



Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers ASAIB

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

No. 28

“Excellence from A to Z”

MAKING THE MOST OF *The Indexer* by Maureen MacGlashan

I have just been finalizing the December 2009 issue of *The Indexer* which includes, *inter alia*, an interesting article by Professor Ina Fourie, ‘Building a collage for indexers and bibliographers’, based on her presentation at the ASAIB Maropeng Conference earlier this year. One focus of Ina’s article is on continuing professional development and the importance of indexers making a real effort to advance their understanding of the theory and practice of indexing and not just stick to the tried and tested. She includes *The Indexer* as one important resource for knowing what is going on in the indexing world. This has prompted me to write about *The Indexer* in the ASAIB context.

The first point I would like to make is that *The Indexer* is the *international* journal of indexing, published by the British Society of Indexers on behalf of all the indexing societies who subscribe to the International Agreement. This Agreement originated some 10 years ago in order to clarify relations between the societies. The Agreement is reviewed every three years at the Triennial Meeting of international representatives – the last such meeting was at the Maropeng Conference. The Agreement can be found on the ASAIB and *The Indexer* websites. It is of particular interest in this context for what it has to say about the editorial, production and distribution arrangements for *The Indexer*. It really is the journal of all the societies. The editorial team includes people from ANZSI, ASI, ISC/SCI and NIN as well as from SI. If anyone from ASAIB would like to become more involved in the nitty-gritty, just let me know! There is also an open invitation to societies to guest-edit an issue. The China Society of Indexers guest-edited the September 2009 issue (Vol. 27(3)). ASAIB were responsible for the October 2002 issue (Vol. 23(2)) – time for another ASAIB to have another go?

One of the regular features is *Around the World (ATW)*. Edited by Glenda Browne (ANZSI) this carries reports of the various society conferences, notes key events (past and future) in society diaries, and takes a look, issue by issue, at a different theme (social networking, for example, in December 2009) and the approaches being taken by the different societies, an excellent way for us all to reflect on ‘best practice’.

Contributors to the journal come from across the world, and are not limited to people within the traditional indexing community. (South Africa has a very good track record of contributions, with more to come in June 2010.) As editor, I try to ensure wide coverage in style and content, with something for everybody, whether newcomer or long-standing professional, practical and theoretical. As Ina has indicated, if you want to advance your understanding of indexing in all its aspect, *The Indexer* is the place for you.

‘OK’, you’ll say, ‘that’s great, but how do I get to read it?’ In the first place, for articles up to 3 years ago, the whole run of *Indexers* from 1958 on is freely available at www.theindexer.org. Take a look, if you haven’t done so already.

ASAIB members enjoy the further privilege of being able to access current issues online at IngentaConnect. To do this, go to www.theindexer.org and click on ‘Online issues’ in the menu. In the box which defaults to ‘direct’, click to change this to ‘ASAIB’, then fill in your name and email address, making sure that these correspond with the version held by ASAIB. All should then be well.

Each issue of the journal is despatched to Ingenta for online posting at the same time as we begin the print run. And at this point we post the contents list to the societies who send it to their members. So if anything catches your attention, just a few clicks will take you there.

Continued on p 3

Inside this issue:

*Making the most of
The Indexer by
Maureen MacGlashan* 1

*AASAIB Conference
2010* 2

*AIS Web Indexing
Special Interest Group* 3

*Book Review
The Indexing Com-
panion Workbook* 4

Sculptural book art 5

*Lawrence of Arabia
letters discovered* 6

*Indexing basics work-
shop* 8

Corrections and apologies

Sincere apologies to Abdul Bemath.

On page 10 of the April newsletter Abdul’s middle name should be Samed.



Rietvlei, the venue
for our 2010
ASAIB conference

ECOFRIENDLY ASAIB CONFERENCE 2010

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN INDEXERS
AND BIBLIOGRAPHERS

The Indexer in Publication

Conference 7 May 2010
Rietvlei Nature Reserve (Pretoria)

ALERT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

ASAIB has great pleasure in inviting you to take part in the conference on the indexer in publication. We have the following suggested topics:

Indexing in context; indexes of old; small publishers; big publishers; academic publishers; the right to access information and copyright; what to index and what not; automatic indexing; journal indexing; evaluation of indexes; and any other suggestions.

