indexing skills can be introduced to those different environments. Finally, because thesauri tend to be domain-specific, they are going to be useful for content management systems and digital libraries and subject gateways. I think that those are relevant to the current search landscape and digital search on the Web.

Resources

Back-of-the-Book Index (BOBI) usability project:

Abdullah, N., and F. Gibb. "Using a Task-Based Approach in Evaluating the Usability of BOBIs in an E-book Environment." In *Advances in Information Retrieval*, 246–57. Berlin: Springer, 2008.

Noorhidawati, A., and F. Gibb. "How Students Use E-books: Reading or Referring?" *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science* 13, no. 2 (2008): 1–14.

Meta-index project:

Huggett, M., and E. Rasmussen. "Dynamic Online Views of Meta-indexes." In *Proceedings of the 12th ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*, 233–36. ACM, June 2012.

———. "Meta-index Views on Digital Domains." In *Proceedings of the 2012 iConference*, 618–19. ACM: February 2012.

Upcoming Conferences

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) conference was held in March 2013. The title: "Intrepid Indexing: Indexing Without Boundaries." Reports from this conference are on the society's website (http://www.anzsi.org/site/conference_papers.asp). This society meets every other year.

The ISC/SCI Annual Conference, "Between the Lines / Entre les lignes," will be held June 6–7, 2013, in Halifax, in conjunction with the Editors' Association of Canada conference. Stay up-to-date at <http://indexers.ca/annual-conference/>.

On July 12–14, 2013, the Society of Indexers (U.K.) will meet at Wyboston Lakes conference centre in Bedfordshire. The conference theme is "Revitalize Your Business, Refresh Your

Skills." Information is available at <http://www.indexers.org.uk>.

"Words in 3 Dimensions," a conference devoted to writing, publishing, and editing, will be held in Edmonton on May 24–26, 2013. On May 25 local ISC/SCI representatives will set up an information booth to promote our association and indexing in general. Information is available at <http://www.wordsin3d.com/>.

The American Society for Indexing 2014 conference will be held April 30–May 3 in Charleston, South Carolina. Information is on the ASI website (<http://www.asindexing.org>), under Conferences.



Heather Ebbs came across this magpie while in New Zealand representing ISC/SCI.

Book Review:

Powering Search: The Role of Thesauri in New Information Environments

By Ali Shiri

“The art and science of organizing and labeling ... to support usability and findability”: does this sound familiar to you as an indexer? Insert the words “websites, intranets, online communities, and software” in the space, and you have the definition of information architecture cited on page 15 of Ali Shiri’s book *Powering Search*. A theme that runs through this thought-provoking book is that many people in many disciplines are grappling with the same issues and that we can and should learn from each other. (See the interview with Dr. Shiri in this issue for more of his thoughts.)

When I raised the possibility of reviewing this book for the *Bulletin*, one reaction was “Will this interest indexers?” After all, many, if not most, create indexes for standalone books using natural language. True enough, but controlled vocabulary is an area that indexers will increasingly need to understand and address. EPUB 3 recommends that a “reading system must be able to link from one EPUB to another.”¹ Furthermore, at the 2012 ISC/SCI conference, Cheryl Landes described her vision of the future of indexing as including indexing databases and search optimization (see the *Bulletin*’s Summer/Fall 2012 issue). What role will indexers play in “leverage[ing] the power of linked data” (p. 130)?

Shiri provides an overview of thesaurus terminology, standards, and uses in digital environments as indexing tools and as adjuncts to search engines. He discusses research on controlled vocabularies as complementary to natural language searching (p. 242). Three chapters address interface design, and in the final chapter Shiri presents an overview of current research. On first read I found the parts on how people look for information the most interesting; on second look I found the design sections led me to

reflect on future interactive indexes. After reading the section on faceted search user interfaces (pp. 8–15), I started noticing online indexing where I hadn’t thought about it previously and thinking of the possibilities. For example, on the Chapters website I can search an artist under “House and Homes” if I want a poster or under “Books” if that’s what I want.

