

Minutes from the online ICRIS meeting of 12 April 2024

Attendees

ANZSI – Madeleine Davis, Frances Lennie

ASAIB – Deon Schutte

ASI – Devon Thomas, Anne Fifer

CSI – Chunxiang Xue, Xiaoyuan Chen

DNI – Jochen Fassbender

ISC/SCI – Margaret de Boer, Alex Peace, Jolanta Komornicka

NIN – Pierke Bosschieter, Caroline Diepeveen

SI – Ann Kingdom, Paula Clarke-Bain

The Indexer – Mary Coe, represented by Ann Kingdom due to connectivity issues

Updates from societies/networks

ANZSI

ANZSI membership is at 82 members, of which 22 are Accredited Indexers.

ANZSI held an in-person conference October 19-21, 2023 in Wagga Wagga, with good participation. Eight of the sessions were recorded and are available to sister societies for Zoom meetings. It was a wonderful chance to meet and socialize in person again.

The accreditation committee is researching mentoring programs and asks any society with information and experience in mentoring for tips and information.

The ANZSI Indexing Awards, including the ANZSI John Simkin Medal will be awarded this year.

There is a new scholarship committee being formed.

ANZSI is also discussing the potential for research grants in the field of indexing. They are looking for ideas and projects with practical outcomes for indexers, indexing societies, and editors and asks if other societies are interested in funding or suggesting areas of research.

There is a working party to facilitate updating the ANZSI Wikipedia page. Mary Coe has been working with Wikimedia and has guided the group through the process of making updates. Note that updates to pages cannot be made by the subjects of a page, but by other editors. ANZSI encourages all the societies to verify that their Wikipedia information is accurate and up to date. For more information please see https://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/ANZSI-CSU_SICS-Wikimedia_Australia_Partner_Project_Update

ASAIB

ASAIB has 16 paid up members with seven new members; they are seeing older members retire. There is currently three members in the Executive Committee.

ASAIB has updated its website and is considering adding indexing-adjacent services such as taxonomy and related disciplines.

ASAIB celebrates its 30-year anniversary in 2024. There will be a virtual celebration, but not a full conference. They will be reaching out to library schools to promote. One possible format is the PechaKucha format where a speaker has 20 slides with 20 seconds per slide to tell a story/give a presentation. This is a fun and lively way to impart information.

ASAIB missed out on National Indexing Day in the UK, but will try to mark the occasion next year.

The committee is working on getting a replacement for the training coordinator and is exploring sponsoring training. Deon noted that the geographic scope includes other Southern African nations but currently there are no African language indexers in the Society.

ASI

ASI will be having its first in-person conference since COVID in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania on June 5th and 6th. There will also be pre-conference workshops on basics of indexing and embedded indexing; the title of the conference is "Spread Your Indexing Wings." This is the first time ASI will be using a college venue, where dorm room accommodations are part of the package. They are hopeful this will be an affordable and collegial option for participants. ASI will alternate annually between in-person and virtual national conferences, so the conference in 2025 will be virtual. This pattern alternates physical conferences with the ISC/SCI schedule as well.

ASI held a webinar on indexing geographic place names in March 2024 and a three-part Online Learning course on indexing art books in October 2023. Both are still available to watch on demand. Plans for upcoming online events include a webinar on creating and using macros in indexing.

CSI

CSI has 53 new individual members and three new institutional members.

CSI is excited to announce that there will be an in-person conference 24-26 October 2024 in Beijing at Peking University. The theme is "Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges" and ICRIS members are warmly invited to attend. CSI will be able to sponsor conference fees and accommodation and offer visa support. There may be funding as well for flights. Formal invitations and more details will be coming soon. Jo-Jo adds that Beijing in the fall is the perfect time to visit!

CSI is interested in expanding/including other scholars from libraries, museums and technology.

DNI

DNI will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2024. It has 45 members, with two new members, both of which who are German-speaking Americans.

DNI intends to hold another indexing seminar and is discussing resuming its annual meeting at the Frankfurt Book Fair. DNI has not been able to meet in-person since 2019.

Three more languages are currently in the process of being added to the Multilingual Dictionary of Indexing Terms, including Japanese, Welsh, and Chinese (traditional and simplified scripts). The number of terms will be restricted to make the project manageable. There will be an update in *The Indexer* on the changes.

ISC/SCI

Margaret de Boer is stepping down as the ICRIS Representative; Alexandra Peace will be taking her place.

ISC/SCI membership is around 123 currently.

The ISC/SCI 2024 conference “The Art of Connection” will be online from May 31st to June 1st. Please let your members know. More information is available at <https://conference.indexers.ca>

A virtual co-working space via Zoom had limited participation and while those who attended enjoyed the function, it may be more work than is justified for a limited audience.

