



Bulletin

Indexing Society of Canada

Société canadienne d'indexation

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message.....	1
Le message de la présidente.....	3
Editor, comments from.....	3
From the editor of <i>The Indexer</i>	4
SIG Update!.....	4
Summary of Discussion on Regional Services and Activities	6
ISC/SCI Conference and AGM 2009.....	8
Congrès 2009 et assemblée générale ISC/SCI.....	8
Odd, Wonderful Entries—With a Purpose.....	9
FALL EXECUTIVE MEETING	11
Webmaster.....	11
Membership Secretary.....	12
<i>Register of Indexers Available</i> Editor.....	12
Treasurer.....	13
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor.....	14
International Liaison.....	14
<i>Regional Reports:</i>	14
Central Canada.....	15
Prairies and Northern Canada.....	16
Western Canada.....	17
BOOK REVIEWS	
Historical Atlas of Toronto.....	18

President's Message

Seasons and Regions

I'm looking out my new office window (new window, not new office) at a beautiful blanket of snow covering my yard. Winter is one of my four favourite seasons! Truly—each season has its unique beauties and benefits.

Just as Canada has four seasons, ISC/SCI has four regions, each with a unique nature. As part of the decision at the AGM this year to focus on the regions, your executive plus some guest members met recently to look more closely at what we can do. For example, a committee led by Mary Newberry will be developing a brochure that can be distributed in classrooms, at conferences or at meetings of related associations; this will both promote more interest in ISC/SCI (and more members will generate more networking and meeting opportunities within our society) and make more people aware of us (making our *Register* even more useful). You'll also see more information on forthcoming local meetings and events on our website.

Some regions are already moving ahead with more activity. A Vancouver group met recently and has big plans for the spring (see François Trahan's report on page 17), an Ottawa group has begun meeting (see Gillian Faulkner's report on page 15) and interest is gradually increasing in the East.

I invite you all to read the expanded version of Debby Schryer's report from the AGM on regional services and activities (on page 6) and to think about what you'd like to see happening and what we and you can do to move it forward.

Under the capable leadership of Anna Olivier, plans are well under way for our 2009 Conference and AGM, to be held 3–4 June in Toronto. There are many opportunities for members to volunteer for roles large and small both before and during the conference. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity for skill enhancement and networking. And if there is a topic you'd like to see covered, please let us know!

Best of the season to everyone!

— Heather Ebbs

See also page 3 for **Le message de la présidente**

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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:

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For more membership information, please visit our website at <http://www.indexers.ca/membership.html>

Le message de la présidente

Des saisons et des régions

Je regarde par la nouvelle fenêtre de mon bureau et je vois la couche blanche soyeuse de neige qui couvre mon jardin. L'hiver est un de mes quatre saisons favorites, car chacun a ses avantages et sa beauté unique.

Tout comme les quatre saisons au Canada, le ISC a quatre régions distinctes. L'AGM a décidée que plus d'attention sera accordée aux régions l'année prochaine. L'exécutive ainsi que quelques invitées se sont rencontrés récemment pour examiner ce que nous pouvons faire à ce sujet. Un comité dirigé par Mary Newberry va créer un dépliant qui pourra être distribuer dans les salles de classe, aux conférences ou aux rencontres des associations connexes. C'est une façon de faire de la publicité pour ISC. Plus de membres signifie plus d'opportunité de réseautage et de rencontre à l'intérieur même de notre association. Le dépliant va jouer une part active dans la sensibilisation et l'information concernant notre association. Tout ceci va contribuer à rendre le *Register* encore plus utile.

Plusieurs régions ont pris de l'avance. Le group de Vancouver planifie les activités du printemps (voir le compte rendu de François Trahan). Un group vient de se former aussi à Ottawa (voir le compte rendu de Gillian Faulkner).

Je vous invite à lire le compte rendu de Debbie Schryer portant sur les discussions de l'AGM concernant les activités et les services régionaux.

Sous la direction d'Anna Olivier, les plans pour la Conférence / AGM 2009 sont en bonne voie de réalisation. La conférence aura lieu à Toronto le 3-4 juin 2009. Il y a plusieurs façons de s'impliquer, soit avant ou pendant la conférence. Je vous encourage de profiter de cette opportunité de réseautage et d'amélioration de vos compétences. S'il y a des sujets que vous aimeriez voir sur l'agenda de la conférence, n'hésitez pas à nous les faire parvenir.

Mes meilleurs voeux pour la saison 2008–2009 !

— Heather Ebbs

Traduction par Mona lordache

Editor, comments from . . .

Welcome to another issue of the *Bulletin*!

The focus of this issue is the Fall Executive Meeting. The reports start on page 11. The *Bulletin* serves primarily as a communication tool to ensure that our members know what's going on.

I would like to thank Gillian Watts for acting as proofreader and for Vivien Cartmell for her editorial feedback.

Last issue we had our first letter from the editor of *The Indexer*. Maureen MacGlashan joins this issue with another letter.

We have a new addition to the *Bulletin* that I hope you'll enjoy called "SIG Update!" It will be a continuing column on Indexing Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and what's going on within them.

We also have two articles that I hope you find interesting. The first is called, "Odd, Wonderful Entries—With a Purpose," contributed by Linda Lefler. Linda tells us about the index to *Everything is Miscellaneous*, by David Weinberger. The book is about new ways of organizing information, and the index reflects the author's personality and theories.

We close this issue on a high note, with a book review contributed by Martin Ahermaa. He examines the *Historical Atlas of Toronto*, including a discussion of the index. (After all, isn't that the most important part?)