Summaries of prospective papers should be submitted in MS Word to Marlene Burger at burgem@unisa.ac.za before 18 March 2010

FEES (incl tea and lunch): R500-00; retired professionals R300-00. Speakers do not pay conference fees.

PRE - CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

6 May 2010, Unisa Main Campus, Muckleneuk, Pretoria

Two parallel workshops will be offered

Indexing basics (18 places)

Advanced indexing (12 places)

FEES (incl tea and refreshments, excl lunch): R500

ASAIB AWARD

The ASAIB 2010 Award for best index and/or bibliography will be made at the conference. Send your entries to Marlene Burger at burgem@unisa.ac.za

GENERAL

The programme, registration form, map, etc will be communicated as soon as possible. Information on accommodation in the area will also be provided.

ENQUIRIES

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*Diarise the date
now and make
sure that you
are part of
another exciting
ASAIB
conference
7 May 2010*





ASI Web Indexing Special Interest Group 2009 Web Indexing Award

The winner of the 2009 Web Indexing Award, awarded by the ASI's Web Indexing Special Interest Group, is Mary Russell. Her index to the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) web site at <http://www.anzsi.org> impressed the judges with its comprehensiveness and usability.

Mary has been a Registered Indexer with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers for over 10 years. She also wears a couple of ANZSI hats - she's ANZSI Vice-President and ANZSI Web Manager, as well as Secretary of the Victorian Branch. While she enjoys indexing predominately science and medical works, she occasionally branches out to index/catalogue a private collection of objects, such as bookplates, or to prepare a descriptive bibliography of perhaps an author's complete work, or a collection of old books. In lieu of the prize money of US\$75, Mary elected to receive a one-year subscription to the American Society of Indexing newsletter "Key Words" and the book "Indexing Specialties: Cookbooks".

The Web Indexing Award is awarded annually to a deserving indexer for excellence in web site indexing. The 2009 judges were Fred Brown, a recipient of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Web Indexing Award, Heather Hedden, author of the book "Indexing Specialties: Web Sites" and a past manager of the Web Indexing SIG, and James Lamb, author of the book "Website Indexes". Selected comments from the judges and further information about the award are available on the Web Indexing SIG site at: <http://www.web-indexing.org/web-indexing-award.htm>

Submissions for the 2010 award will be accepted towards the end of 2009. The Award is open to members of ASI and affiliated indexing societies, in addition to members of the Information Architecture Institute (a partner organization).

Article submitted by Rebecca Linford Web Indexing SIG Manager

“The Web Indexing Award is awarded annually to a deserving indexer for excellence in web site indexing.”

MAKING THE MOST OF *The Indexer* by Maureen MacGlashan

continued from p1

Apart from these contents list, the website also has a 'Contents by category' which covers the full run from 1958 to the most recent issue. And for another approach, there is also the online index which at present covers the period from 1996 to the present. (A version updated to December 2009 will be available in early December, once I am confident that there will be no pagination changes!)

I have been writing so far largely from the perspective of the individual ASAIB member for whom access to *The Indexer* is easy provided you have internet access. But I would like to take this opportunity of encouraging all of you, in your turn, to encourage any institution with which you are associated to consider taking out an institutional subscription. This would make the journal much more readily accessible to a far wider readership and would help promote the indexing cause. Subscription details can be found on *The Indexer* website.

Maureen MacGlashan

editor@theindexer.org

Good reading, and do let me know what you like and what you don't like about *The Indexer*.

Book Review

Browne, Glenda. 2009. *The indexing companion workbook. Book indexing : your indexing mentor in a book*. Blaxland: Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey. 125 p. ISBN 978-0-9807033-0-6

In 2007 Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey published a book *The indexing companion* as their contribution to the growing corpus of publications on indexing. This is an up-to-date resource on learning how to index and pays attention to many theoretical and practical issues of indexing. The book was written with two styles of indexes in mind: book indexes and collection indexes.

Two years later, Glenda Browne published a workbook which is designed to be used with the book indexing sections of *The indexing companion*. The sequence of exercises in the workbook matches the sequence of discussions in *The indexing companion*. The workbook does not provide standalone lessons on indexing and inexperienced indexers will need access to *The indexing companion* to benefit from the workbook.

