



# The ATLANTIC INDEXER

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A Newsletter for the Capital Indexers of the  
Mid- and South-Atlantic Chapter of the American Society for Indexing

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## **Chair Notes**

What a year this has been for MSA! I thank each of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Chair.

Through economic cave-ins and national spirits rising, MSA built a chapter of loyal members though many of the United States and other countries. We examined medical indexing in November, marketing in January, networking in February and the Library of Congress in April. The program of roundtables I began in January 2007 has been, and I understand will be, continued. Others and I pushed for and ASI agreed to seek an IRS Group Exemption Letter, rather than require chapters and SIGs to incorporate. It's been a busy year.

All this and more happened as my attention was drawn to my own personal concerns, including volunteering with the presidential inaugural committee, but especially the long-distance care of an elderly parent. For your support and patience through this year, I sincerely thank you and ask that you please stay in touch.

My thanks to everyone who has served on an MSA committee or as a committee chair. Through your efforts, MSA becomes more open and accessible to its members. Applause are due for each of you! Great thanks are due and given to the officers who have served with me this year. Your selfless devotion to MSA, your willingness to travel to ensure you attend meetings, your availability in our busy times are admirable and a model for our members.

Find me at  
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suzika on [www.delicious.com](http://www.delicious.com) .  
See you on the internet!

Best regards,  
Suzi Kaplan

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## **RESULTS: 2009-2010 OFFICER ELECTION**

I am pleased to report results for the election of officers of the Mid- and South-Atlantic Chapter, American Society for Indexing for its 2009-2010 operating year. The following have been elected to office Sue Ellen Colter, Treasurer; Camilla Clocker, Secretary; and Becky Hornyak, Chair-Elect. As you know, current Chair-Elect, Connie Binder, will accede to the office of Chair.

Following MSA's operating year of May through April, Sue, Camilla, Becky and Connie will assume their new offices on May 1, 2009. Please join me in congratulating our new officers and in sending them best wishes for an exciting and productive year.

MSA extends its thanks to ASI's management company, The Resource Center, for developing MSA's online voting booth at [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). Special thanks are due to MSA's Nominating Committee Chair, Vicki Swope, and her committee members, Donna Shear and Sue Ellen Colter, who put together a fine slate of nominees for MSA members' consideration. Vicki, Donna and Sue Ellen, for all your work on behalf of our members, please accept our sincere thanks.

I would like to share with you once again the names and short autobiographies of each incoming officer. MSA-ASI nominees for election to office for operating year 2009-2010 were:

### **Treasurer -Sue Ellen Colter**

Sue Ellen Colter moved to the Philadelphia area two years ago after living in the Silicon Valley for almost forty years. She has a B.S. in Business Administration from San Jose State University. Sue Ellen became interested in indexing when she was a technical writer writing software manuals. When she needed to change careers, she decided to join ASI and become an indexer. Sue attended her first ASI national conference in 2005 and has attended national and local conferences since then. She would like to get more MSA indexers involved in ASI. When each one does a little, a lot can be accomplished.

### **Secretary - Camilla Clocker**

My indexing career began in 1996 with the DAR Magazine, a large project with several indexers. I currently write name indexes for other indexers who index college textbooks and multi-volume handbooks. For a short time I wrote abstracts for periodicals at the National Society for Training and Development. Interests include art, crafts, folklore, culinary, environment and nature, sports and health. I expect to include proofreading to my career.

### **Chair-Elect - Becky Hornyak**

Becky Hornyak has been indexing for ten years, eight of them as a full-time freelancer. She has lived in Virginia, near Washington DC, almost five years, and served on the Nominations Committee for the MSA chapter in 2005. She is from Indiana, where she was previously active in the Heartland Chapter, serving as its secretary, vice-president and president. Becky edited ASI's book, Indexing Specialties: Psychology, and has presented at ASI annual conferences.

### **Chair**

There is no election for the office of Chair. The current Chair-Elect automatically advances to the office of Chair. Current MSA Chair-Elect, Connie Binder, of Laurel, Maryland will accede to the office of Chair for 2009-2010. Connie and has been a freelance indexer since 1998. A member of ASI for many years, only recently has Connie begun attending national and local conferences, workshops and meetings. She has found the continuing education and social networking opportunities tremendously rewarding. After her experience, Connie wants to ensure other indexers get involved in their chapter and in meeting with one another sooner, rather than later. Connie holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Michigan State University and an MLS in Library and Information Services from the University of Maryland.

## INDEXER LOVE

It grew out of MSA members' desire to continue the good feelings and shared experiences at January's marketing roundtable. When the marketing discussion was done, everyone expressed enthusiasm for meeting more frequently, both at meetings and programs and informally at roundtables, coffees or lunches.

In discussing how hard it is for members who are isolated geographically and may only have one or two fellow members within hundreds of miles, those present seized on the concept of 'Take an Indexer to Lunch.' We thought even getting together with one other person could ease the isolation of working solo.



*Suzi Kaplan, Bonnie Hanks, Becky Hornyak & Kate Mertes celebrate 'Take an Indexer to Lunch' week. Not pictured, photographer Connie Binder.*

We decided to email MSA members via [msanet@msasindexing.org](mailto:msanet@msasindexing.org) inviting our chapter's members to get together with one another and encouraging them to join fellow indexers in celebrating the concept of 'Take an Indexer to Lunch.'

As a month often associated with sharing and love, what better time could there be for such a program than February. MSA hopes to make 'Take an Indexer to Lunch' an annual event for the chapter. Knowing that, we decided to dedicate a seven-day period from February 11 through February 17 of each year to 'Take an Indexer to Lunch.'

Though we hoped to put together a virtual lunch for those indexers who are really too far flung to meet in person, we were not able to make that happen this time. One concept for doing a virtual lunch is to designate a date and time to all sit by our computers with our sandwiches or

reheated leftovers and have a nice social hour. The chat function of Jan Wright's new 'Indexer's Network,' <http://indexing.ping.com>, might be a venue for this. (See more information on page 4.)

This February, MSA members met for lunch in Washington DC, Baltimore, Bethesda, College Park and Silver Spring MD and in Charlottesville VA and other venues across the eastern U.S.

We hope other chapters will find the 'Take an Indexer to Lunch' concept intriguing and want to implement such a program for their members.

MSA's email invitation was worded thus

Take an Indexer to Lunch Week

February 11 - February 17

MSA declares a week of celebration!

'Take an Indexer to Lunch Week' shall be the seven-day period from February 11 through February 17 beginning with the year 2009 and for each subsequent year.