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Natalie Boon, Managing Editor, Bulletin

From the editor of *The Indexer*

I see from my records that it is just 6 months since I last set this particular pen to paper (or finger to keyboard), at a point when the second (June) issue of the 2008 *Indexer* was on its way to you, and I must have been finalizing the third (September) issue for the press. By the time you read this, the fourth and final issue of 2009 (December) should be with you, and I'll be making sure my skittles are all lined up for the March and June 2009 issues (and relaxing in the comfortable assurance that the September issue is in the safe hands of the China Society of Indexing).

I recount these details not least because they are the reality of editing a quarterly journal—as the editor of this Newsletter will know only too well, a quarterly publication means that you always have at least three balls in the air, the one that's spinning its way towards the reader, the one that is spinning towards the printer (and now our online hosts, Ingenta), and the one that you're licking into shape for the for the production editor. Does it all sound a bit breathless? Well, yes and no. The fact is that the advantages I saw of going quarterly have fully proved themselves this year. It's great to have the increased flexibility in terms of shifting material between issues that a quarterly offers. And I welcome the greater topicality, particularly in terms of news from the Societies that goes to make up Around the World (ATW). I was, for example, able to squeeze into my December editorial a

reference to my attendance at the UNAK (Turkish University and Research Librarians Association) Conference in October. Under the old regime, this would have had to wait until April. I urge you all to remember that ATW and *The Indexer* in general are your opportunity to spread the news about what indexers in Canada are up to. If you have anything you would like included, please be in touch with Glenda Browne, the ATW Editor, at world@theindexer.org.

I mentioned when I last wrote Canada's strong showing on the list of contributors to *The Indexer* both as authors of articles and on the editorial side. I continue to be grateful for this with particular thanks to Meral Alakuş, who organized my presence at the UNAK Conference, to Ruth Pincoe, for her able chairing of the joint International//*Indexer* meeting in the margin of the SI Conference in Winchester last July, and to Noeline Bridge, who to my delight has agreed to take over editorial responsibility for addressing problems which arise in legal indexing!

And for the festive season, I wish you good reading, good indexing, good company and good cheer.

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.

Culinary Indexing Special Interest Group

The focus of the Culinary Indexing Special Interest Group is to be an educational forum and a network for experienced and novice indexers interested in culinary indexing in various media, such as books, periodicals, CD-ROMs and websites. Members must belong to a national indexing association.

The mission of the Culinary Indexing Special Interest Group includes the following functions:

- To serve as an educational forum for its members through discussion of culinary indexing standards and practices, and for nonmembers through educational outreach and instruction by its members

- To promote awareness of standards and practices in culinary indexing to authors and publishers, as well as their awareness of SIG members' competence, experience and availability in the specialty
- To serve as a referral network, so that members can reliably recommend other indexers who share their specialty
- To serve as a network for sharing information about the culinary publishing industry and potential clients

Dues are \$25.00/year.

Our website has more information:

<http://www.culinaryindexing.org/>

SIG Update! (continued)

Politics and International Relations SIG

The Politics and International Relations Indexers SIG is a low-key group compared to some of the indexing SIGS. The group's functions are twofold: a webpage with a list of indexers of this material, and a Yahoo! Groups list, "Indexing Politics." We charge no dues and hold no meetings. The website may be found at <http://www.wave.net/upg/pisig/index.htm>

Scholarly Indexing Special Interest Group

Scholarly Indexing Special Interest Group (SIG) was established for indexers of scholarly books who want to share information about, and techniques for, indexing academic books, and to refer indexing work to one another. The only requirements for membership are (1) experience or interest in scholarly indexing, (2) membership in a national indexing organization, and (3) a willingness to join the group's Yahoo! Groups listserv. Currently, there are no dues.

For purposes of networking, the manager regularly uploads a file containing the current list of members, arranged alphabetically as well as by indexing specialty. The group has been dormant for several years, but is now starting to move forward, and a new networking list has been compiled and distributed. In addition, a list with ideas for panel presentations that would be of interest to any planners of indexing conferences or workshop leaders has been uploaded to the SIG's Yahoo! Groups site, as well as the results of a poll of the benefits members hope to receive from their SIG membership. For more information or to join the group, contact the SIG manager, Laura Gottlieb, at lauragottlieb@juno.com. New members are always welcome.

The Sports-Fitness Indexing Special Interest Group

The Sports-Fitness Indexing Special Interest Group is one of the official special interest groups associated with the American Society for Indexing (ASI). The Sports-Fitness Indexing SIG was formed to meet the needs of indexers who have created or want to create back-of-the-book indexes for books and other materials that deal specifically with subjects in the fields of sports and fitness.

The SIG's website, <http://www.sports-fitnessindexing.org/>, serves as its main marketing tool. Visitors to the site can find a listing of members and their areas of specialization. Publishers and authors can search the membership database if they are in need of an indexer.

Membership is open to indexers of all levels, experienced, new, and those with an interest in this area of specialization as well. Indexers from across the globe can join the SIG as long as they belong to an affiliated indexing group such as the Society of Indexers, Indexing Society of Canada, or the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers.

The international nature of the Sports-Fitness SIG is further cemented by the fact that current SIG manager Jessica McCurdy Crooks spends most of her time in her native Jamaica.

There are currently 20 active members in the SIG. Membership dues are \$15.00 annually.

The SIG is managed by Jessica McCurdy Crooks, Janice Flatoff - treasurer and Sara Lynn Eastler - webmaster. Other members have contributed to its growth and development, including immediate past manager Sue Nedrow, immediate past treasurer Cindy Corliss and Janyne Ste Marie.

If you have an interest in joining the Sports-Fitness Indexing Special Interest Group, you can use our "contact us" page to get additional information.