Powering Search has a well-written index that includes authors cited and subject headings and identifies figures and tables, which helped me to locate information that I wanted to reread. Because it is a scholarly publication, the reference lists at the ends of chapters are portals to more information unto themselves, and although some of the examples of databases provided are proprietary, you can access some online without a subscription, and Shiri provides many screen shots of interfaces. I also found the diagrams of information-seeking and retrieval models helpful. That being said, this book is not a light read. It was written for information scientists, not for indexers. The presentation is scholarly and its content is research focused.

One of my first “big” freelance contracts some years ago involved an index for an online database of health publications. My tech colleagues had never worked with an indexer before and asked me to make a presentation. The first question I fielded: “What do you do?” I might have asked them the same question. Shiri’s book will help facilitate that dialogue among information workers.

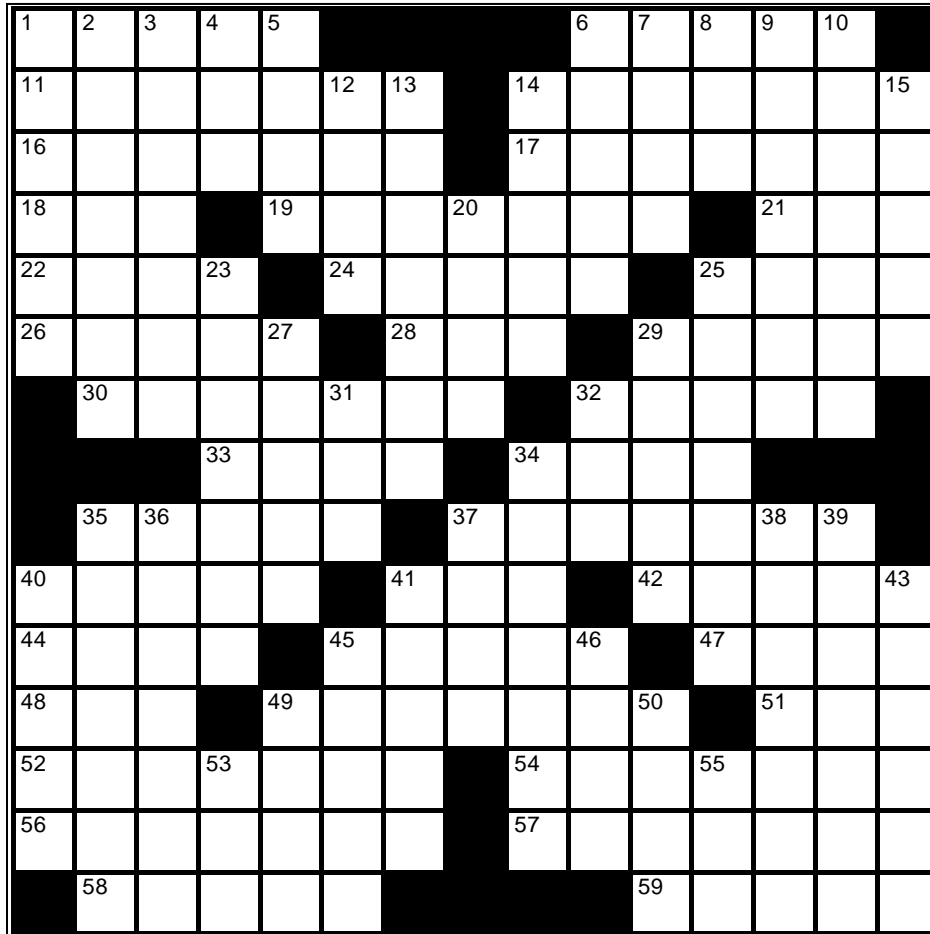
Moira Calder

Note:

1. International Digital Publishing Forum. *EPUB 3 Indexes Charter*. <http://idpf.org/charters/2012/indexes/>

Crossword Puzzle

Spring Fling



Crossword by
Heather Ebbs

Solution on page 14

Across

- 1. START OF TIMELY SAYING
- 6. Jargon
- 11. Literary studies
- 14. WORD TWO OF SAYING
- 16. Old-style composition
- 17. System of movement
- 18. Spooks' mon.
- 19. Radioactive element
- 21. Afternoon refresher
- 22. Retailer
- 24. WORD THREE OF SAYING
- 25. Tax
- 26. Spooky
- 28. Tattoo
- 29. Restricts
- 30. Lean back
- 32. Promos
- 33. King or Donkey follower
- 34. Coconut fibre
- 35. Readies
- 37. Chooses
- 40. iPad of old?
- 41. WORD FOUR OF SAYING