Indexers everywhere are to be feted during this time! Contact an indexer near you and invite that indexer to lunch. In fact, invite a bunch of indexers to lunch and split the ticket.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

*Welcome to our new members!*

Ariela Aksman  
Melinda Brady  
Kimberly Cassidy  
Sandra Collins  
Miguel Diaz  
Mary Freed  
Ann Gardner

Jos Hindriks  
Barbara Halton-Bailey  
Vickie Kaplan  
William Kastern  
Megan Lulofs  
Michelene Orteza  
Jennifer Richter

Peter Roche  
Leigh Siderhurst  
Vicky Spitalniak  
Jennifer Stringer  
Chan Thanawalla  
Jennifer Thornton  
Rhea Wilson

### **Indexer's Network: The New Coffee Shop**

Freelance indexing can be a wonderful career with its flexible hours and the ability to work wherever your laptop is. However, since indexers generally work from home in relative isolation, there is a distinct need for a forum that allows indexers to communicate with each other, ask questions and share ideas.

Fortunately, there is such a forum now available called the Indexers network <http://indexing.ning.com/>. Launched by Jan Wright in November 2008, this website offers indexers an opportunity to, "Create and join local and interest groups, participate in discussion forums, chat with other indexers online, and post information for your colleagues. In other words, this site serves as "an online coffee shop for indexers."

If you are familiar with other social websites such as Facebook and Myspace, you will feel comfortable here right away. For those that are not, it is quite simple to use. A new member's page walks you through setting up your account and has a list of suggestions for how you can start taking advantage of this site.



The member description is "Book indexers, abstractors, metadata makers, keyword creators, taxonomists, thesaurus compilers, word and vocabulary geeks can gather here." If you're reading this article then you most certainly would benefit from becoming a member.

According to Jan Wright, creating this site started out as an experiment. She wants to create some advanced courses for indexers so had been looking at web site-building software. Jan wasn't happy with the usability of the software out there until she discovered the "ning" platform. After trying out its tools, she thought that it would be fun to create a networking site for actual indexers.

Since the site is free, Jan went ahead, launched it at the end of November, and invited some people to check it out to see how well it worked. As the site grew, the software proved that it could easily handle the number of users, so Jan officially opened the membership to everyone.

It turns out ning is ideal for this new website. Jan noted that, "Ning has much larger sites, in terms of numbers of users, so it looks as though it will handle whatever we throw at it. I think lots of embedded videos would slow it down, but sites with over a thousand users seem to be working, and ours is now at 380 users."

There are more plans to improve this site. Currently, a specialized logo is being created and in the future, a tag cloud device will be added. This will allow members to work with tagging content.

Thank you, Jan for creating this web site. The platform is user friendly, making this an ideal place for indexers to "gather" and network. The only thing missing is the coffee.

*Linnea Dwyer attended her first ASI annual conference this April. Find this Florida resident at [www.linnaeusindexing.com](http://www.linnaeusindexing.com).*

## Medical Indexing and the National Library of Medicine

Libraries and databases, like indexing, involve the clear and considered organization of information. A one-day workshop last November sponsored by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) showcased outstanding systems of organizing, presenting, and disseminating biomedical information to a worldwide market.

On Friday, November 14, 2008 at the NLM Visitor Center on the campus of the National Institutes of Medicine in Bethesda MSA/ASI members were invited to a one-day session on medical indexing.

Attendees were cordially welcomed and treated to an overview of the library's facility and services, followed by a tour of the library's various divisions. Core library personnel explained bibliographic control at NLM and sponsored a demonstration of NLM's Online Indexing Class. The presentations were followed by lunch and a business meeting of the Mid- and South-Atlantic Chapter led by Chair, Suzi Kaplan.

The facts of the library are formidable. The National Library of Medicine is the world's largest medical library. Its collections comprise more than nine million items, including books, journals, reports, photographs, and old and rare medical works.

The National Library of Medicine originated as the Armed Forces Medical Library in 1836; it was originally intended to serve military physicians. A 1956 act of Congress transferred the library to the Public Health Service and named it the National Library of Medicine. The legislation was proposed by John F. Kennedy and Senator Lister Hill. In 1962, during Kennedy's presidency, NLM opened its doors on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Plans are underway to build a new state-of-the-art facility to replace the current building.

The NLM's considerable resources are measured by more than the building design or shelf space. Arguably, the most impressive part of the institution is what is not visible: the library's mission of the library to utilize the latest computer and on-line

technology for the organization, dissemination, and utilization of biomedical information.

Two key features are *MedLine* and *PubMed*. *PubMed* is an online service that includes over 18 million citations from *MedLine* and other life science journals for biomedical articles dating back to 1948. *MedLine's* purpose is to assist readers (patients, family, and friends) to locate authoritative health information. It features more than 750 entries on health topics, drug and supplement information, and a medical encyclopedia.

The hosts for the MSA Chapter members were a cordial group of highly skilled peers. There was no need to explain the nature and processes of back-of-the-book indexing to the well-trained professional indexers who designed and generated the *MedLine* database.

Workshop presenters were informed and engaging, and described a formidable training program. Several key points: indexers hired by the NLM must be quick and have a *solid* grounding in the sciences. (Interestingly, physicians don't necessarily make the best indexers.) This background in the sciences is important because, once indexers complete training, they must "hit the ground running." The NLM Indexing division expects indexers to process a minimum number of entries per day, as it is a "volume" house.

If the highest purpose of a modern library is to make enormous (one might say staggering) amounts of print and electronic data available to the public in a clear, concise, and organized manner, this one-day workshop in Bethesda demonstrated that the National Library of Medicine has achieved and surpassed that goal.

*Donna Shear, Chesapeake Indexing MSA member*  
*Donna Shear came to indexing after a thirty-year career in academic and commercial publishing, editing or proofing more than twenty-five books and journals. She became a professional indexer in 2007.*

## Roundtable: Marketing

MSA members met for an informal roundtable to discuss marketing on the afternoon of Sunday, January 25, 2009 at the home of Chair-Elect Connie Binder.

### Introductions

We spent some time introducing ourselves, and marveling at how far people had traveled - Bonnie Hanks drove three hours each way and we had several Pennsylvanians in attendance. We had new indexers and indexers with many years of experience. Many of us will index anything that comes our way, but it was great to learn each person's true indexing passion - cookbooks, gardening books, biographies, and policy manuals!

### Networking/Email Lists/Web Resources

All agreed email lists can be as exasperating as they are useful, but most of us do use them. ASI Special Interest Group email lists, particularly the Scholarly SIG and the Science and Medicine SIG, were cited as having good discussions. In addition to the indexing lists, people recommended joining other professional groups, associations, and email lists for the subject areas in which you are interested in indexing.

Suzi Kaplan asked about interest in a members-only section within MSA's web site. There was a very positive response to this. One of the things Suzi would like to start is a database or list that members would contribute to, that would include information about the way specific publishers seek indexers - whether they maintain a list, do only in-house indexing, require authors to do the indexing, etc.

Now for the biggie - a list of the lists: Most of these are not direct places to market or receive information about jobs, but they provide useful information and networking opportunities. The following descriptions are taken from the home pages of each group. To help control your level of exasperation, email lists often give you

the choice of receiving individual emails, a daily digest (one email with all of the day's messages in it), or going to the list and reading the messages there.