Taxonomies & Controlled Vocabularies SIG

Taxonomies & Controlled Vocabularies SIG has released a new design for its website at <http://www.taxonomies-sig.org>.

In addition to a sleeker style and different font and colours, webmaster Rebecca Linford has made significant behind-the-scenes changes to make the site easier to maintain in the future, more accessible, and more likely to be retrieved by search engines. These changes include the use of server-side code, which includes the ability to "pull in" the header and footer elements of the design from one central file, and the conversion of the header from a graphic to heading text. Forthcoming work includes a review of some of the content on the "Resources" pages, and use of a database to display member details. Comments on the design are also welcome and should be sent to rl@rebeccalinford.co.uk.

Summary of Discussion on Regional Services and Activities

(at ISC/SCI Conference, June 2008, Burnaby, BC)

Prepared by Deborah Schryer

The regions include Atlantic, Central, Prairies & North and West Coast.

Heather Ebbs began the discussion by outlining a framework:

- What do we want? What are members' expectations?
- Are expectations being met by regional services and activities?
- What barriers do we face and do these barriers affect the services and activities offered?
- What are the success factors? How have they been created and can they be strengthened?
- How can regions help each other?
- How can the executive help?
- How sustainable are solutions?

The session really was a discussion with lots of questions interspersed with suggestions and anecdotes. This summary tries to group the topics discussed after Heather's introductory comments.

Expectations:

- The opportunity to meet face-to-face is important for **networking** opportunities.

One member from Vancouver mentioned that she would value the opportunity to get together locally for **professional development** opportunities and for networking. Another Vancouver member said she goes to meetings of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Chapter of the American Society for Indexing. She finds energy in those meetings because of the people who turn out and because of the quality of their **programs**.



- Regional meetings bring a **feeling of belonging**.

The Atlantic Region had a meeting in May of this year. The feeling of belonging that came from the people who met face-to-face was a very positive part of that first meeting. And it helped to provide **motivation** to keep going.

Barriers:

- In areas that are geographically quite large (and with a potentially sparse population), the length of a trip to get to a meeting (especially with the rising costs of fuel) could present a barrier to successful regional activities. We need to have an idea of how far people are willing to travel.
- Lack of specific programs could also contribute to dwindling interest in meeting regionally.

Success stories:

- **PNW Chapter of the American Society for Indexing** (<http://www.pnwasi.org/>)

Despite the fact that the Pacific Northwest (PNW) is a huge geographical area (covering Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, as well as British Columbia and Alberta), the chapter has had great success. The chapter meets approximately twice a year at sites mostly in Oregon and Washington. Drawing from a membership of about 100, attendance at meetings is strong and some members have been known to drive for seven to eight hours just for that one meeting.

Summary of Discussion on Regional Services and Activities (continued)

Chapter meetings present a variety of topics and can include such things as:

- workshops for newbies on editing indexes and time management
- networking dinners where indexers can interact more informally
- peer reviews (and sometimes just a discussion of an indexing book)
- national speakers

There can be challenges, because those who used to be newbies are now more experienced, and a mix of topics of interest must be found.

Often **senior indexers** attend, and they are dedicated to working with the attendees.

Reasons for success of the PNW Chapter are twofold: Non-members are always welcome and encouraged because they might just become members someday; members are appreciated with small tokens like bookmarks, plaques, gift cards and so on for work they do for the chapter. People respond to those and will maintain loyalty.

Toronto

In Toronto over the past few years, meetings have proved to be successful, perhaps because even those with an **“interest” in indexing** are welcome.

Every second meeting is devoted to peer reviews of indexes on topics of particular interest (like gardening in the spring and accounting at tax time).

Meetings are held on Saturdays so that more people can attend.

Toronto has committed to monthly meetings, so people know what to expect. Meetings are advertised well in advance on ISC-L and Gillian Faulkner summarizes the meeting activities with a posting on the list as well.

Yahoo! group for Hansard indexers

This is a small group but it works well. The Hansard indexer from Newfoundland and Labrador has put up some indexes and asked for comment from other Hansard indexers.

Less-than-success stories: Ottawa

Last year an Ottawa member attempted to get a regional group going in Ottawa. Despite his best efforts, the group fizzled. We wonder what were the barriers to its success.

Regions helping regions

- Regions can help one another, strangely enough, by “stealing” each other’s ideas. If we monitor each other’s meeting announcements, we can share speakers who may travel quite a distance, and can be present at a meeting of more than one region in the same trip. Programs can be shared in a similar way, like a software workshop, for example.
- Ways to share presentations:
 - With the permission of the presenter, perhaps presentations from one region could be posted on our national website.
 - Perhaps summary notes from the Toronto meetings could be posted in a “members only” section of the website.
- If a guest speaker has been arranged, perhaps the presentation could be done over a video conference as long as the technical logistics could be worked out.
- We could look into “webinars.”

More suggestions:

Various mailing lists to stimulate interest

- A **Special Interest (SIG)** listserv could be set up to share similar interests.
- Alternatively, **subject tags** could be used on the ISC-L listserv.
- We can use the listserv more actively. We should post our ideas freely.

Better use of ISC website

- For many years, Elaine Melnick organized the Toronto meetings and she compiled a list of the activities of those meetings. That compilation could go on the ISC website.
- Perhaps we could have an archive of ISC-L postings available to members.
- We could develop **guidelines on how to run a successful group**, how to get people to get involved and stay involved, and post that on our website.
- If we use the website to publicize that things are happening locally, then regional momentum may pick up.

Summary of Discussion on Regional Services and Activities (continued)

Ask **senior indexers** to attend regional meetings as a draw for attendance.