42. Defects

- 44. Attila's people
- 45. Army unit
- 47. Let it stand
- 48. Unit of energy
- 49. Schemer
- 51. Former NDP premier, current Liberal MP
- 52. Thai neighbour
- 54. Repeat
- 56. LAST WORD OF SAYING
- 57. POET WHO INSPIRED SAYING
- 58. Saw logs
- 59. Colleagues

Down

- 1. Place in proximity
- 2. Illegal hunter
- 3. Fix up

- 4. Spooky Addams cousin
- 5. Stead
- 6. Gesture of indifference
- 7. Soil
- 8. Grass beard
- 9. Reserve funds
- 10. Mourns
- 12. Restrict
- 13. Frugal
- 14. Reek
- 15. Restricts
- 20. Baseball group
- 23. Protests
- 25. Honours
- 27. Split to unite
- 29. Noted notes
- 31. Twelfths of a ft.
- 32. Spooky writer
- 34. Obscure
- 35. They are not singular
- 36. Biggest city in Myanmar
- 37. Role
- 38. Daily grind
- 39. Cardigan
- 40. Board for books
- 41. Satellites
- 43. No bulls?
- 45. Popular Cambridge college
- 46. Cain's brother
- 49. Dock
- 50. Harvest
- 53. Couple
- 55. Regret

Tech Tools

Directions for Establishing and Using Hyperlinking within a Word™ Document

Microsoft Word™ has functions that allow users to use hyperlinks, called bookmarks, within large documents, allowing for easy onscreen navigation. In this article Brian Hogan outlines the process for inserting links manually.

Steps

(Note: Steps may have to be modified to suit the version of Word you are using.)

1. Identify desired items for linking within the document.
2. Establish a list of such items at the top of the document.
3. Position cursor at desired link within the document.
 - a. In Word Insert menu, choose **Bookmark**.
 - b. Enter the name of the item, then click **Add**.
4. Return to the top list and
 - a. highlight desired item;
 - b. right-click for contextual menu;
 - c. click on **Hyperlink** and choose **Document** tab;
 - d. position cursor in **Anchor** box and click **Locate**;
 - e. select the new bookmark from the list and click **OK**.

The link is now established.

5. To display link connectors on every page of the document:
 - a. Highlight the established linked list and copy it.
 - b. Select **Header and Footer** from the View menu.
 - c. Paste the list (with formatting) in the header or footer.

Done!

6. To activate a hyperlink:
 - a. Highlight the desired item in the list.
 - b. Right-click to bring up the contextual menu.
 - c. Choose **Open Hyperlink**.

Et voilà—fini!

Sample Used in a Current Document (1200 pages, 65,000 records)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[BC](#) [AB](#) [SK](#) [MB](#) [ON](#) [QC](#) [NB](#) [PEI](#) [NS](#) [NL](#) [NT](#) [YK](#) [NCda](#) [WCda](#) [Encyc](#) [Hier](#) [Pol](#) [Pope](#)

[Vat](#) [TO](#) [MTL](#)

[e1](#) [e2](#) [ea2](#) [ec2](#) [en2](#) [es2](#) [eu2](#) [f1](#) [f2](#) [f3](#) [h1](#) [h2](#) [h3](#) [s1](#) [s2](#) [s3](#) [m1](#) [m2](#) [m3](#) [im1](#) [p1](#) [p2](#) [p3](#)

CINDEX™ hints and tips

Recently I was invited to present a day-long workshop on using patterns in CINDEX™. I had planned to spend five to ten minutes quickly reviewing the FIND and REPLACE screens before embarking on the more challenging task of learning and applying the language of patterns. To my surprise and chagrin I unleashed an equal interest in becoming more familiar with the FIND and REPLACE options and operations. An hour and a half later we were still exploring ways in which they can be most usefully employed! So I humbly offer a few points that came out of that session and gently suggest that you call up the FIND screen in CINDEX on your computer and follow along.