ASI Jobs (email list)

[http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/asi\\_jobs/?yguid=136246090](http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/asi_jobs/?yguid=136246090)

- Job board for freelance and in-house indexing vacancies
- Free service for ASI members or members of professional indexing organizations from other nations; others pay a fee
- Subscription requests will be approved as soon as membership in ASI is verified. (Please include your name with your application so that we can verify ASI membership.)
- Free service for publishers and authors (Go to ASI Web site at <http://www.asindexing.org> to post an opening)

Indexer Locator

<http://www.asindexing.org/custom/locator>

Index Peers (email list)

<http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/IndexPeers>

On this list, indexers volunteer to Review each other's edited indexes. A Peer Review provides a rare opportunity for this feedback. By reviewing and being reviewed, we increase our awareness of good indexing technique and gain valuable feedback on our current skills.[Note from roundtable: two indexers have found this really useful, not only in improving their indexes, but getting to know other indexes whose work they trust and who they have recommended for projects.]

Indexers Network (social networking site)

<http://indexing.ning.com>

Book indexers, abstractors, metadata makers, keyword creators, taxonomists, thesaurus compilers, word and vocabulary geeks can gather here.

Index-L (email list)

<http://lists.unc.edu/read/about/?forum=index-l>

Index-L is a mailing list intended to promote good indexing practice. The group provides a forum for aspiring and professional indexers to share information and ideas relating to the intellectual, philosophical, and technical aspects of index preparation. Topics for discussion can include various types of index structures such as indexes for books, periodicals, online text, databases, or hypermedia. Participants include but are not limited to the following groups: members of the American Society of Indexers (ASI); librarians and library school faculty and students; information access professionals; hypertext and database developers; and authors indexing their own works.

Indexers Discussion List (email list)

[http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/indexer\\_sdiscussionlist](http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/indexer_sdiscussionlist)

A list for indexers of books, Websites, or any other media. All indexing-related topics are discussed, including tools, ergonomics, work habits, finding jobs, starting and managing an indexing business, etc. No profanity or unprofessional behavior will be tolerated. This list will be unmoderated but the list owner will keep watch on list activities and maintain order and professionalism. New members will, however, be moderated for a short time in order to prevent spamming and/or inappropriate postings.

Facebook (social networking site)

<http://www.facebook.com>

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

[Note: Fellow indexers who use Facebook very often connect or 'friend' each other. An unofficial ASI group, misnamed the American Society for Indexers, has been set up on Facebook and is open to current members of ASI and its international affiliates. For current MSA members, there is a Mid- and South-Atlantic Chapter group on Facebook, as well. Facebook provides you with several ways to control the amount of information you receive from or about any individual or group.]

Linked In (social networking site)

<http://www.linkedin.com>

Over 30 million professionals use LinkedIn to exchange information, ideas and opportunities

- Stay informed about your contacts and industry
  - Find the people & knowledge you need to achieve your goals
  - Control your professional identity online
- [Note: An unofficial ASI group has been set up on Facebook and is open to current members of ASI and its international affiliates.]

Myspace (social networking site)

<http://www.myspace.com>

A place for friends.

Editorial Freelancers Association

<http://www.the-efa.org>

The EFA's goal has always been to raise the professional status of its members and to make freelancing more dynamic and rewarding. Since 1970, it has done so by steadily expanding member programs and services, many designed to polish and develop professional skills and boost income. Among these are

- client outreach
- a job listing subscription service
- networking with peers online, at meetings, and at social events
- educational programs designed especially for freelancers
- a bimonthly newsletter and other publications
- comprehensive health insurance (where available)
- a searchable, online membership directory
- regional chapters and liaisons

Trafford Publishing

<http://www.trafford.com/talentmember.html>

As the pioneer of the print-on-demand (POD) publishing industry, Trafford offers a unique service for self-publishing authors. We build, print, and distribute books for authors from all over the world who would like to retain the rights to their own material. Authors provide us with their completed manuscripts, as well as the images and text for their cover and we will build the book to their specifications. Trafford created the Talent Pool to provide authors with

access to industry professionals who can assist them with the details of preparing their manuscripts and/or cover for publication and/or marketing efforts. There are currently over 200 members of the Trafford Talent Pool offering 11 categories of service.

Book industry professionals and businesses do not pay to be listed within our Talent Pool, but agree to remit to Trafford a referral commission equal to 10% of the total billings for work secured through the Talent Pool, payable on completion of the work.

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers  
<http://www.ieee.org/portal/site>  
IEEE is the world's largest technical society, bringing members access to the industry's most essential technical information, networking opportunities, career development tools, and many other exclusive benefits. [Note from roundtable: Suzi Kaplan says they have great insurance benefits.]

American Medical Writers Association  
<http://www.amwa.org/>  
AMWA's mission is to promote excellence in medical communication. Through an extensive educational program, various publications, and unparalleled opportunities for networking, AMWA encourages and enables its members to extend their professional expertise.

Garden Writers Association  
<http://www.gardenwriters.org>  
The Garden Writers Association (GWA) is an organization of over 1800 professional communicators in the lawn and garden industry. No other organization in the industry has as much direct contact with the buying public as GWA.

American Library Association  
<http://www.ala.org/index.cfm>  
The ALA Constitution states the purpose of ALA as, "The object of the American Library Association shall be to promote library service and librarianship." The stated mission is, "To provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and

information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all."

In addition, the ASI web site has a list of discussion groups:  
<http://www.asindexing.org/site/discgrps.shtml>

### **Marketing Materials/Campaigns**

Cold calls - no one in the group makes cold calls seeking work. Folks call to get names to send email and postal mail materials.

Most people do not include attachments with initial emails - they either have a link to their web site or encourage the publisher to contact them for more information.

Deborah Patton goes to a local, independent print shop where she gets a terrific price on marketing materials and on printouts of pdf's for indexing. As an online source, [www.vistaprint.com](http://www.vistaprint.com) is a favorite place for having materials printed. They are cost effective and do a good job. She also uses brightly colored envelopes and stationery to attract attention. An amazing red that you have to see!

Lee Gordon has been sending marketing emails as he has time. He has had about a 25% response rate, and a 3-4% rate of actually getting jobs. We all thought that was a very positive response rate.

Bonnie Hanks sends a thank you note to the editor/publisher/contact person after she does her first index for them and sends congratulatory notes whenever she sees write-ups about books she has indexed. She sends out beautiful marketing postcards (one got her a job), bookmarks, and calendars. Bonnie lives near a university and is planning to drop off bookmarks and marketing materials in professors' mailboxes in departments relevant to subject matter she likes to index.

Not everyone has a web site, including indexers who are very experienced and still get new work. There was agreement all around



that a web site provides an extra evaluation point for people seeking an indexer and an easy way to point people to your credentials. Suggestions of items to list on a web site include recent works you've indexed, important works you've indexed, and a list of clients.

We spent a lot of time talking about marketing to publishers. Martin Gordon pointed out that for many books it is the author's responsibility to provide an index, so we should also be marketing to authors. No one had a sure-fire way to do this.