We could embark on **formal promotion of ISC** and indexing by approaching any groups with an interest in indexing: universities, libraries,

genealogy groups, associations like the Canadian Library Association, the Ontario Library Association.

We could appoint an “outreach” coordinator and members can volunteer for any jobs that need doing.

We can “piggy-back” on ideas from the Editors’ Association of Canada (EAC), the Society for Technical Communication (STC), and the various library organizations, learning from each other and sharing each other’s ideas.

We could take advantage of the interests and memberships of those groups by having **joint events**.

- **Educational opportunities** for new members could be scheduled at the end of the event, such as introductory workshops of 1½ hours or so.
- The program could consist of two simultaneous cycles. For example, at a library conference, one cycle could emphasize librarianship and the other indexing.

- We need ways to keep **momentum** going after a conference. Perhaps it would be good to put down some ideas on how to run a conference in a smaller area such as Halifax.
- ISC can take advantage of other organizations’ events to do some **marketing**, like having ISC material available at EAC meetings. Another example was again from the PNW, to publicize the PNW Chapter of ASI; volunteers manned a table at a book festival in Montana.

Tools:

- Google Docs and Skype can be used to edit indexes in real time.
- Video conferencing and webinars can be investigated.

Other discussion:

- After a question about regional budgets (usually about \$200 per year), discussion about the legal status of ISC ensued—whether to be a non-profit, non-charitable organization. In 2004 our treasurer looked into it and it is an expensive proposition with federal and provincial complications.

This was an active exchange of questions, suggestions and ideas. The executive will pursue this topic in upcoming meetings.

ISC/SCI Conference and AGM 2009

Plan to attend the 2009 Conference and AGM on June 3 and 4 at St Michael's College, Toronto, Ontario!

The line-up of programs has begun, but there is room for a few more. Tell us what presentations *you* would like to see! And consider volunteering—many roles are still available!

Contacts:

Anna Olivier, Conference Coordinator: conference@indexers.ca

Marie Gabe, Program Coordinator: marie@gabeindexing.com

Angela Wingfield, Catering and Venue Coordinator: awingfield@finetune.ca

Congrès 2009 et assemblée générale ISC/SCI

Prévoyez de participer au congrès 2009 et à l'assemblée générale annuelle les 3 et 4 juin au Collège St-Michael, Toronto, Ontario.

Les grandes lignes du programme sont déjà établies, mais il y a de la place pour quelques présentations supplémentaires. Quels thèmes aimeriez-vous voir traiter? De plus, nous avons toujours besoin de bénévoles pour l'organisation du congrès.

Contacts

Anna Olivier, coordonnatrice du congrès: conference@indexers.ca

Marie Gabe, responsable du programme: marie@gabeindexing.com

Angela Wingfield, responsable de la logistique: awingfield@finetune.ca

Odd, Wonderful Entries—With a Purpose

Contributed by Linda Lefler

I was reading the index to *Everything is Miscellaneous*, by David Weinberger. The book is about new ways of organizing data in the digital era, and the power of users being able to tag data for their own needs, versus traditional (physical world) ways of data organization.

I came across this index entry: everything, in book ,1–277. *A cute little indexer joke*, I thought. Then I started seeing entries that seemed more bizarre.

names of people
initials as both first and middle
that are also animals
that are also roles or positions
that are also things,
wonderful

people
anonymous
knighted
with middle or one name
with only one name
you want to be

It doesn't make sense! Or does it? These entries in the otherwise traditional, professionally prepared, index actually demonstrate the point David Weinberger makes in the text. If he has an interest in names and the ways people represent themselves, he tags those references in a way that is meaningful to him.

David Weinberger is a fellow at Harvard Law School's Berkman Center for the Internet & Society. I learned much from this book, more than I can describe in this short article, but here are some of the concepts.

Weinberger explains the three orders of, well, order. The first is when you organize physical things themselves, for instance, a spice rack. You can only put the jar of oregano in one place. The second order is when you separate the information from the object itself, like a card catalogue. There are limitations to the number of key words that can realistically be used, and of course, the book itself can only be shelved in one location. The third order of order occurs when the content is digital and so is the information about it. Unbound by the physical world, you can tag information any way that is

relevant to you. So, yes, in a book about the digital organization of information, of course you can tag names of people that are also animals. You, personally, may want to go back and find them.

In a very readable style, Weinberger touches on the evolution of classification from alphabetization through S.R. Ranganathan (who is referred to by initials as both first and middle names), to thesauri to online retailing, tagging (as in delicious.com) to UPC and related systems to folksonomies.

In the digital age, the power of information and the individual needs of users meet in these four strategic principles:

1. Filter on the way out, not on the way in.
2. Put each leaf on as many branches as possible.
3. Everything is metadata and everything is a label. (You can Google Shakespeare to find the text of his plays or you can Google a quotation to find out which play it is from.)
4. Give up control.

Weinberger quotes Tim Falconer, a Semantic Web expert who sees the success of the Semantic Web as requiring a degree of "pragmatic looseness." That is, not a top-down taxonomy specifying everything that can be said or done, but a bottom-up, mostly right creation that is useful though imperfect. Indexing and taxonomy consultant Seth Maislin is quoted talking about "lumping and splitting" and how they lead us to create conceptual trees.

Weinberger explains many of the features and functions of the Web that have transformed the ways we work and acquire knowledge from information. For example, the Public Library of Science and PLoS One were started by respected journal editors who wanted to put more articles in the public domain than could be reviewed and published traditionally.