Case Sensitivity

- Any search for a string of characters is case-insensitive unless you request otherwise (the opposite is true for REPLACE). Thus, searching for the character string “cat” might find *Catacomb, cat, Cats, communication, classification, and Indicator*.
- If you check the Case box (at the bottom of the FIND screen) and still search for “cat” you will retrieve only *cats, communication, classification, and Indicator*.
- By checking **Whole Word** instead of **Case** you will retrieve only *cat*.
- Should you wish to find both plural and singular forms (and avoid using a pattern), you can enter “cat” in the text box and select the Boolean operator OR from the drop-down menu to the right of the text box. A second text box will appear. Enter “Cats” in this second box. The search will now retrieve *cat* and *Cats*.

Excluding Characters from the Search

- You can also use the Boolean operator NOT to exclude a specific character or characters from the search. For example, you may have entered author names and subject content in the same index file and now wish to quickly spell-check only the subject material.
- If the author names were entered in last-name-and-initial-letter format, then exclude the full stop (.) from the search. To do this, simply type a period in the text box and check the NOT box immediately to the left. The search will retrieve all records that do not contain a period. Now run the spell-check. The search will also identify entries where you failed to provide a full stop—another editing check satisfied!

Including/Excluding Records from the Search

- The FIND screen has two areas that allow you to restrict your search as you wish. **Scope** allows you to define how much of the index you wish to search, and **Only Among** lets you determine the “types” of records among which you wish to search.
- Within **Scope** the default setting is to search the whole index (or whatever is currently displayed, such as a group), but you can also search
 - within a highlighted array of records, by checking the **Selected Records** button.
 - among a range of records (J–S, for example) or by record number (200–500, for example). In the first instance you need to display the index in an alphabetic sort; in the latter you need to place the index in **Unsorted** order (i.e., the order in which they were entered). To do this, go to the View menu and uncheck the **Sorted** option. When finished, recheck the **Sorted** option.
 - by date of the last action (adding or editing) in the record.
 - by User ID. This is particularly useful in a team-indexing project. To ensure that each record is “stamped” with the User ID, it should be set prior to beginning work, on the PREFERENCES/GENERAL screen (in Windows editions of the program, PREFERENCES is found on the Edit menu, and under the CINDEX menu on the Mac).
- The **Only Among** section of the FIND and REPLACE screens provides ways to restrict searches (and replacements) to certain kinds of records. For example, to search among (or simply

Regional Reports

Central Canada

In the December 2012 meeting Joan Eadie led a discussion on cataloguing and indexing, and Mary summarized plans for the Halifax Conference.

The January 2013 gathering considered serial publications from different indexing societies. Mary Newberry commented on the latest issue of *The Indexer*, and information was given on *KeyWords* and the ANZSI newsletter. It was noted that newsletters are moving from print to electronic, and back copies are being digitized. Chris passed around early issues of *The Bulletin* (at that time the IASC/SCAD newsletter), including Volume 1 from 1978.

Mary started the February meeting with a talk on the plans for the conference in Halifax. She explained how she had managed to gather so many interesting speakers. We then moved to an enjoyable peer review session using two indexes supplied by Angela Wingfield.

Attendance in December and February was nine persons, and in January was two or three less. We have always appreciated the leadership of Mary Newberry and the room arrangements by Gillian Faulkner.

Christopher Blackburn

Prairies/Northern Canada

Adrian Mather (an ISC/SCI member) and I will be promoting ISC/SCI at the Words in 3D conference on May 25, 2013, at MacEwan University in Edmonton. About 120 to 150 writers, editors, publishers, and agents are expected to attend the conference, which is held every two years. Although most attendees will be from Alberta, some will come from BC, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. For more information, go to www.wordsin3d.com.

To promote our organization, we booked a table in the Marketplace area of the conference, held on Saturday, May 25, from 11:30 to 5:00 pm. Adrian and I plan to discuss indexing with anyone who is interested and to hand out business cards promoting the online directory. Our displays will include issues of *The Indexer*, our ISC/SCI postcards, and sample indexes. Associated costs fall within amounts budgeted for regional activities. Our district membership has dropped from six members to five. I hope we can attract new members.

Judy Dunlop

The Indexing Body: Some Issues of Care and Comfort in Pursuit of the Great Naming Game

Part I: The Body in General

Brian Hogan gave a talk on indexer health and wellness issues at a recent Toronto-area gathering of indexers. This is the first of a four-part series based on that talk.