We discussed Carol Roberts's copyrighted "crappy indexing" plan, wherein she goes to a bookstore, finds a book with a crappy index, writes a good index, submits both to the publisher for a side-by-side comparison, and promotes herself that way. Connie Binder mentioned she is planning to do something similar, but finding good books with good indexes, figuring that those publishers already hire indexers and may be an easier sell. To read more about Carol Roberts's 15 step crappy index plan, you can join the Indexers Discussion List, <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/indexersdiscussionlist>, or wait for the article she plans to write for Key Words.

We ran out of time and weren't able to dedicate time critiquing marketing materials. Marketing materials were passed around to general admiration, but no real analysis. Some attendees came seeking suggestions for improvement. Suzi Kaplan has emailed the chapter requesting members send or email copies of their marketing materials. If MSA develops a password protected, members only section of its website, these materials could be posted there for review or could be used to construct an informative poster session for ASI's annual conference.

## Miscellaneous/Wrap Up

To raise one's profile in the indexing world (and beyond!), MSA member Judy Reveal encouraged everyone to submit articles to Key Words. Judy is very open to any ideas, and is looking for articles and op-ed pieces ranging from one paragraph to thousands of words. Every article, no matter how small, receives a byline, and Judy said that as an author, you could then post the article on your own web site, and use it in pretty much any way you wanted for publicity.

Gain experience, a byline, worldwide fame, and unlimited marketing potential by indexing the 2008 issues of Key Words. There is no direct financial benefit to the indexer, but the potential indirect benefit is priceless. And think of how much you'll learn by reading all those articles you meant to get to, but haven't yet. Contact Judy at [keywords@asindexing.org](mailto:keywords@asindexing.org). The best thing to come from this marketing roundtable was networking with our fellow indexers. We all met new people, were able to connect faces with names we knew, and had a really nice afternoon.

Finally, we were unanimous in our decision to meet more regularly. Several people offered their homes for future roundtables and we'd strongly like to encourage other members to get together in small groups whenever and wherever possible.

If you have suggestions for future roundtable or major meeting topics, please email them to the 2009-2010 MSA Program Committee Chair, Connie Binder at [connie@conniebinder.com](mailto:connie@conniebinder.com).

*Connie Binder, MSA's current Chair-Elect, will become Chair on May 1, 2009. Find Connie's biographical sketch online at [www.msasindexing.org](http://www.msasindexing.org).*

## **Indexers' Wish List at the Library of Congress**

On the morning of April 16, a group of twenty MSA members and guests gathered in the James Madison Building of the U.S. Library of Congress for a day of seeking answers and having fun.

### **U.S. Copyright Office**

Our group first met with Peter Vankevich, Head of the Information Section, U.S. Copyright Office. Joining him were staffer Ed Timberlake and two Copyright Office attorneys, Stephen Ruwe and Renee Coe.

Vankevich explained the Copyright Office is its own entity within the Library of Congress (LOC). The regulatory groundwork for the Copyright Office was in place before the LOC. Early on, the LOC had no funding and many of their books were acquired by accepting donations from the Copyright Office. These donations were possible due to the U.S.' legal depository requirement of two books (other countries often require more, some up to 25). Besides supplying LOC with materials, the requirement of two books allows the Copyright Office to compare both books for consistency. If LOC doesn't want a book, it is made available to other libraries, then to jobbers, and, if it is still not wanted, it is recycled.

In 1870, Lincoln's Librarian of Congress, Ainsworth Rand Spofford, realized the need for a place for all the books lining the corridors of Congress. In 1887 construction began on the Jefferson Building. It was completed under budget; this is said to explain why the Jefferson Building is so beautifully and ornately decorated. By 1920 the building was filled to overflowing with books.

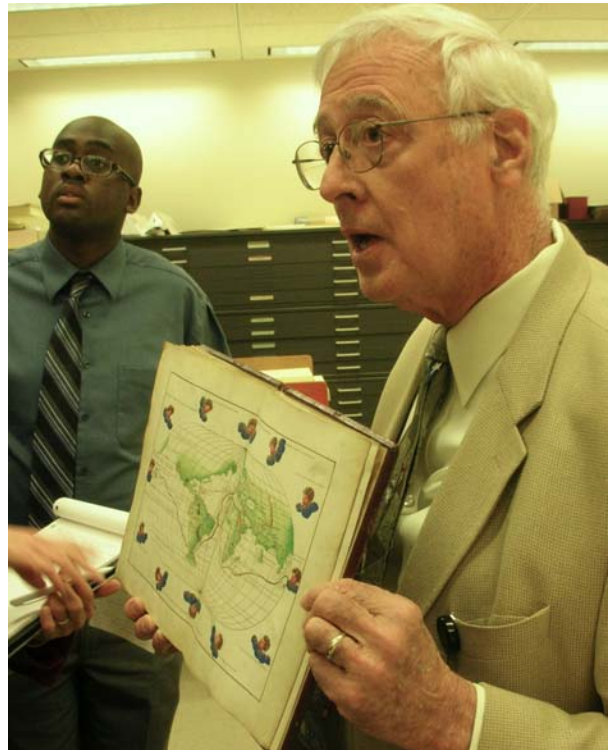
There are around 500 employees in the Copyright Office, most involved in registration. Vankevich described registration as a dull process, but also dynamic with new technologies and evolving issues. He joked that the Copyright Office should really be named the copy registry office.

Copyright starts the moment an original work of authorship is created and fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Although works are copyrighted automatically as they are created, many authors choose to register their work in order to make a record of copyright as well as to secure certain legal remedies in any legal action for copyright infringement. Application for registration is available online and costs \$35. Registration by mail costs \$45. These costs will go up this coming summer.

Copyright records are available online and offer basic access points such as title, author, owner of copyright, and registration number.

ASI member Peter Rooney, visiting from the New York Chapter, was curious to see his record of an index he had copyrighted some years ago in order to secure payment for his work. The record was easily found online and Peter said payment had been secured.

Renee and Steve, the two attorneys present, discussed indexers and copyright. Copyright exists from the moment of creation. Registering that copyright with the Copyright Office may be helpful in some circumstances in providing evidence of one's ownership of copyright. If an indexer is working as an independent contractor, they said, the indexer has copyright to the index. If the indexer has signed a work-for-hire contract, the contracting company owns copyright to the index. Just being



Steven Taylor with LOC Geography & Map Division Chief John Hébert. Hébert holds a 1543 atlas produced in Venice.

paid for work does imply the job is work-for-hire. Work-for-hire must be with a written and signed contract or agreement. If no work-for-hire contract has been signed, the indexer is working as an independent contractor.

To register an index with the Copyright Office, the index must demonstrate sufficient creativity to examiners. Other elements such as the extent of selection of elements are considered, as well. If, for example, an index covers everything in the text, copyright does not exist. Should the elements of an index be selected by random choice, copyright does not exist. An index created using controlled vocabulary would be regarded as more mechanical than creative and could not be registered with the Copyright Office. They explained an all-encompassing index such as a telephone directory would not require enough selection and arrangement to show sufficient creativity to be considered for copyright. Copyright registration of an index requires creative and analytical thought and interaction with the material that results in an original work.

