

## PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### AI (artificial intelligence) tools and implications

The use of AI in the publishing industry and issues with generative AI in indexing work

*George Walkley and Tanya Izzard*

Based on training and consulting engagements with a broad range of publishers, in the first half of this session George Walkley will provide an overview of the latest developments in the AI landscape, how publishers are using AI today, and how they can achieve a balance between the potential of AI and the interests of creative stakeholders.

In the second half of the session, Tanya Izzard will examine the capacity for generative AI chatbots to help with indexing-related tasks such as summarising and keyword extraction, and look at how chatbots approach the task of indexing a short public-domain text. The text used will be Jane Austen's *A History of England*, available at <https://archive.org/details/jane-austens-history-of-england>. It will also cover the issues and problems with the use of AI for indexing work, including legal factors, accuracy and reliability, and environmental and ethical considerations.



**George Walkley** is an independent strategy consultant and expert in artificial intelligence in publishing. Working with the Independent Publishers Guild, he has delivered training on AI to delegates from more than 230 publishers worldwide, across trade, children's, professional and academic segments. Prior to establishing his consulting practice in 2020, George spent 15 years at Hachette UK, where he held senior roles in digital, strategy and marketing. He is also an experienced non-executive director and startup advisor, and a doctoral candidate at Bristol Business School.

Website: [www.georgewalkley.com](http://www.georgewalkley.com)



**Tanya Izzard** has been indexing full-time since 2017, since achieving Accreditation by the Society of Indexers; she became an Advanced Professional member in 2019. She specialises in indexing academic books in the humanities and in embedded indexing. Her qualifications include a PhD in English Literature, an MA in Modernism and a BA (Hons) in German. She came to indexing after a career in higher education administration. She is the Marketing Director for the Society and a member of the Training Course Committee. Her website and blog is at [tanyaizzard.co.uk](http://tanyaizzard.co.uk). She is on X/Twitter (@tanya\_izzard), LinkedIn and Bluesky (@tanyaizzard.bsky.social).

Email: [tanya@tanyaizzard.co.uk](mailto:tanya@tanyaizzard.co.uk)

Website: [tanyaizzard.co.uk](http://tanyaizzard.co.uk)

## Software states of play

Overview of the current positions of the main dedicated indexing software programs

*Pierke Bosschieter and Stephen Ullstrom*

In this presentation, Pierke Bosschieter and Stephen Ullstrom will provide an overview of the most widely used dedicated indexing software programs and their pros and cons. The market for this type of software is currently undergoing significant changes. Pierke and Stephen will explore what these developments might mean for both novice and experienced indexers. Initially, their focus will be on the four main programs, but they will also address software designed for embedded indexing.

Following the recent untimely deaths of two indexing software developers, effects have been observed on the availability and maintenance of the software they created. Pierke and Stephen have attempted to engage with current developers regarding contingency planning. While this is a delicate and complex issue, they are uncertain of their success, but in this session they will share what they have discovered.



**Pierke Bosschieter** has been indexing since 2005. She specialises in scholarly books on the three Abrahamic religions and Middle Eastern studies. She jointly received the Wheatley Medal in 2011 for a large encyclopaedia, on which she worked with two other Dutch indexers. She is one of the coordinators of ICRIS (International Committee of Representatives of Indexing Societies) and on the editorial board of *The Indexer*. A driving force behind NIN (Nederlands Indexers Netwerk/Netherlands Indexers Network), she also mentors beginning indexers and tries to bring awareness of indexing to the Dutch publishing industry. She lives in the northern part of the Netherlands.

Website: [www.isbnindex.nl](http://www.isbnindex.nl)



**Stephen Ullstrom** has been indexing since 2011, and a freelancer and member of the Indexing Society of Canada/Société canadienne d'indexation (ISC/SCI) since 2012. He is a two-time award-winning indexer, having received the Purple Pen Award from the Institute of Certified Indexers in 2014 and the Ewart–Daveluy Award from ISC/SCI in 2021. He also previously served on the ISC/SCI executive for six years and continues to be active in the Society. Stephen is the author of *Book indexing: a step-by-step guide*, published in 2023, and also writes the *Indexing Matters* newsletter and blog. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Website: [www.stephenullstrom.com](http://www.stephenullstrom.com)

## *The Frankfurt Kabuff* as creative publishing critique

A playful critical edition and novella on the Frankfurt Book Fair and its unusual index

*Beth Driscoll, Claire Squires and Paula Clarke Bain*

‘A Kabuff is a cupboard, a cobwebby cupboard where things are hidden.’

*The Frankfurt Kabuff* is a comic erotic thriller set at the Frankfurt Book Fair, originally self-published under the pseudonym Blaire Squiscoll. With *The Frankfurt Kabuff Critical Edition (FKCE)*, Blaire Squiscoll was revealed as the pen name of Beth Driscoll and Claire Squires, who created the novella in the midst of autoethnographic fieldwork. *The FKCE* is an experimental, playful work offering new perspectives on the publishing industry.

In this session, Beth and Claire will first cover the background of the novella and its creative critical edition. They invited Paula Clarke Bain to create an index to suit this expanded edition, including the indexing of the (now annotated) novella, critical essays and various assemblages. Paula will detail her indexing process, including liaison with the authors, publisher and typesetter to create the desired effects in index content and form. The presenters will further highlight how the index was used for marketing and the book launch, and the role of satire and their shared use of humour. This project provides novel examples of the indexing of fictional and unusual works, effective author–indexer–publisher liaison, and continuing the spirit of a text through to its shadowy back pages.