These reflections were spurred by an experience I had about two years ago. For several weeks I suffered from an occurrence of lower back pain that left me sidelined. I retired to a recliner and cold packs and proceeded to work my way through several novels. That left me reflecting on just how much sitting I have done over the past decades, and the types of occupational health hazards that attend our cultural turn towards digital technology. Also I had noticed, over the past few years of indexing association, that there is a fair amount of literature dealing with the body of the index but very little directed towards the body of the indexer. So last spring I made a presentation on the theme to one of our Toronto regional meetings. From that followed the kind suggestion from Marnie Lamb that I

prepare something for the ISC/SCI *Bulletin*. What follows are my personal experiences and reflections; they are meant to be descriptive only, and not in any way prescriptive. Everyone's situation is different. If some of these observations stimulate a thought, that thought should be followed up by consultation with appropriate professionals.

Body in Motion—NOT

To begin this paradox, we should locate the question within a historical context. In many ways the pre-modern period can be characterized as static. Change came seldom and was usually regarded with a healthy measure of skepticism, since so often it carried a high cost. Farmers, who often barely survived from one harvest to the next, could ill afford risky experimentation. Conversely, the modern (and now digital) age is aptly described as dynamic and fluid. Change is the constant. It is coveted, courted, and eagerly embraced. The paradox is this: For the vast majority of folks, that static pre-digital age required daily, dynamic physical activity. Now, for the vast majority of folks, this dynamic digital age requires far less daily physical activity. For centuries the great desire of our ancestors was to secure some sinecure that ensured static status, which was then equated with comfort. Now that the dream has been achieved, for a great many in the "developed" world the unexpected (and unwelcome) consequences are increasingly manifest—and most uncomfortable.

What, then, of indexers as a group of professional workers? The problem is that the task of indexing by its very nature keeps us far too static for far too long. I think it is fair to claim as a given that modern medical knowledge tells us the body flourishes best when it experiences regular movement. So what to do? Quitting is, of course, not an option, for at least three reasons. The first is that of lucre, both desired and required to access the basic calories needed for sustenance—not to mention a little wine for the good of my stomach! Second, it's my job, even, one might hope, my avocation and mission. Third, and the greatest of these (again, one hopes), it's my love of the challenge, creation, and accomplishment that indexing regularly provides.

Some Suggested Responses

Try to think of agreeable movements that respond to time's immediate, near, and more distant horizons, and thus geared to the hour, day, week, and month. Aim for at least hourly movement from a static position. Develop a series of in-chair exercises that you can undertake to keep joints limber. One of my favourites is ankle on opposing knee, combined with gentle forward stretching. This can be combined with rolling the shoulders and gently stretching the neck. Even better, get up and fetch something—anything (caveat, sans calories!)—preferably something that requires a quick trip up and down a set of stairs. So don't freeze in place; aim to be poetry in motion.

Over the course of planning the day and week, build in some serious fun and exercise experiences. Think walking, biking, dancing, skating, skiing, sports, bungee jumping (just kidding on that last one). Costs are usually reasonable at the local Y, gymnasiums, swimming pools, municipal recreation centres, and the ubiquitous exercise clubs. Most local colleges and universities, which frequently have terrific recreation facilities, will extend membership privileges to the public for a very reasonable fee. Most modern condominiums come with some sort of recreational facility. And there are parks, walking trails, lakes, and so on. One need not be an athlete; just identify that sweet spot of movement that has some potential attraction for you, even if it's just a little.

If you feel no attraction at all, there will be an inherent tendency to succumb to the first principle of physics—inertia, now clearly defined as deadly indeed. If possible, it helps to find a partner. This is definitely not an appeal to the adage "misery loves company"! Rather, a friendly fellow "goader" can be a real stimulus to engaging with that inertia threat. Over the past couple of years my wife and I attended aquafit sessions at three different spots. Initially I regarded these sessions somewhat askance, as hardly constituting "real" exercise. I quickly found differently; in fact, such programs offer terrific stretching workouts. And to my surprise I discovered that a follow-up nap was not unheard of! Finally we settled on a rather new YMCA that offers an incredibly full range of choices, from swimming and associated programs to every kind of exercise machine, hot tub, and sauna. I try to think of it as a well-deserved pampering spa time during the week—with the added advantage of no worries about hot water usage.