The Copyright Office website [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov) includes information on 'Work Made for Hire' under the publications section.

### **Geography and Map Division**

Following our presentation by the U.S. Copyright office we were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of LOC's Geography and Map Division by division Chief John Hébert. Hébert showed us into restricted areas and vaults not open to the public and gave an enthusiastic description of the division.

Hébert began working in the division in 1969 when pursuing his Ph.D. in Latin American History. He enjoys working with maps as they emphasize the importance of geographical implications and helps us understand why things happen.

The division's storage area is the size of two football fields and contains 5.5 million maps, 3,000 razor leaf images, 20,000 DVDs and CDs, and 500 globes. By law, every map produced by a U.S. federal agency comes to the division. The division also employs two cartographers who produce specialized maps for Congress and other federal agencies. Somali pirates have been the subject of recent maps created here.

The Geography and Maps Division uses the LOC Classification G schedule, but adapts it to provide a great deal more detail of geographical layout. There are 600,000 records online. They attempt to catalog anything produced after 1970 first. Hébert described a new project, which is an inventory of 125,000 sheets of African set maps from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to now.

The collection contains both historical and contemporary items. The earliest map they own is dated 1320. They also have a 5,000-year-old map representation of rubbings from Chinese stone maps.

The collection includes a large amount of WWII materials including the razor leaf image we were able to see of Utah beach. The photo imagery is placed on top of a rubberized material (state of the art in 1944) and is the size of a kitchen table. The image showed all the roads and hedgerows and other details of the area.

We were also treated to a 1639 map of Manhattan.

In a vault within a vault where even more valuable material is held, we were treated to viewing Pierre L'enfant's original plan for Washington DC and a 1507 world map, the first to include the name America, worth \$10M.

*"I enjoyed myself tremendously and thought the tour of LOC was very educational. For example, for a book about Nevada that I am indexing right now, I downloaded one of the Geological Survey's topographic maps which shows a bunch of little towns and geographic features. It never would have occurred to me to do so if we hadn't had that tour."*

*Peter Rooney*

We were viewed an undersea globe created in 1957 by a team scientists led by Marie Thorpe. This first representation of the oceans floors led to the discovery of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and inspired the theories of continental drift and plate tectonics.



We also saw a 1963 moon globe created in 1959 by Russian scientists using satellite photographs of the moon, including the moon's dark side. Only one copy of this globe exists within the western hemisphere. Apparently first in the possession of the U.S. Geological Service, but the USGS didn't think the globe was important and LOC's Geography and Map Division was able to obtain it.

Also in the restricted vault we viewed a leather-bound navigational atlas produced on vellum in Venice in 1543. The atlas included portolan maps, or maps showing not longitude and latitude, but lines drawn along the thirty-two points of a mariner's compass. Published as a small edition with beautiful color illustrations, the atlas would have been for a collector even in 1543.. Included in the atlas was a world map with illustrations of cherubs as prevailing winds and of Magellan's 1519 route to the Philippines.

Hébert showed us a large 1559 portolan chart on lamb vellum. It is kept between two pieces of non-reactive plastic since vellum reacts to hot and cold, and melts and wrinkles easily. The chart includes factual as well as biblical information and images of coasts around the Mediterranean and Red Seas, and interiors of North Africa, Genoa, Cairo, Venice, Spain, France, and Asia.

The division serves Congress, government agencies, the scholarly community, and the general public. The website is [www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap](http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap) .

### **Roundtable: Reference Librarians and Indexers**

After lunch and a business meeting we enjoyed a roundtable discussion with five LOC reference librarians moderated by Carolyn Lawson (an ASI member in the mid 70s) who is Head of Business Reference. Other librarians present were Jan Hurd (a 1975-77 MSA member) from Business Reference, Everett Larson (an ASI member in 1968) from Hispanic Reference, Thomas Mann, a Reference Librarian in LOC's main reading room and author of *The Oxford Guide to Libraries* and other books, and Pat Laughlin, Head of Music Reference.

Carolyn began by discussing "indexing delights" or what she describes as nuances and humor found in indexes. An index, she said, can have a life of its own and actually read like a novel. She also decried the uselessness of books without indexes.

Thomas Mann told us the more work indexers do, the less work the librarian has to do. Front line, reference librarians know librarians frequently feel besieged and that well indexed materials are instrumental to solving research dilemmas. Mann made a plea that indexers not limit their indexes to words contained within the text and another interesting request that major discussions within a text be emphasized in the index by the use of italics. He also asked that indexes, directories or lists of quotations within the text be included.

Jan Hurd told us of a need to establish subject heading for Spanish language documents. She spoke of the importance of standards in both her business and in indexing. Jan feels that indexers who do not use standards do everyone a disfavor, especially in large indexing projects like journals. She seemed a strong advocate of top-down standards and controls and not a fan of the new freewheeling, self-tagging websites like [www.librarything.com](http://www.librarything.com) .

Everett Larsen's great desire is that Spanish language materials include indexes. They typically have none and it is a tremendous hindrance to research and learning using Spanish language texts.

Other wish lists points for good indexes brought out by the LOC's Librarians included

- Indexes with two levels of complexity to serve both scholarly readers and readers on the college level
- Indexers should only accept jobs in the fields that they know well
- More synonyms
- Cross references
- Abbreviations spelled out
- Index footnotes
- Limit number of locators without subheads

Jan Hurd also spoke of a specific business reference source that needed great improvement to its index to be useful to LOC's Business Reference Librarians. The publisher of this source was informed and the improvements were made with great dispatch.

Suzi Kaplan encouraged the Librarians present to support indexers professional efforts by letting publishers know of their wish list for indexes.

*Bonnie Hanks has been MSA's Secretary for 2009-2010 and continues to serve as a Director on ASI's Board of Directors. Find Bonnie's company at [www.hanksindexing.com](http://www.hanksindexing.com).*

## National Book Festival

### Library of Congress

Is there a place for indexers in the annual National Book Festival in Washington DC? The Librarians we spoke with at the Library of Congress on April 16 seemed to think so. MSA was encouraged to bring to the National Mall our message promoting inclusion of indexes in texts and use of indexes by readers. Such encouragement is nice to hear. If you have interest in pursuing such a program, please contact MSA's program committee or the current Chair, [chair@msasindexing.org](mailto:chair@msasindexing.org).

The Library of Congress reported more than 120,000 book lovers gathered September 27, 2008 on the National Mall for the eighth annual National Book Festival, [www.loc.gov/bookfest](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest), organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by [former] First Lady Laura Bush.

Festival-goers were entertained by favorite authors, illustrators and poets as they celebrated creativity and imagination among the standing-room-only pavilions including the Let's Read America; Pavilion of the States; Children; Teens & Children; Fiction & Mystery; History & Biography; Home & Family; and Poetry. This year the Library showcased its efforts to digitize rare documents and books, including a draft Declaration of Independence with handwritten edits by the Founding Fathers, and previewed the World Digital Library, set to debut in April 2009.