Everything is Miscellaneous is really a great read for indexers and anyone interested in new ways of handling information. It was enthusiastically received by many prominent reviewers. Not all reviewers agreed with Weinberger's points, of course.

Odd, Wonderful Entries (continued)

I am not sure if the following index entry was created by the author or the indexer, but it was a giggle too. Both Debra Messing and Diane von Furstenburg were mentioned in passing as celebrities, in a context that was obviously not indexable... but they ended up in the index. I guess this entry absolves the indexer! How *do* you keep your reputation as a professional indexer when the author is goofin' around?

index, entries that should not have been included
everything
Messing, Debra
PenisLand.com (PenIsland.com)
von Furstenburg, Diane

The index for *Everything is Miscellaneous* was prepared by Lisa Kleinholz, who is an indexer and a novelist. In her indexing experience, occasionally Lisa has been asked to include unusual index entries if the author feels it helps to make a point. She told me that as an indexer, she tends to “err on the side of inclusiveness” and if there is a debatable entry she lets the author edit it out if necessary. This index was a reversal—the author adding his own extra, odd entries. Lisa said that she enjoyed indexing the book “because it was actually about the organization of information itself,

and how to look at information in different ways. I enjoyed it more as a researcher because I do a lot of research, and he had some interesting ways to approach that.”

Besides the fact that I am an indexing student, the reason I read the index so thoroughly was to capture many of the concepts and specific website names that were mentioned throughout the book, for my own follow-up. I am now using delicious.com, a service I had previously heard of but not understood the power of. So the book functions both as a teacher of concepts and a practical explanation of interesting and useful parts of the Web. He respects all those who have come before. In fact, *Everything is Miscellaneous* is dedicated “To the librarians.”

Everything is Miscellaneous was published by Times Books in 2007. On the blog www.everythingismiscellaneous.com, you can read further discussion, watch a neat YouTube video featuring some of the concepts, and download podcasts of interviews with “very smart people.”

By the way, the “wonderful name” is Freiherr Samuel von Pufendorf. “People you want to be” refers to the way one self-edits for public consumption when listing hobbies and interests on social networking sites.

LOOKING FOR A SUBCONTRACTOR?

I CAN HELP!!

If your indexing calendar is so full you are having trouble keeping up, maybe it's time to think about hiring a subcontractor to help you. I have completed the UC Berkeley course “Indexing, Theory and Application” as well as several workshops and seminars. I am detail-oriented and able to follow instructions. I use SKY indexing software, which is compatible with Cindex and Macrex. Please visit my website, nimbleindex.com, to learn more about me and feel free to call or email me any time if you think I could help you.

Teri Lefever
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Fall Executive Meeting 2008

Officer reports presented at the executive meeting,
Toronto, ON, November 2008

Indexing Society of Canada
Société canadienne d'indexation



Photo (contributed by Martin Ahermaa)

From left to right:

Mary Newberry, Gillian Watts,
Heather Ebbs, Elizabeth Macfie,
Deborah Schryer, Vivien Cartmell

Webmaster: Cheryl Lemmens

The period from July to November 2008 was fairly quiet in terms of Web activity. Action will resume in the new year with the publication of the online *Register* and of pages devoted to the 2009 conference. I'll be able to draw on the pages created for the 2006 conference in Toronto to put together updated information on area attractions, transit, restaurants, shopping and more.

Wikipedia Article

Because of Wikipedia concerns about the "notability" of the article on the ISC/SCI, new content on the history of the Society was drafted this past summer and circulated to the executive. Maureen MacGlashan of *The Indexer* also reviewed the article and kindly suggested some additional content, which was incorporated into the text. The revised article was then posted online. Although the blurb about not meeting the "general notability guideline" has not yet been removed, no one at Wikipedia has made any changes to the article—a good sign. The URL for the article is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indexing_Society_of_Canada.

Membership Secretary: Audrey McClellan

As of November 23, 2008, we have 120 members. Nine members did not renew last June. Of the non-renewers, two are not indexing at the moment, one was unable to attend meetings so decided not to renew, three gave no reason, and three did not respond to my emails.

The geographical breakdown of the membership is as follows:

Within Canada

British Columbia	35
Alberta	6
Saskatchewan	3
Manitoba	1
Ontario	50
Quebec	9
New Brunswick	2
Newfoundland & Labrador	1
Northwest Territories	1
Nova Scotia	3

Outside Canada

United States	7
Germany	1
Italy	1

Membership Types

Individual	105
Student	4
Institutional	11

Institutional members are distributed as follows:

British Columbia	3
Ontario	2
Quebec	2
Germany	1
Italy	1
United States	2

Members who have joined since the last AGM:

- Penelope J. Bahr of Gabriola Island, BC
- Edna Barker of East York, ON
- Lyle Cowles of Nanaimo, BC
- Wendy L. Donnahee of Dundas, NB
- Barbara Joughin of Vancouver, BC
- Linda Lefler of Dartmouth, NS
- Annette Lorek of Vancouver, BC
- Lee Losell of Nanaimo, BC

Register of Indexers Available Editor: Deborah Schryer

The 2009 edition of the *Register of Indexers Available* is in production. I have 45 entries in hand so far, just a few short of last year's number. This year we had nine entries to put online after the print version was published. Many of those will appear in the print version for next year.

October 31 was the deadline for this year's *Register*, a change from the previous deadline of June 30, reflecting our new publishing schedule. Cheryl put a notice on the website, and a broadcast email message was sent out just before the deadline, then a reminder a bit later in which I said it was not too late to send in an entry. Many members took advantage of the extension and some who thought that they had missed the deadline were pleased to be able to be included after all.

