

# iSignpost

**INDEXING SPECIALISTS (UK) Ltd**

Issue No. 8

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Indexing Specialists, the team at work

## **Indexing Specialists (UK) Ltd**

The incorporation of Indexing Specialists in April this year was another stage in the continuing development of our company. It ensures our long term continuity and gives us the opportunity to further improve our services to the publishing industry. Our activity as indexers of books and journals continues unabated. Last year for instance we produced indexes for over 600 projects including three encyclopaedic works.  
*(continued on page 2...)*

### **What to look for in This Issue**

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## Focus on Indexers



### Helen Granger-Beven

Helen has worked part-time at Indexing Specialists since 1993. She has been a member of several teams working on major encyclopaedias. With a degree in Mathematics and Physics from Bristol University, she concentrates primarily on the sciences – although her wide interests have enabled her to take on other topics such as music and travel.

Helen taught for five years in New Zealand, then worked for several years as a systems analyst for a major financial company before taking an employment break when her children were young. Married with two teenage sons, Helen has appreciated the flexibility of indexing, allowing her to combine work with her family responsibilities.

Helen is a trustee of a charity supporting a school and children's home in India. Her local athletics club appreciates her help as a qualified judge of field events, she plays the oboe in a concert band and she is a keen gardener.

Helen often helps with the technical side of producing this newsletter.

(... continued from page 1)

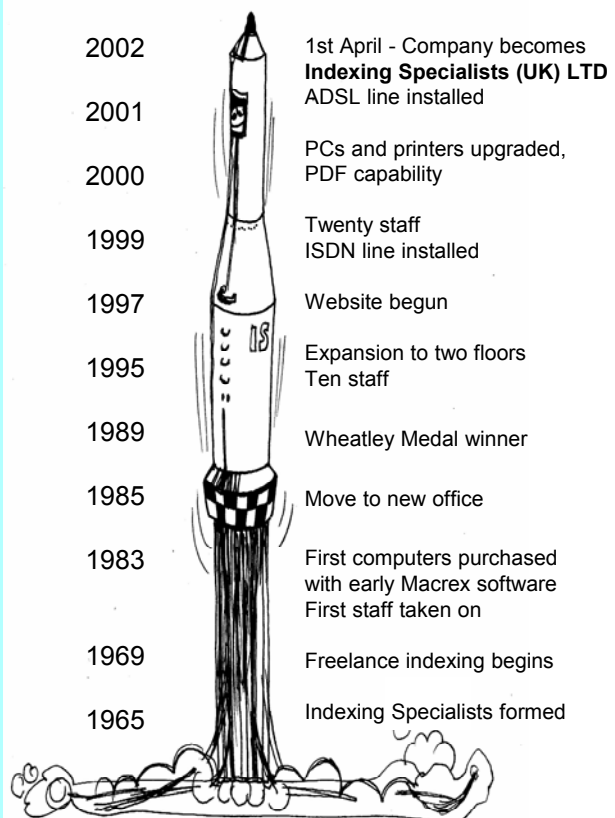
Our Company's board consists of Richard Raper as Managing Director and Chairman, Jim Maslen as Secretary and Financial Director, plus Shirley May, Mary Orchard and Terry Halliday as co-directors and senior indexers. With a staff of over 20 full and part time indexers we are well placed to take on all kinds of indexing projects.

We have used Macrex<sup>(TM)</sup> indexing software since 1983, and it has proved it's excellence. It is flexible to use and is regularly upgraded to reflect changes in technology.

In addition to indexing, we have designed and maintained several websites for other companies, building on the experience gained developing our own site over the last five years (see article on page 3).

The company has been in existence now for over 35 years, becoming unique in its own right. The timeline below shows some milestones along the way.

Richard Raper



## **Simple Individual Adaptable**

These words sum up our approach to website design and management. You can have a website that is user-friendly, tailored to your requirements, and stays up-to-date as your needs change.

You may want a shop-window for your products on an international on-line high street. You might want to keep your clients up-to-date with your latest products or news or you might want to provide an on-line resource for a specialist interest group. Whatever your needs, we offer a choice of suitable solutions at an affordable price.