The 2008 National Book Festival marked the last year the event was hosted by First Lady Laura

Bush. She and her daughter Jenna Bush also presented as co-authors of the children's book "Read All About It!"

"The National Book Festival is a joyous celebration of reading and an inspiration for new generations of creativity," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "We are grateful to Mrs. Bush for making this a signature event in the nation's capital for the last eight years. Her love of reading has inspired millions to enjoy the Library of Congress in Washington and online and to use their own hometown libraries everywhere."

For those who were unable to attend the festival or missed a pavilion, the authors' presentations are available as webcasts on the festival homepage [www.loc.gov/bookfest](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest).

There was something for everyone at this year's festival.

Children enjoyed photo opportunities with favorite storybook characters such as Curious George, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Maya and Miguel, SuperWhy, Sid the Science Kid and WordGirl.

Children sang along with PBS' Steve Songs, enjoyed Read Alouds with Ms. Fizzle and Martha from, "Martha Speaks," and explored Scholastic's Magic School Bus.

NBA legend Bob Lanier, NBA star Chris Duhon and WNBA star Ivory Latta read aloud and encouraged

young readers as part of the Read to Achieve Program.

More than 70 best-selling authors including the Library of Congress's National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jon Scieszka, and Salman Rushdie, Tiki Barber, David Shannon, Dionne Warwick, Andrea Davis Pickney, Charles S. Smith Jr., Geraldine Brooks, Peter Robinson, Warren Brown, Cokie Roberts, Kimberly Dozier, Arthur & Pauline Frommer, Dan Chiasson and Jill Allyn Rosser presented and signed books for fans.

The Library of Congress continued expanding the joy of reading with the preview the multilingual World Digital Library, set to debut in April 2009. Demonstrations of how rare documents are digitized mesmerized students of all ages.

The Library of Congress Pavilion featured demonstrations of the Library's pilot photo-tagging project with Flickr. Library staff also helped those with old books they treasure learn techniques of preservation and conservation.

The winners of the River of Words contest, the annual international environmental art and poetry competition for students K-12, were recognized and read their award-winning works.

Children's favorite, Bullseye, the Target Dog, and the super-size Big Read Chair, were there for pictures and break time.

Target passed out 25,000 children's book totes and 30,000 water bottles.

Hundreds of children walked away as new authors after they visited the Scholastic build-a-book activity center.

Authors visited their home states in the Pavilion of the States to meet local fans. Also in this pavilion, a favorite feature for young readers and their families, "Discover Great Places Through Reading," was back by popular demand.

September 27, 2008

## **Indexing Society of Canada Conference June 2-4, 2009 St. Michael's College, University of Toronto**

This year's conference sessions feature some of the top indexing experts from Canada and the United States:

- Public Policy Indexing (Enid Zafran)
- Networking - How Do I Get Business? (Elizabeth Macafie)
- Cross-references (Ruth Pincoe)
- Indexing Niches (Sylvia Coates)
- Cindex Workshop (Frances Lennie)
- Marketing Panel (Noeline Bridge, Carol Harrison, Clive Pyne, and Yvonne van Ruskenvend; moderated by Mary Newberry)

Ruth Pincoe will also facilitate a peer review during the conference.

Several networking activities are scheduled before, during, and after the conference. If you come early, join us for a tour of the Joseph Pope Rare Book Room in the Library of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (PIMS) on June 2.

Following the tour, Gabrielle Earnshaw, Curator of Special Collections and Archivist of the Henri Nouwen Archive & Research Collection, will give a presentation on the highlights of the book and archival collection at the Kelly Library.

We will also have a pre-conference dinner at Foxes Den Bar and Grill (cost not included in registration fee).

On June 3, the annual Conference Dinner and Show-and-Sell will be held at 5th Elementt, across the street from St. Michael's College. Enjoy award-winning fusion food emphasizing Indian and Italian cuisines, and browse and purchase crafts made by fellow indexers!

On June 4 after the conference, another gathering will be scheduled. The location will be announced. For more details about the conference and to check for updates, see

<http://www.indexers.ca/conf2009.html> .

*Cheryl Landes Conference Committee Volunteer for ISC - [clandes407@aol.com](mailto:clandes407@aol.com)*

## Minutes of MSA Business Meetings

### November 14, 2008

A program on various aspects of medical indexing was presented at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland from 9:30 until 1:30. At the conclusion of the program those attending moved to the building's cafeteria for lunch and the chapter's business meeting.

A chapter business meeting began at 1:45 on November 14, 2008. Members were invited to read Chair Suzi Kaplan's informal notes written from substitute Secretary Bonnie Hank's notes of the last meeting on March 29, 2008 and to state any discrepancies or needs for correction or ask any questions. The informal notes were approved as corrected.

Members were invited to read an informal report on chapter financial information provided by the Treasurer and to state any discrepancies or needs for correction or ask any questions. The informal report was approved as corrected.

Discussion followed of the downward change in the chapter's account balance from the previous year and the need for the chapter to acquire additional funds to enable more and better programming for members. Several members volunteered small cash donations. Suzi Kaplan said she has a large number of older issues of *Key Words* and that they are available for free or for the cost of shipping, but that she would gladly provide issues as tokens for anyone donating to MSA. A total of \$150 in cash donations were gratefully accepted.

The Chair announced MSA plans to continue holding informal roundtable meetings. MSA hopes to have one in December or soon after at the home of Chair-Elect Connie Binder. There was discussion of how useful and fun past MSA roundtables have been.

The Chair requested members who were present to take part in the work of MSA by volunteering for an MSA committee. A sign-up sheet listing committees was passed around the group and several members committed to work for MSA.

The Chair was pleased to announce ASI, Inc. had decided to not require chapters and SIGs to incorporate, but will instead seek a Group Exemption Letter from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. She explained that, if and when ASI is granted a Group Exemption Letter, chapters and SIGs\* will not be required to file complete annual form 990 tax reports with the IRS. ASI will continue to file such a report, but chapters and SIGs with very limited finances will have less burdensome federal tax reporting requirements. Chapters and SIGs will be required to obtain their own

Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) for ASI's use in requesting a Group Exemption Letter and other federal tax filings. MSA will continue to use ASI's FEIN until the Group Exemption Letter is received by ASI. Suzi also said MSA may still incorporate at any time it decides to do so, but, if MSA does, it will remain as a unit of ASI.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Suzi Kaplan, Chair 2008-2009

[\* Note: Without significant annual income, e.g., \$25,000 or more per annum]

### April 16, 2009

#### Attendance

Board Members: Chair Suzi Kaplan, Chair Elect Connie Binder, Treasurer Becky Hornyack, Secretary Bonnie Hanks.; Members and Visitors: sixteen in attendance.

**Opening** Suzi Kaplan called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in the LOC cafeteria.

**Old Business** the minutes for November 16, 2008 were approved.

#### Current Business

**Election Results** for May 2009 to May 2010: Sue Ellen Colter treasurer, Becky Hornyack chair-elect, Camilla Clocker secretary, and Connie Binder chair.