All going well, the new booklet will be ready for distribution in January next year. I do have a suggestion for next year. I think it would be a good thing to put the application forms into a format that members can download and fill out. Then they can email the form back to the *Register* editor instead of using snail mail. That would remove the time lag we currently have between emptying the main mailbox and sending on the forms to the editor. The members would still have to mail a cheque to the mailbox, but at least part of the process would be more streamlined.

Treasurer: Gillian Watts

December is budget-preparation time for ISC/SCI. After comparing the 2008 budget with revenue and expenses to date, the executive has come up with a budget for 2009 that includes a small deficit. The budget is presented below.

Revenues for 2008 have so far exceeded expectations by about \$500. This amount is expected to increase, as most membership renewals for January 1 are normally received in December; the small deficit indicated below for 2008 should thus disappear. The bank account is healthy and our \$15,000 GIC has earned about \$300 in interest. If necessary, this reserve fund will be used to make up the projected deficit and result in a balanced budget. Given that, as a non-profit organization, we should not be accumulating significant reserves, the executive feels that it is appropriate to use the fund in this way.

Our largest expense is the cost of providing *The Indexer* as part of ISC/SCI's membership benefits. To offset this, executive travel expenses will be reduced by using e-meetings and teleconferencing as much as possible. Purchase of a good teleconferencing system, using capital from our reserves, will be investigated. Money has also been budgeted for a promotional brochure to improve recruitment (listed under "Outside services").

Financial Statement to December 2, 2008

Income	2008 Budget	2008 Actuals	2009 Budget
Membership dues	9,700	8,014	10,000
Conference	5,300	7,072	7,000
<i>Register of Indexers Available</i>	1,800	2,280	2,000
Publications revenue	300	—	—
GIC interest	—	297	200
Total	17,100	17,663	19,200
Expenses			
Membership (including directory)	840	30	900
Conference	4,300	4,970	4,850
International liaison travel	1,200	531	1,800
Executive travel	1,200	1,892	1,000
<i>Bulletin</i>	1,500	2,500	2,000
<i>Register of Indexers Available</i>	1,015	818	1,000
<i>The Indexer</i>	3,500	5,777	6,000
Website and e-mail lists	300	395	500
Telephone and executive expenses	730	24	100
Stationery, postage and mailbox	760	444	500
Bank charges	25	287	300
Regional groups	600	341	600
Volunteers, honours and awards	330	—	150
Outside services	—	—	500
Miscellaneous	200	50	50
Total	16,500	18,059	20,250
Income less Expenses	600	-396	-1,050

Bulletin Editor: Natalie Boon

Bulletin production this year has so far been relatively uneventful. Our biggest concern is still content. We have issues with getting content in by deadlines, and in soliciting articles. Given that the primary function of the *Bulletin* is to communicate with members, we have added columns on *The Indexer*, and in this issue begin what I hope will be a recurrent column on SIG news.

Advertising revenues are low. I have attempted to solicit advertisements but have so far been unsuccessful. We do have one ad in this issue, but I am unsure if that will continue into further issues.

International Liaison – Ruth Pincoe

ASI 2008 Conference in Denver

Our representative at the ASI conference was Heather Ebbs. Although there was no formal international discussion, Heather was able to represent us at the conference, and strengthen our ties with our friends south of the border.

SI Conference in Winchester

I attended the SI conference at Winchester, not only as the ISC/SCI representative but also as the International Coordinator of Indexing Societies. As we had done at the London conference in 2007, I and Maureen McGlashan (the editor of *The Indexer*) organized a joint meeting of individuals involved in the production and publication of *The Indexer* and any international representatives that were attending the conference.

This year, we were able to schedule the meeting for the Friday afternoon, just before the conference opened. International representatives included Jill Halliday (SI), Fred Leise (ASI), and Ruth Pincoe (ISC/SCI). While this group was not representative of Societies around the world, we did have some useful discussion. Much of our time went to clauses of the International agreement that require revision because of the new subscription arrangements and online access for the journal. We also agreed to add a clause dealing with the position of International Coordinator, and we discussed the problems encountered with poor distribution of society newsletters to the various international representatives so that we can more effectively keep in touch. Once again, as I have said numerous times before, it was

valuable to have even a small group together in a room so that we could talk face to face.

Apart from the International/Indexer Meeting, the SI conference was inspiring and useful—particularly so because some of the sessions I attended there gave me ideas to bring home to try with our own local group in Toronto and to propose for our upcoming 2009 conference.

Workshop topics include Serial indexing: from journals to databases (taught by Caroline Barlow); Indexes from the kitchen (taught by: Michèle Clarke); Good business practices (an introductory session geared for beginning indexers, taught by Derek Copson who also gave a session entitled “moving your business on”); and Creating order out of chaos: how to edit an index (taught by Ann Hudson).

Conference sessions included For the Guidance of Wise Indexers: Advanced Interpretation of Indexing Principles (led by Auriol Griffith-Jones); a peer review session for trainees (led by Ann Hudson); Negotiation for Indexers: Getting what you deserve (led by John Mattock), Medical Indexing for Beginners (led by Jill Halliday); The Publishing Process (led by Nora Naughton); and a History Peer Review (led by Barbara Hird, who was also this year’s winner of the Wheatley Medal!). Fred Liese (the current president of ASI) gave an interesting talk on Controlled Vocabularies, aimed at indexers who want to expand their offerings into controlled vocabulary or taxonomy design.