The workbook is divided into two main sections: Questions and Answers. The different chapters address the following topics:

- The indexing work environment
- Definitions and standards
- Planning indexes
- Concepts, topics and names
- Selected terms
- Controlled vocabularies
- Structuring indexes
- Quality control and interoperability
- Specialised source materials: formats, subjects and genres
- Software and hardware

Threats and opportunities in indexing.

The exercises in the workbook are not graded for difficulty and the text samples that are used in the exercises are also rather short. The answers are based on the principles outlined in *The indexing companion* and generally follow the Australian and New Zealand standard (which also is an international standard). South African indexers might therefore find a need to sometimes adapt these examples to suit local requirements.

In general, the workbook follows the word-by-word filing style with indented subheadings and page ranges (155-156). Browne avoided the use of prepositions and other function words such as 'and', inverted at times, and filed entries 'as is' and not 'as if' (e.g. Mc at Mc and not Mac). She also used a space before the page numbers rather than a comma and uses a colon before an orphan heading which is then brought up a line (eg Indexing: workbooks on).

The workbook will be officially launched by Alan Walker at the ANZSI conference in Sydney in October. Some 'sneak preview' copies crept across the ocean to the SI conference, and it is now available for purchase via Lulu (<http://tinyurl.com/TICWLUlu>) and my own website (<http://tiny.cc/BuyTICWV>). Browne also has a Facebook page (<http://tiny.cc/IndCompFB>) with updates on the workbook.

The indexing companion workbook is a welcome publication on indexing and attempts to fill the existing gap in publications dealing with indexing training. It also is of interest to indexers who wish to update their skills and their knowledge of international indexing practices.

Madely du Preez



“The indexing companion workbook is a welcome publication on indexing and attempts to fill the existing gap in publications dealing with indexing training.”



Sculptural book art by Brian Dettmer

Brian Dettmer is an American artist who takes old books and turns them into beautiful works of art by cutting away selected parts to reveal layered images and text

Science in the Twentieth Century, 2009.

Altered book, 9-1/2" x 8-3/8" x 2-1/2"

Courtesy of Packer Schopf Gallery



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/picturegalleries/howaboutthat/5351087/Sculptural-book-art-by-Brian-Dettmer.html>

ASAIB CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The ASAIB Executive Committee has decided that all conference proceedings will now be published online. If as a speaker at any of our previous conferences you have made your papers available to us please contact us if you do not wish your papers to be published online. We will endeavour to get permission from all parties concerned before conference proceedings are published online.

Reminder about membership subscriptions

Membership fees are due by 31 March 2010.

R120 per annum for private/individual membership

R175 per annum for corporate membership

Please contact either Karin McGuirk on mcguirk@unisa.ac.za or Madely du Preez on preezm@unisa.ac.za to check on your current membership status.



Would you want to miss out on all the fun we have at ASAIB?



British soldier, adventurer and author Thomas Edward Lawrence (1888 - 1935) known as Lawrence Of Arabia

Photo: GETTY

An important collection of letters from Lawrence of Arabia has been discovered after they were thought to have been burned in a fire.

Lawrence of Arabia letters discovered

The correspondence from the First World War hero of the Arab revolt are to his financier Robin Buxton and he writes of his love of motorbikes that was eventually to kill him.

Speaking about one of his machines, he wrote: "It's a heavenly bike, goes like smoke and is as smooth as milk to ride."

Buxton financed T.E. Lawrence's seminal work *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and the letters include the author asking about how he can obtain more money.

Scholars and historians will be keen to view the letters as they shed new light on the publication of his opus.

In the correspondence Lawrence also mentions George Bernard Shaw, whose surname he later used when attempted to "lie fallow" in the military.

The letters came from the collection of the late Sir Michael Newton, but were lost and it was assumed they had been burned on a fire along with his unwanted papers.

However, when an auctioneer sorted through some books belonging to Sir Michael, an envelope fell out of one that contained the missing missives.

They date from 1923 - the year after the very first version of his book was published - up until 1929.

Lawrence made a large loss on the book because of his refusal to release any more editions after the 1926 version.