**Treasurers Report** was given by Becky Hornyack using the financial statement she distributed which included a multi-year comparison (attached).

Becky explained that our dues allocation has been requested from Resource Center and should be received soon. The allocation (\$7/member) is based on the number of members in each chapter. As of today that amount is not known.

The electronic newsletter kept the newsletter costs to nothing this year. Vicki Swope acts as editor. It is published twice per year with hopes of making it quarterly. The last edition was dated November 2008.

The treasurer's report was approved.

#### New Business

Suzi thanked the past officers with gifts.

Connie thanked and congratulated Suzi for looking to add new members to the chapter.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm. The vote to approve these minutes will take place at the next MSA chapter meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Hanks, Secretary 2008-9

## **ASI CHAPTER & SIG CHANGES**

*Your Attention Still Desired*

### **Federal Tax Group Exemption**

In the *Atlantic Indexer* of last October 2008 I discussed imminent changes that would be required by ASI of its chapters and SIGs. As I anticipated in that same article, instead of requiring chapters and SIGs to incorporate or forgo future dues allocations, the ASI Board of Directors decided to pursue an IRS Group Exemption Letter. New guidelines and report forms were quickly created and distributed to chapters and SIGs. ASI's new guidelines and the forms it requests or requires of chapters and SIGs are reproduced within ASI's new Chapter Manual (available online in the password protected members' section of the ASI website, [www.asindexing.org](http://www.asindexing.org).)

Since the original charge to our chapter would have required significant changes to MSA's organizational structure, governance, founding documents or more, be assured -- had the charge remained in place -- I would have worked to inform you of MSA's options, continued to solicit your input and, ultimately, your decision on the best course of action for our chapter.

Fortunately, MSA was relieved of that potential burden by ASI's decision to request the Group Exemption Letter. Neither MSA's request to participate or its participation in ASI's Group Exemption Letter, should it be granted by the IRS, has an effect on MSA's organizational structure, governance, founding documents, etc.; in essence, there is no change. This being the case, MSA's decision to participate in ASI's request for an IRS Group Exemption Letter was approved by MSA's Executive Committee.

The [changes@msasindexing.org](mailto:changes@msasindexing.org) email address for questions and comments will be deleted on April 30, 2009.

### **Incorporation**

Chapters and SIGs still have the option of incorporating at any time they desire and there are many good arguments to be made both for and against MSA incorporating. If you have thoughts on this matter, please share them with MSA's Chair.

### **Banking**

ASI, through its management company, the Resource Center (ASI/RC), has offered to provide banking services to chapters and SIGs. This service originated to help some chapters and SIGs that have very small accounts, have not been able to obtain free banking from a commercial bank, or have had difficulty opening new accounts post-Patriot Act (see October 2008 *Atlantic Indexer*.)

Available since May 2008, a few chapters and SIGs have transferred their funds and are using ASI/RC as their banker. Feedback from participants in the new ASI/RC banking system has not been good. As with most new ventures, I think it may be best to wait a few years and allow ASI/RC to work through all the kinks in the system before signing on with this new 'banking' service.

In following up with ASI/RC, I've asked ASI/RC to assure MSA that no charges or fees for banking services would accrue to MSA; ASI/RC could not make that assurance. Switching from MSA's federally regulated and insured bank accounts to having an account that is a line item within ASI's account at RC would be a substantial change for MSA. Without knowing the size of ASI's bank accounts, it's not clear whether federal insurance would or would not cover MSA's line item amount.

If you would like more information or have feedback, please contact the current Chair.

### **Webhosting Services**

Again, in its desire to help the bottom lines of its chapters and SIGs, the RC offered to host chapter and SIG websites on its server. Initially RC thought this service would be free. When asked to verify in writing that its webhosting services would be free, RC's further research revealed it would have to charge chapters and SIGs. The discovered charge was more than MSA currently pays for webhosting services. RC also could not verify that there might not be more charges in future.



MSA will want to stay informed about the availability and costs of RC's webhosting offer. It could well be that such an arrangement will make sense for MSA in the future.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to follow this matter for MSA, please contact the current Chair.

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## Coursework

Look for continuing education or graduate course possibilities at schools listed in the American Library Association's directory of accredited master's programs in library and information studies, <http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/education/accreditedprograms/directory/list/index.cfm> .

University of Alabama  
[www.slis.ua.edu](http://www.slis.ua.edu)

State University of New York, Albany  
[www.albany.edu/ccci/informationstudies/index.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/ccci/informationstudies/index.shtml)

State University of New York, Buffalo +  
[www.gse.buffalo.edu/programs/lis/](http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/programs/lis/)

Catholic University of America +  
District of Columbia  
<http://slis.cua.edu>

Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
[www.clarion.edu/libsci](http://www.clarion.edu/libsci)

Dalhousie University  
<http://sim.management.dal.ca>

Dominican University  
[www.gslis.dom.edu](http://www.gslis.dom.edu)

Drexel University  
[www.ischool.drexel.edu](http://www.ischool.drexel.edu)

Florida State University  
[www.ci.fsu.edu](http://www.ci.fsu.edu)

Long Island University  
[www.liu.edu/palmer](http://www.liu.edu/palmer)

Louisiana State University  
<http://slis.lsu.edu>

University of Maryland  
[www.clis.umd.edu](http://www.clis.umd.edu)

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,  
<http://sils.unc.edu>

University of North Carolina, Greensboro +  
<http://lis.uncg.edu>

North Carolina Central University  
[www.nccuslis.org](http://www.nccuslis.org)

University of Pittsburgh  
[www.sis.pitt.edu](http://www.sis.pitt.edu)

Pratt Institute  
[www.pratt.edu/sils](http://www.pratt.edu/sils)

University of Puerto Rico  
<http://egcti.upr.edu>

Queens College, City University of New York  
<http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/GSLIS>

University of Rhode Island +  
[www.uri.edu/artsci/lsc](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/lsc)

Rutgers University  
[www.scils.rutgers.edu](http://www.scils.rutgers.edu)

St. John's University  
[www.stjohns.edu/libraryscience](http://www.stjohns.edu/libraryscience)

Simmons College  
[www.simmons.edu/gslis](http://www.simmons.edu/gslis)

University of South Carolina  
[www.libsci.sc.edu](http://www.libsci.sc.edu)

University of South Florida  
[www.cas.usf.edu/lis](http://www.cas.usf.edu/lis)

Southern Connecticut State University  
[www.southernct.edu/ils](http://www.southernct.edu/ils)

University of Southern Mississippi  
[www.usm.edu/slis](http://www.usm.edu/slis)

Syracuse University  
[www.ist.syr.edu](http://www.ist.syr.edu)

An online map of ALA-accredited master's programs in library and information studies is available at

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=105865627555958965474.000449740ea1f057a8b91&ll=41.508577,-93.515625&spn=89.94393.163.125&z=3>

+ Indicates conditional accreditation, a status assigned to a program that must make changes to comply with the Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies to enable accreditation beyond the date specified by the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation. Note these programs are fully accredited under the Standards.