One of my favourite sessions was entitled “Perennial Posers,” led by Pat Booth (the author of my favourite indexing text). This was largely a discussion session in which indexers of “some years’ experience” talked about

International Liaison – Ruth Pincoe (continued)

issues that continue to perturb them and that don't have straightforward solutions for. Some of these included: "Difficult" headings (abstract, alternative, ambiguous, bibliographical, controversial, over-long); Subheading analysis (and what to do with 'left-over' references); ethical considerations; and filing order niceties (alphabetical arrangement; order of subheadings).

However, my absolute favourite was a session led by Moira Greenhalgh entitled "Grumpy Old Indexers," during which a group of us tackled all sorts of issues that annoyed us, and just as we were beginning to really enjoy our complaints, Moira would interrupt us to say, "OK, now what are you going to do about it?" It was fun, it was positive, and it also proved how much we all have in common.

When I got my conference program, I was surprised to see "6:05: Choir Practice" on the first evening. (I made enquiries – after all, one of the local SI groups is Three Choirs–Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire–named for the Three Choirs Festival) and was told that although they'd been practicing for weeks, newcomers were still welcome. I went to the practice, got the music, sang over my parts again in my room, and the next evening was part of a group that sang lovely music in four-part harmony. Our short program included "Fine Knacks for Ladies" by John Dowland), "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes" (traditional); "Belle que tient ma vie", a French part song set to a pavane by

Thoinot Arbeau, and published in 1588), and "Greensleeves" (attrib. Henry VIII), and "An Indexers Lot Is Not a Happy One" (music by Arthur Sullivan, words by Ann Hudson). I am hoping to get Ann's permission to publish the words in a future issue of *The Bulletin*.

2009 Triennial Meeting of the Indexing Societies

The rest of my activity as International Liaison has been taken up with organizing the upcoming 2009 Triennial meeting of the Indexing Societies, to be held in Maropeng, South Africa. The main issues, aside from making sure that every Society will have a representative at the meeting, involve preparing an agenda, and drafting any necessary revisions for the International agreement. I will report more fully on this when most of the proposed changes have been finalized.

Let me end by saying that although an international structure for Indexing Societies may seem at times frivolous, I think it is of the utmost importance. Although the publishing industry and the indexing profession vary from one country to another, we all have a lot in common. We can get to know each other, and through our broadening acquaintance, we can support each other, and we can learn from each other—and in today's world, I can't think of anything more important.

Central Canada Representative: Gillian Faulkner

Toronto area indexers have continued to meet on the third Saturday afternoon of the month, alternating peer reviews and specific topics. We occasionally have indexers from outside the GTA attending these meetings, and people who are interested in indexing. We were also fortunate to have Meral Alakus repeat her taxonomy workshop while she was in town for the executive meeting.

Marie Gabe and Clive Pyne now have the Ottawa indexers meeting regularly. Both groups send out an overview of the meetings for the information of members who are not near enough, or were unable to attend.

Toronto area has also brainstormed ideas for Conference 2009, as Toronto is host city. We are also ready to volunteer as needed.

An Ottawa Indexer's Report

Contributed by Linda Jenkins

A small but enthusiastic group of Ottawa-area indexers met on Monday, November 3, at the home of Marie Gabe (thanks again, Marie).

One of the subjects that came up for discussion was marketing strategies—what's the best way to drum up new clients? At least two people reported that they've had the most success when they send "cold" emails to a carefully targetted groups of potential clients. They found this to be more effective than cold telephone calls, snail-mail letters and a scatter-gun approach of sending emails to random organizations.

One person explained that he sends a sample index along with his cold emails. He mentioned that he chooses one of his indexes that has been published by a well-known publisher that has a good reputation. He obtains the publisher's permission before using the index as a marketing sample. As well, he asks the publisher for a pdf of the version of the index that was sent to the printer. That way, the sample is secure, and it shows some mark-up as proof that the indexer really did prepare the index!

We also discussed what effect, if any, we expect the current economic worries to have on freelance indexers. The consensus seemed to be that it's too early to tell how the downturn will affect freelancers' relationships with trade publishers, and that it will probably be indexing business as usual for clients such as government departments and national associations.

One very good tip that we would all be wise to remember was mentioned: If someone recommends you for a particular job or to a particular client, remember to thank them for the referral, even if it doesn't result in a contract. And I would add that, as a courtesy, keep the person who referred you informed of the outcome of their referral—everyone likes to know how the story ends.

All Ottawa-area ISC members and other indexers are very welcome to attend the next meeting, which will be held in early December (details to follow). Among other things, we'll be discussing issues related to open-ended indexes—indexing databases, periodicals, Hansard, etc., and developing and working with controlled vocabularies.

Prairies and Northern Canada Representative: Viv Cartmell

Well, news from this part of the country is about as scarce as trees in the grasslands. There are only 10 ISC/SCI members scattered across the vast reaches of the Prairies and North and the email doesn't always work.

In my email to solicit input for this report I tried to give members something to think about and to comment on by asking some questions and providing input from the Saskatchewan legislature, as follows.

Many of you will have noted the concern on the indexing lists about the recession in the USA and the possibility of reduced demand for indexing services. Here in Canada many provinces are feeling the financial and economic pinch.

How is the economy affecting your business? Do you have other work besides indexing so that you can remain solvent? If so, what other work are you doing? If you are one of the fortunate who has regular employment, what is happening in your offices at this time?

Notes from Saskatchewan

Our new Legislative session started with the Speech from the Throne on October 22, 2008. Our coffers are filling up steadily with resource-based revenues so it's going to be distributed through various kinds of income tax reductions, social assistance program increases, paying off some of the provincial debt, placing money into a rainy-day fund, etc.