At one point in 1923 he wrote: "The overdraft is hideous-large. I'll do my best at it now. You are exceedingly good to let me have so much on no

security."

In another letter he wrote: "On Saturday I drew a cheque for £198 odd on the special account. This was for my new bike and other things."

He also states: "Meanwhile my incomparable bike has been borrowed (in my absence) and returned a hopeless wreck".

He speaks about the various editions and abridgements of his book that went through a number of revisions.

Lawrence died in a motorbike crash in 1935 aged 46 near to his home in Bovington, Dorset.

He rose to fame during the first world war when he led the Arab revolt and became known across the world as Lawrence of Arabia.

Now the letters are to be sold and could fetch more than 10,000 pounds.

Dorset historian Rodney Legg, who has written numerous books on Lawrence, said: "It's mysterious how Lawrence managed to balance his finances.

"He sometimes spent lavishly and at other times wrote letters to friends proclaiming poverty.

"So anything that throws light on the relationship with his banker is quite revealing."

Duke's auction house in Dorchester also have numerous other Lawrence letters including some to his friend Henry Williamson, author of *Tarka the Otter*.

There are also letters he wrote to the caretakers of his Dorset home Clouds' Hill and they date right through to the year he died.

Lawrence of Arabia letters discovered continued

And there is also a photograph of Lawrence with Sir Basil Liddell Hart, a famed military historian.

It shows that his physical stature was much less than many assumed from his reputation.

Guy Schwinge of Duke's auctioneers said: "The importance of these letters cannot be overstated.

"They provide a fascinating insight into Lawrence's relationship with his banker and trustee.

"Indeed, Buxton was pivotal in the publication of Lawrence's seminal work *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

"The letters are expected to excite collectors from around the world, because in the correspondence Lawrence refers to one of his beloved Brough motorcycles.

"It was riding on a Brough that he died in mysterious circumstances.

"We also have other letters from Lawrence and the interest in this hero never wanes."

The sale took place on October 1.

Legend on a legend:
Lawrence astride the Brough



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/6205523/Lawrence-of-Arabia-letters-discovered.html>

ECOFRIENDLY ASAIB CONFERENCE 2010

ASAIB has decided that it is time to take the 2010 conference outside in order to make the most of our beautiful country. The venue will be the Rietvlei Nature Reserve. The 3800 ha reserve is situated just east of Irene, south of Pretoria. Rietvlei Nature Reserve is one of the very few reserves situated in the grassland biome on the central South African highveld and is a bird watchers paradise as well as home to many species of game. Treat yourself to a day in the country in the company of your fellow ASAIB members. See page 2 for all the details.

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ASAIB AGM 13 NOVEMBER 2009

Please join us for the annual ASAIB AGM to
be held this year at 10am at

The Patisserie,
Illovo Centre, Rudd Road
(Opposite the Thrupps Building)

The Speaker will be:

Sheenagh Harris,

President of the
World Federation of Roses

She will speak on

*Indexing by Colour:
My Life with Roses*

Tea and cake are for your own account.

Please RSVP to Jackie Kalley by 10 November

2009. jackie@eisa.org.za

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WORKSHOP

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN INDEXERS AND BIBLIOGRAPHERS

Indexing Basics Workshop

Date: 3 & 4 December 2009 (08:30-15:30)

Venue: Unisa, Theo van Wijk Building, Main Campus (Pretoria)

Room 4-112

Cost: R400-00 per person per day (incl refreshments, tea/coffee, but not lunch)

ASAIB, Nedbank Sandown, savings account: 2933069393

We will also accept cash payments at the workshop

Useful book: *Indexing for Southern Africa*. 2005. Edited by JA Kalley, E Schoeman, M Burger. Pretoria: Unisa Press. You can buy a copy at the workshop R109-00.

Bookings: By 1 December 2009. We can accommodate 18 participants only. Marlene Burger burgem@unisa.ac.za tel 012-4296585 or Madely du Preez, preezm@unisa.ac.za tel 012-4296792

Programme:

3 December: Principles, book indexing

4 December: Electronic text indexing using MS Word



Treat yourself and a friend to a wonderful talk, a cup of tea and some delicious treats at The Patisserie on November 13 2009 at the ASAIB AGM