There are two bursary programs for increasing diversity in ISC/SCI, which includes support for indexing training fees, membership, and directory listings.

The library is set up and they would like to see more use of its resources.

NIN

NIN membership is stable, with eleven members. Three members are currently taking the SI course, which require very high proficiency in English. There is very little in terms of training materials in Dutch.

NIN will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

Copyright continues to be a complicated area in the Netherlands. The main Dutch authority has ruled that indexing is not a creative activity and therefore, does not qualify for copyright protection. NIN, not surprisingly, vehemently disagrees with this assessment, and will explore EU standards and protections for copyright.

SI

SI has 244 members and has been holding quarterly meetings of the Executive Board. There are a good number of student indexers and several advanced

professional members have moved on to Fellowship, following the introduction of the new procedure.

Local groups have become less active since the pandemic, with some meeting virtually, and others meeting in person. However, two monthly Zoom meetings (one focusing on history indexing and the other with a different theme each month) are well attended, as was the 2023 annual conference in Leeds. The Executive Board did much of the organization and presentation of the conference. There were two after-conference surveys and recommendations were passed on to the Executive Board. There is a new conference committee for 2024, with six members. The conference will be online in September and there are also plans for an informal meet-up in the summer in Birmingham.

SI gave a presentation at the CIEP (Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading) 2023 conference. For National Indexing Day, SI held two half-day workshops for publishers in London. Session topics included the value of indexes, AI in indexing, indexing training and indexing software, as well as a hands-on indexing exercise. Staff from several major publishers participated. The event was also promoted on social media.

International Website

A website designer has been engaged to create the International website. ISC/SCI member JoAnne Burek will create the page. Funding has been obtained. She will circulate a basic template to all the societies when it is created.

Madeleine shared draft language for the introduction to the page by DNI's Sam Arnet.

Triennial Hosting

ASI is due to host the Triennial in 2025, but ASI will not be having a physical conference that year. ASI asked for opinions on 1) postponing the Triennial meeting to 2026 when ASI will be meeting in person again or 2) having the ISC/SCI host instead at its 2025 in-person meeting in Toronto or 3) having ASI host and organize the Triennial meeting at the ISC/SCI conference in Toronto. While postponing the meeting is an option, it would require the current ICRIS coordinators to extend their service for another year, and both coordinators have served multiple terms already. ISC/SCI would prefer the 3rd option; they are happy to support ASI in hosting at Toronto, but do not wish to take the job over. Devon will relay this back to the ASI board.

The Indexer

The new distribution model has come into effect as of the March 2024 issue, with individual issues delivered as digital issues only, with a print version put out for the yearly volume in December. Subscribers now have the convenient option of downloading entire issues vs. single articles now.

There has been an increase in citations to *The Indexer*. 2023 saw nearly 9000 downloads including articles on ethics, databases indexing, mentoring, metatopics, and marking up.

There is a new book review editor: Madelon Nanninga from NIN

Editors assisted in selecting articles to be featured in the annual free month of articles by Liverpool University Press for National Indexing Day. One issue is made open access every year (the March 2021 issue this year). The LUP marketing team are also active on social media.

Indexing *The Indexer*

ANSZI raised the possibility of hiring an indexer to complete the indexing of *The Indexer*. Resolving the index to journal has been a long project, complicated by variations in indexing depth and approaches over the years. ANSZI suggested that the Societies could fund someone to finish up the project.

Ann Kingdom and Mary Coe (via Ann) said that the current efforts are making real progress and will soon have something ready for review. They do not think farming out the task would be beneficial at this point. The current volunteers (Max McMaster of ANSZI, Ann Kingdom of SI, working in liaison with Mary Coe) already have a good understanding of the problems, based on their research, are both experienced in journal indexing, and have coordinated their approach to the job. JoAnne Burke (ISC/SCI) is now involved on the website side and ISC/SCI have offered space in its Dropbox account. Putting the job out to tender would mean starting over, plus add an additional layer of management. The project is already very international, involving three societies: SI, ANSZI, and ISC/SCI.

In terms of funding, Devon said it was unlikely that ASI would be able to contribute funds as a subscription to *The Indexer* is not part of ASI membership. Ann added that some acknowledgment or honoraria for the volunteers would be appreciated.

There was discussion on the depth of indexing, maintenance, and international support in terms of funding and Dropbox space.

Cindex model changes

There was discussion of Cindex's recent shift to an open-source model of distribution and the role of Societies in disseminating information about software. Fran Lennie noted that indexers with programming experience are already stepping up their involvement with Cindex programming and support. There will be a website and other user resources coming soon. Maria Sullivan is spearheading the effort.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in October at an appropriate date in terms of daylight savings time in North America and Australia.