**Prairies and Northern Canada
Representative: Viv Cartmell (continued)**

Most of the responses to the Speech from the Throne reiterated its themes. However, some speeches were a little different in nature, such as the one by Harry van Mulligen (NDP, a former Minister of Finance), who expressed concern about the long-term stability of the Saskatchewan economy. Because our economy is so resource based it goes in cycles and another slump will occur. He wants to see an economic plan created by the government for long-term stability.

One interesting change in our procedures is the handling of bills. Those that hadn't received royal assent by the end of a session used to die on the order paper. Now they can be reinstated. So far this session, one bill left over from last session has been reinstated. This change is a good, practical move as it saves the initiator from wasting a lot of time

and having to start at square one again in order to get the legislation approved.

Another change concerning the bills is their numbering. It is now continuous from the beginning to the end of a legislature. Previously the bill numbering was by session, so by the end of a four-session legislature there would be four bills numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. From an indexing perspective, this change in bill numbering makes a single index for ALL discussions in the House and committees a cleaner-looking document.

Apart from some Saskatchewan news there was one response from Edmonton, Alberta, indicating that the amount of work has not been affected by the economy. In fact, usually September and October are quiet months, but the respondent has had work this year. Most of the work comes from presses in British Columbia and the subject matter is wide-ranging, from an anthology of social studies to wild foresting.

Western Canada Representative: François Trahan

ISC-BC Vancouver members had their first post-conference meeting at the Vancouver Public Library on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

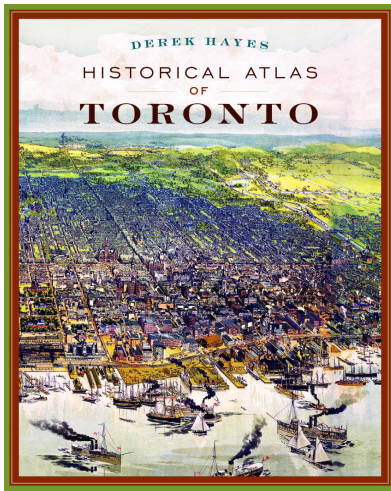
There were 12 ISC/SCI members present, plus one non-member interested in knowing more about indexing. All agreed that we should meet three times a year (every 3 months, but not in the summer), and meetings are planned for January and April 2009.

Our agenda covered a variety of topics, including how to go forward with our meetings, and their structure. Minutes of the meeting and a contact list of attendees is posted on Google Docs for all to access.

In early December an announcement for the next meeting will be posted on ISC-L to confirm attendees and gather agenda items for the January meeting. We will do our first peer review at that meeting.

EAC-BC contacted us to say they are planning to invite Do Mi Stauber for a one-day workshop on indexing in the spring, and to enquire about ISC-BC co-sponsorship. This co-sponsorship involves being present on the day to encourage membership in ISC/SCI by answering questions and handing out information about the Society. When we receive confirmation of a date and time for the workshop, the information will be posted on ISC-L.

Book Reviews



Review: Hayes, Derek. *Historical Atlas of Toronto, Vancouver and Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 2008. 192 pp., \$49.95.*

At long last, an atlas!

Canada has a long, great and proud tradition of mapmaking. From the earliest periods, attempts were made to interpret and record the landscape. Most every European explorer from Champlain onward attempted to make sense of their surroundings by means of maps and charts. More systematic approaches were to follow with trained British navigators such as Cook and Vancouver, as well David Thompson. As administrative needs grew along with expanding populations and settlements, the refinement of surveying and cartographic methods had to keep pace, and it continues to do so today.

The concomitant growth in the last fifty years of academic and public interest in historical geography, economic history and a wide variety of related fields has spurred the creation of works of lasting value (to name only a very few): Gentilcore and Head's *Ontario's History in Maps* (1984), the University of Toronto's massive three-volume series *Historical Atlas of Canada* (1987–1993) and Macdonald's *Vancouver: A Visual History* (1992). To this distinguished list should be added Derek Hayes's *Historical Atlas of Toronto*.

Hayes provides the diligent reader with a visual feast of over 300 maps along with illustrations and period photographs detailing the growth and development of Toronto and its surrounding region. The effort and care put into research and reproduction of particularly the pre-19th century maps is quite evident and welcome, as is the commentary that goes along with every map.

However, as the scale of the original maps becomes larger and far more colourful later on in this book and they therefore must be reduced in size to a greater degree, one may experience frustration with the disappearance of typographic and other pertinent details. For readers seeking a brief excursion through Toronto's industrial and social past, these concerns may not be significant. Those hoping to glean insights into particular neighborhoods over time may well have to consult the originals. Fortunately for them, the author has generously provided a map catalogue with titles and sources, in essence, an archival finding aid spanning a variety of institutions.

The index (pp. 190–192) is another matter. Indexes are often left to the very end of the production process and hampered in quality by deadline pressures as well as the amount of available pages for them. In this book's case, the curious and active reader will not enjoy ploughing through so many main entries with long lists of undifferentiated page locators (that is, those without subheadings), finding very few subheadings, or having few cross-references to consult.

Someone decided that double-posting with inverted terms would alleviate these concerns. But what reader would reasonably seek, for example, the term "Toronto Purchase" under "Purchase, Toronto"? Or what young student would search for "Boundaries, city" or know the names of railway companies without cross-references from "railways"?

In short, a good thematic index is useful because it anticipates the reader's needs and thereby adds value to the work as a whole. This is especially critical for any historical atlas. (See Bruce Macdonald's *Vancouver: A Visual History*, mentioned above, for an excellent example).

Nevertheless, the *Historical Atlas of Toronto* makes a truly valuable contribution to the city's historical literature and should be sought out by anyone with a serious interest in Toronto's past.

Contributed by Martin Ahermaa, (who also collects historical atlases)