This is as close as it gets to a spa treatment without breaking the budget. Also, along with many other institutions, Ys come equipped with well-trained and very helpful assistants. They will provide basic health checks (including blood pressure, weight, etc.) to get you started and will monitor on request.

More important, they will assist in establishing a program with reasonable goals and will explain and demonstrate the equipment's potentials. The cost is reasonable, the personal reward significant. Sure it requires time away from the desk, but afterwards desk time becomes exponentially more productive. And just in case you haven't looked lately, most such centres are increasingly sensitive to gender concerns. There are now many places that cater exclusively to women, and other, gender-inclusive places may provide sections dedicated to women only. Try a few before choosing one in which you feel welcomed, comfortable, and secure.

Of course there are numerous exercise machines that one can use at home, including electronic walking platforms, rowing machines, stepping machines, and so forth. I've found that among these, one of the best for assuring a full cardio workout is an elliptical (cross-training) machine, as it provides both upper and lower body exercise simultaneously. Repetitive, yes, but most of these workout possibilities easily allow for reading and/or listening while you work out. Music, good books . . . and e-readers increasingly allow for access to your favourite newspapers and magazines. Boredom is no longer a necessary attendant. Of course, the advantage of an alternative location is that it gets you out of your indexing cell to experience a different environment and a range of people.

Finally, most simply, and at the very least, there is the sidewalk. Ten or 20 minutes of brisk walking three or four times a week, we are told, suffices to keep a body in basic tune. Can't beat that.¹

Brian F. Hogan

Note: For a good overview, see Kate Lunau's "Don't Just Sit There," *MacLean's* (January 14, 2013), 14–16.

Website Update

For Members Only

One of the reasons for the recent update of the ISC/SCI website, and a real benefit to members, is an ability to deliver more services content through a bilingual members-only area (<http://indexers.ca/members-area/>). Over the past year Vice-president François Trahan led this initiative and brought it to a really exciting conclusion. New content includes videos from conferences and the newsletters of many of our sister societies: the Association of Southern African Indexers and Biographers, the Netherlands Indexing Network, the Society of Indexers (UK), and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers. ISC/SCI administrative documents, such as minutes from annual general meetings and special reports, are also available. Coming soon in the Members Directory section will be a pdf of all members; this will update the printed version mailed to everyone in early 2013.

By now you probably will have received instructions on how to access this secure area. We invite you to take some time to explore it and then come back and visit often as new content becomes available.

Website Statistics Report, October 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013

During the first six months of tracking website traffic, there were 2,900 visits to the site, made by 1,606 unique visitors. Of the total visits, 54% were made by new visitors and 46% by returning visitors. The average number of pages looked at per visit was 4, and the average time of each visit was 3 minutes.

Pages visited: Total number of pages viewed was 11,174, for an average time of 1 minute per page. Of these, 22% were the Home page, 9% Find an Indexer, 8% the Annual Conference page, 7% the Resources page, and 4% for Become a Member.

Traffic sources: Of the 2,900 visits, 39% came direct to the site, 38% came through searches, and 24% through referral (links). Of the direct traffic (1,122 visits), the main pages visited were the Home page (713 visits), Annual Conference (143 visits), Contact-us/Renew-membership (44 visits), and Find an Indexer (32 visits). Keywords used were primarily "indexing society of canada" (12%), "indexing" (3%), and "indexers society of canada" (2%), and referrals included englishorfrench.com, editors.ca, statcounter.com, en.wikipedia.org, and indexers.org.uk.

Language: 89% of the visits were by US English, 4% by French, and 3% by GB English.

Location: Of the 2,900 visits, 2,118 came from Canada, 376 from the United States, and 61 from the United Kingdom. Other locations included Australia, India, Malaysia, France, Italy, and Mexico.

Over the six months there has been a steady increase in the number of visits to the site (from 479 in October to 565 in March). The number of unique visitors has increased, as has the percentage of returning visitors. Total number of pages viewed has dropped, but the time per visit has been constant at 4 minutes. The last few months have seen a rise in visits to the Annual Conference page; visits to the Find an Indexer page have been steady, as have those to Become a Member.