***Your website is the bridge between you and the world.*** Careful design will enable your customers to obtain the information they need quickly and efficiently.

***Your website is as individual as you are.*** We work with you throughout the process of creation to make sure your site reflects your business and does what you want.

***Your website needs to change as you do.*** You may think that once created your site is finished. However, its effectiveness works best for you if it is maintained. We can do this for you at modest cost.

Visit our website at [www.indexing.co.uk](http://www.indexing.co.uk) or see other examples of our web design at [www.trevorpateman.co.uk](http://www.trevorpateman.co.uk) and [www.veneerworkshop.co.uk](http://www.veneerworkshop.co.uk)

For advice on an accessible, individual and adaptable website give us a call.

Andy Bicknell

## **Electronic indexes endorsed at meeting**

The subject of indexing was raised at a recent meeting of the XML UK Users Group held at Robinson College, Cambridge in May. The focus of the day was the question "Can the cost of XML be justified in publishing?".

Richard Raper, Managing Director of Indexing Specialists (UK) Ltd gave a presentation entitled "XML and Workflow of Indexing". (You can find it at [www.xmluk.org/public/robinson\\_2002.htm](http://www.xmluk.org/public/robinson_2002.htm)) At the conclusion of the presentations there was a question and answer session, at which one of the panel asked whether indexes were doomed with the advent of search engines. Mr Raper did not believe that this was the case and other panel members supported him. They strongly endorsed the value of electronic indexes saying that from the marketing point of view the addition of an electronic index was a good selling point.

### **Goodbye**

After eighteen months of excellent work as an indexer Simon Field has left us to pursue gene research with the Wellcome Trust Institute, Oxford. We wish him every success.

### **Just the Business**

We recently indexed *Business, the Ultimate Resource*, an encyclopaedia of over 2100 pages, published by Bloomsbury Press. This included articles from many of the top management gurus such as Peter Drucker, Charles Handy, Geert Hofstede, Anita Roddick and Fons Trompenaars. It certainly seems to live up to its title. The book was published in two separate editions for the UK and US markets with appropriate spelling and terminology changes to the book and index.

*The office is a-buzzing  
(An everyday event)  
With lots of little indexes  
All waiting to be sent  
They shuffle round the email  
And whistle round the net  
We hope that when they get there  
They are properly typeset  
Shirley May*



## **Legal hilarity**

A book of papers of the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law would not seem very likely to be a source of amusement, but while indexing certain sections I found myself chortling mightily.

Michael McAuley describes a debate by the Law Reform Commission of Utopia (an autonomous region) on the subject of testamentary freedom versus forced heirship. The rules of the debate include the following:-

*The debate will be in English. Speaking in American is acceptable but frowned upon. The use of Texan is prohibited.*

*The use of props is discouraged. National animals or mascots, such as kangaroos or beavers, will not be admitted to the room.*

In his own paper on the side of forced heirship Mr McAuley includes among valid reasons for disinheriting your children:- murder, bodily injury and selling a parent to pirates

I should think so too!

Milla Hills

**Editor for this edition: Milla Hills**

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## **Web Publishing**

A leading member of our indexing team, George Curzon, has an interest in matters esoteric. His wife Janet, who died eighteen months ago, had a mission to get astrology accepted not only as a tool for self development but as an ancient language, which she believed to be as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago.

Since her death George has been busy pursuing this goal by publishing on the World Wide Web, for free download, four volumes on esoteric symbolism. The books were written by the late John Robertson, an engineer and Doctor of Divinity. The first volume is called the Aquarian Bible and using symbolism and correspondences makes a synthesis of major world religions. The work can be accessed from:

<http://members.aol.com/maattxts/index.htm>

Alternatively, articles which were published in Diamond Fire (USA magazine) and give an overview of the contents of the four volumes, can be viewed/downloaded from:

<http://members.aol.com/esotericsymbols/Index.htm>

## **Last Word**

The meticulous index ... was at the heart of the successful struggle against ciphers.

(from *Code Breakers, The Inside Story of Bletchley Park*, F.H. Hinsley and A. Stripp)