# THE INDEXER

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*It should find a place in all library science collections and in the personal collections of professional indexers and indexing researchers and educators . . . a lively forum on highly specific questions representing a concern for good indexing.*

Professor Bella Hass Weinberg in *Library and Information Science Annual*

Have you seen a copy of *The Indexer* recently? As well as a wide range of practical and theoretical articles, regular features include indexing society news, reviews, and the new pull-out section of 'Centrepieces' to build a useful reference collection. Visit [www.theindexer.org](http://www.theindexer.org) to find out more.

Changes for 2008 include:

- Four issues a year (March, June, September and December)
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**SUBSCRIBE ONLINE NOW!**

[www.theindexer.org](http://www.theindexer.org)

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MSA-ASI FINANCIAL RECORDS

To the Executive Committee and Members  
Mid- and South-Atlantic Chapter, American Society for Indexing

I have reviewed the bank statements and checkbook register of MSA-ASI for the period March 2007 through March 2009, and the related members' equity and cash flows for each of these years. My responsibility was to express an opinion on the veracity of these financial statements. I conducted my review by examining the bank statements against the checkbook register and also asked questions of Becky Hornyak and Suzi Kaplan regarding a particular transaction for which there was no documentation available (that is, a \$500 check written on the savings account in April 2007.) I believe that my review provided a reasonable basis for my opinion that the savings and checking accounts are accurate and financially sound.

Lori Holtzinger  
Member, MSA-ASI

## HOUSEKEEPING

### ASI Website: Your User ID & Password

When you joined ASI, you were assigned a user name and password that enable you to access the secure, members-only section of ASI's website. These automatically generated user names and passwords use a combination of letters and numbers. Conventional wisdom now tells us any automatically generated, unencrypted data is vulnerable.

For the safety and security of all [www.asindexing.org](http://www.asindexing.org) users, take a few minutes to change your ASI user name and password. If you don't recall your information, contact ASI at [info@asindexing.org](mailto:info@asindexing.org) for assistance.

### ASI-L

Are you subscribed? ASI's official email list is asi-L. When you're ready to subscribe, send a blank email to [asi-L-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:asi-L-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Only members of ASI and its international affiliates may subscribe to asi-L.

Once subscribed to asi-L, choose whether to receive emails singly or grouped as a digest and whether in yahoogroup's traditional or new (which includes more advertising) format.

As with most [www.yahoogroups.com](http://www.yahoogroups.com) email list subscriptions, it is not required, but it is certainly to your advantage to also establish a user ID account with [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). A [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) account, with your chosen user name and password, allows you to access features within your [www.yahoogroups.com](http://www.yahoogroups.com) subscriptions that would not be available otherwise.

### Contact Information Update

If your contact information changes, please inform ASI's management company, The Resource Center, as soon as possible at [info@asindexing.org](mailto:info@asindexing.org). Changes are passed from ASI to MSA within one to two months, so – if you think of it – kindly pass along any change information to MSA, too.

At this time, membership information is maintained by the Chair, so please send any changes to the MSA's current Chair, [chair@msasindexing.org](mailto:chair@msasindexing.org)

### MSA's Website

Our website, [www.msasindexing.org](http://www.msasindexing.org), offers another way for you to link with our chapter and a directory listing chapter members. Each MSA member is invited to add business contact information to the directory. At present, all information in this directory is accessible to the public. MSA recognizes that for various reasons you may choose to not list some or all of your contact information on our MSA directory page, so please feel free to list only that information you feel comfortable exposing to public purview.

When you're ready to start or update your directory listing, please send an email with the subject field, "New MSA Member" or "MSA Member Directory Update" along with any or all of the following information to our long-time member and webster (webmaster), Nancy Guenther, at [nanguent@verizon.net](mailto:nanguent@verizon.net) or [webmaster@msasindexing.org](mailto:webmaster@msasindexing.org).

Your Name

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Members are encouraged to post chapter and indexing related emails to the chapter email list, [msanet@msasindexing.org](mailto:msanet@msasindexing.org). If you wonder whether an item is appropriate to post, don't hesitate to contact the current Chair, [chair@msasindexing.org](mailto:chair@msasindexing.org), for information or guidance.

## Obit: Barbara Ringer

### *Leader in Copyright Law*

Matt Schudel's report in the Sunday, April 26, 2009 *Washington Post* of Barbara Ringer death brought feelings of pride and sadness to those working in the arts. Almost single-handedly, Ms. Ringer brought us the modern copyright system in the U.S. Below you'll find material quoted from Schudel's article and a link should you wish to read the remainder of the text.

Barbara Ringer is the sole woman in the room at a hearing on copyright revision in the 1960s. She later successfully sued the Library of Congress for sex discrimination after she was passed over for a top job. (Library Of Congress)



"Barbara A. Ringer had just graduated from Columbia University law school in 1949 when she joined the Copyright Office at the Library of Congress. Within a few years, she set about revising an archaic set of laws that had been in place since 1909 -- before the invention of television or commercial radio, before copying machines and the modern recording industry, let alone cable TV, home computers and the Internet."

"Ms. Ringer believed, above all, copyrights should protect the creative people in American life -- the authors, songwriters and performers whose work was too often printed, plagiarized or broadcast without permission. By 1955, she was writing papers and commissioning studies on how the nation's copyright laws should be revised."

"For years, Ms. Ringer devoted much of her time to drafting a new, comprehensive copyright act and educating congressmen about why it was needed. Foreseeing the rise of the Internet, she inserted provisions into the law to protect authors from the unauthorized reproduction of their work, even by means not yet devised."

' "The basic human rights of individual authors throughout the world," she warned in a 1975 speech, "are being sacrificed more and more on the altar of ... the technological revolution." '

"Ms. Ringer spent 21 years drafting the legislation and lobbying Congress before the Copyright Act of 1976 was finally passed. She wrote most of the bill herself."

' "It brought an essentially 19th-century law up to date with the late 20th century and 21st century," said Arthur S. Levine, a copyright lawyer who worked with Ms. Ringer at the Library of Congress. "I don't believe there would have been a Copyright Act if there hadn't been a Barbara Ringer." '

"The act established the principle of "fair use," whereby scholars and reviewers could quote briefly from copyrighted works without having to pay fees. But it is better known for allowing authors to retain greater control over their work."

"Under the old 1909 law, an author owned the copyright for 28 years from the date of publication. Unless the copyright was renewed, the work entered the public domain, and the author lost any right to royalties. With the 1976 act, which Ms. Ringer conceived, the author owned the copyright for his or her lifetime, plus 50 years."

' "That was a monumental change," said Marybeth Peters, the Library of Congress's current register of copyrights, and one of Ms. Ringer's proteges. "Barbara was an absolutely spectacular leader and thinker in copyright law. She was responsible for the first major change in copyright law in 70 years." '

' "Her contributions were monumental," said Peters, the current register of copyrights. "She blazed trails. She was a heroine." '

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/25/AR2009042502917.html>