The sources of traffic show a decline in those going direct to the site, and an increase in those arriving through referrals (links). The number of US English-speaking visitors has increased, and the number of French-speaking has dropped.

Angela Wingfield

ISC/SCI Membership Report for March 2013

As of March 2, 2013, we have 114 members. Ten members did not renew their memberships when they expired on December 31. Six new members have joined. The geographical breakdown of the membership is as follows:

Within Canada

British Columbia	35
Alberta	3
Saskatchewan	2
Manitoba	0
Ontario	48
Quebec	10
New Brunswick	1
Newfoundland & Labrador	2
Nova Scotia	2
Prince Edward Island	1

Outside Canada

United States	8
Italy	1
Turkey	1

Membership Types

Individual	105
Student	3
Institutional	6

Institutional members are distributed as follows:

Alberta	1	Quebec	1
Ontario	3	United States	1

The following members have joined since the annual report:

Nan Andrews, Eagle River, WI	andrews.nan@gmail.com
Cynthia Col, Watertown, MA	cynthia@cynthiacol.com
Mary Scott, Grand Falls, NL	nicalban@yahoo.com
Erica Smith, Toronto, ON	erica_smith@ontla.ola.org
Krista Smith, Vancouver, BC	krista.smith@outlook.com
Caryn Sobel, New Paltz, NY	carynsobel@verizon.net
Stephen Ullstrom, Vancouver, BC	stephenullstrom@gmail.com

**You can now
purchase or renew
an ISC/SCI
membership
online using
PayPal.**

Nan Andrews joined just after I sent the Membership Directory to press. Her contact information is

Nan Andrews
370 Sleigh Trail Lane, Eagle River, WI 54521, USA
Website: www.redwaxindexing.com
Phone: 773-234-6033

Audrey McClellan
Membership Secretary

Student Perspectives: Indexing at Simon Fraser University

In the summer of 2010 I set out on a major career change. The opportunity arose to start over with something completely new, and I was determined to find exactly what was right for me and would make me happy for the next 20 years of my life and beyond. I had already started taking some classes in the Writing and Publishing Program at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver, BC, and I decided to pursue a Certificate in Publishing. One of the many electives available to me was Indexing: An Essential Art and Science (TCOM230), actually part of Technical Communication. At the time—like so many people we meet every day—I didn't even know what an indexer was! However, the course description immediately piqued my interest, and I correctly deemed it well suited to my skill set.

The course runs every fall online and every spring in person on campus (three-hour evening classes), taught by our own Karen Griffiths and Beverly Dunne respectively. The curricula are identical, running over five weeks. Five quizzes and four assignments, as well as *student* participation, are considered for assessment. This review shall focus on Karen's online class, where student participation takes the form of an online forum. This format takes some getting used to if you have never taken an online class before, but it is also a good introduction to the life of an indexer, in which nearly all exchanges take place electronically.

The course covers the mechanics of indexing, standards and resources, use and creation of style guides, web resources for further study, and business aspects of indexing. The training includes evaluation and editing of existing nonfiction and technical indexes and, of course, creation of our own indexes, using manual methods, Microsoft Word's embedding feature, and CINDEX. Good emphasis is given to term selection, and a sample workflow and plenty of examples help students complete the required tasks. *The Chicago Manual of Style* is used as primary resource.

Five weeks is not a very long time to learn the craft of indexing. None of the practice texts were longer than two pages, making it somewhat difficult for a beginner to distinguish between indexable material and passing mentions. Because Karen is also a full-time indexer, it was sometimes tricky for her to balance her own workload, particularly since assignments had to be submitted on a strict timeline. On the other hand, this gave us a unique look into the "real world" of indexing and its feasibility as a source of income; it turned out to be one of the most valuable parts of the experience. Beginning last year, Beverly co-instructs the online course, which should prove to be of even greater benefit to students.

To be honest, I would not have been comfortable embarking on an indexing career based on this course alone. It did, however, give me confidence that I was on the right track, and also a leg up in my further studies. I think it would be fair to say that the primary target group for this course is the technical writer. Both Karen, who has taught this class since 2007, and Beverly, who joined the team more recently, report that a majority of students likely won't end up as full-time indexers, but they do find the experience highly valuable in their respective writing/publishing/editing careers. Comments made by my own classmates suggest that, at the very least, everybody came away with a new-found respect for indexes and indexers.

SFU offers a comprehensive range of courses in their Writing and Publishing Program, most of which can be taken as stand-alone classes in Continuing Education, with no prerequisites other than a good command of the English language. All courses take place at the downtown Vancouver campus at Harbour Centre (the venue of our 2011 annual conference). More and more classes are also available online.

Course information: For more information on this course, see <http://www.sfu.ca/continuing-studies/courses/tcom/indexing-an-essential-art-and-science.html>.

Isabel Steurer

International Liaison Report

The hottest international topic right now is indexing and epubs. The Indexes Working Group (IWG) of the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF) has just completed its work on the development of a draft standard for epub indexes, and that draft has been released for public comment (see <http://idpf.org/news/call-for-review-public-draft-of-epub-indexes>). This standard represents a tremendous amount of work by the members of the IWG on behalf of all of us. In addition, Pilar Wyman, president of ASI, participated in the Tools of Change conference in New York City in February, where she further raised awareness of and appreciation for the need for indexes in epubs. Good indexes are not just continuing to be important but are increasingly relevant as the world of words becomes more and more electronic. The work of the IWG, ASI's Digital Trends Task Force (DTTF), and others is ensuring that publishers are becoming excited by the opportunities that e-indexes can offer.

The 2013 round of conferences has begun, starting with ANZSI's biennial conference, which was held this year from March 13 through 15 in Wellington, New Zealand. About 75 people attended from around the world, including five Americans, one Japanese (representing the China Society of Indexers, as there is no Japanese society), and one Canadian (yours truly). The conference included numerous sessions on e-books, outputting in all kinds of formats using all kinds of tools, indexing names in various languages (including Maori), Japan's indexing practice, running an indexing business, SKY, CINDEX, and much more. For those who wished, a tour of Wellington and LOTR (*Lord of the Rings*, for the uninitiated) sites was available on the afternoon of the middle day. The conference banquet was held later that evening at the glamorously refurbished Roxy Cinema. ANZSI has about 200 members, which has been a stable number for some time now. They have branches throughout Australia as well as a New Zealand branch. Be sure to check out the ANZSI newsletter through the password-protected members' area of our website for further information from the conference.

Next will be the ASI conference in San Antonio, Texas, in late April. SI's conference is 12 to 14 July at the Wyboston Lakes complex in Bedfordshire, England. The conference of the China Society (which is over 1,000 members strong) will be this coming October.

Heather Ebbs

ICRIS ABCs by Heather Ebbs

ICRIS is the International Committee of Representatives of Indexing Societies. It is made up of the international liaisons of each of the societies and associate groups or networks that are party to the International Agreement. Those include the American, Australia and New Zealand, British, Chinese, and South African sister societies and the German and Dutch networks. It also includes two representatives of our international journal of indexing, *The Indexer*.

The role of ICRIS members is to represent the interests of our individual societies and to maintain open communication among the societies and networks. We meet formally once every three years at the Triennial Conference and informally at the conferences held annually or biennially by the societies. In addition, we share an email forum (the ICRIS list) for ongoing communications about such things as the sharing of newsletters, reports to *The Indexer*, links on each other's websites, and the International Agreement. We also share society newsletters, ICRIS agendas and minutes, and other such documents via the list. The list is managed (on a volunteer basis) by Caroline Diepeveen of the Netherlands. To ensure timely communication, the ICRIS list also includes one or two other members of each society or network, such as the president or another well-informed member.

During her tenure as International Coordinator (the person who coordinates all the other international liaisons), our own Ruth Pincoe established the practice of informal meetings for the appointed international delegates attending each conference. Usually other international and local attendees are also invited (at the discretion of the chair, of course). The chair of these meetings is the International Coordinator. Currently this is Mary Russell of ANZSI. The meetings are a tremendously valuable way to cement collegial relationships within our indexing family.

International liaison reports are included in every issue of the *Bulletin* along with the other executive reports. In addition, a lot of society information is available in *The Indexer* and, of course, in the newsletters of our sister societies, now available on our website.