**Beth Driscoll** (left) is Associate Professor in Publishing and Communications at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and **Claire Squires** (right) is Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland, and Director of the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities. As Blaire Squisroll, they are the author of the creative critical erotic thriller about contemporary publishing, *The Frankfurt Kabuff* (Kabuff Books, 2019). Their joint publications under their own names include *The Frankfurt Book Fair and Bestseller Business* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) and *The Frankfurt Kabuff Critical Edition* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2023), as well as articles addressing topics

including book festivals, print and digital materiality in books, and sexual harassment in the publishing industry.

Emails: [driscoll@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:driscoll@unimelb.edu.au) / [claire.squires@stir.ac.uk](mailto:claire.squires@stir.ac.uk)

Twitter/X: [@Beth\\_driscoll](https://twitter.com/Beth_driscoll) / [@ClaireSquires](https://twitter.com/ClaireSquires) / [@BlairSquisroll](https://twitter.com/BlairSquisroll)

Ullapoolism website: <https://ullapoolism.wordpress.com>

Publisher web page: [www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Books/T/The-Frankfurt-Kabuff-Critical-Edition](http://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Books/T/The-Frankfurt-Kabuff-Critical-Edition)



**Paula Clarke Bain** is the Vice-Chair and Conference Director on the Executive Board of the Society of Indexers and she has been a Fellow of SI since 2023. She is also an Advanced Professional Member of CIEP (Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading). She has worked as a full-time UK editorial freelancer for over two decades, most enjoying biography, comedy, film, literature and music books, plus creating unusual indexes for different types of texts. She also enjoys regularly solving and occasionally setting cryptic crosswords. Her website and indexing blog is at [baindex.org](http://baindex.org) and she can be located easily on social media (Bluesky, LinkedIn, Mastodon, X/Twitter) when not in the shadows.

Email: [pcbain@baindex.org](mailto:pcbain@baindex.org)

Website: [www.baindex.org](http://www.baindex.org)

## Wikipedians: improving online information about indexing

How indexers can play a role in editing Wikipedia pages related to indexing

*Mary Coe (Editor of The Indexer)*



The [Library and Information Science Wiki Project](#) is a new opportunity for indexers to contribute to online information about their profession. During this session, you will learn more about the project and how to get involved with editing in Wikipedia and Wikidata. Audience participation is welcome, so if you have worked on Wikimedia platforms before, feel free to join in the discussion.

**Mary Coe** is Wikimedian in Residence at the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI). She has been a professional indexer for over 30 years and is Editor of *The Indexer*. Mary is also an Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Information and Communication Studies at Charles Sturt University, where she takes every opportunity to promote indexing to library science students.

Email: [editor@theindexer.org](mailto:editor@theindexer.org)

## SI and international societies now and next

New developments in the SI CPD programme plus updates from the international indexing community

*Melanie Gee (SI) and Ruth Martin (SI) plus representatives from the international indexing community*

In their presentation on the SI's professional development programme, Mel and Ruth will be covering the new guidelines for the CPD points system, the new rules for Advanced Professional status, the Mentoring Scheme and future plans for workshops, webinars, etc.

The session will conclude with updates from representatives of the other indexing societies attending the conference and opportunities for general discussion.



**Ruth Martin** is the New Professionals Director on the Society of Indexers Executive Board and a member of the CPD Committee. She also hosts the monthly Coffee Morning Zoom meetings (devised by Mel Gee) that are open to SI and CIEP members. Ruth has been indexing professionally since 2018, after working as a law librarian and an information manager for a healthcare publisher.

Email: [ruthmartinindexing@outlook.com](mailto:ruthmartinindexing@outlook.com)

Website: [www.ruthmartinindexing.com](http://www.ruthmartinindexing.com)



**Melanie Gee** is CPD Director on the Society of Indexers Executive Board and Chair of the CPD Committee. She has been indexing full-time since 2018, after working in patent examining, ecological records management, and academic research in health and wellbeing.

Email: [melanie@wordsandindexes.co.uk](mailto:melanie@wordsandindexes.co.uk)

Website: [www.wordsandindexes.co.uk/](http://www.wordsandindexes.co.uk/)

## DISCUSSION BREAKOUT ROOMS

There will be a choice of pre-booked breakout rooms on both days (booking will open on Monday 2 September on a first-come, first-served basis). All sessions are suitable for indexers with varying levels of experience, unless otherwise stated.

- Ask the new professionals (*Leader: Ruth Martin, SI, Wednesday only*)  
For indexing students to ask questions and new indexers to share answers.
- Client relations (*Leader: Ann Hudson, SI*)  
Indexers' thoughts on various aspects of working with authors and publishers.
- Embedded indexing (*Leader: Wendy Baskett, SI, Wednesday only*)  
Sharing tips and experience from working with embedded indexing projects.
- Embedded indexing and linking (*Leader: Barry Campbell, SI, Thursday only*)  
Sharing experience from work on embedded indexing and linking projects (more suitable for those with existing embedding knowledge).
- Multi-author works (*Leader: Ann Kingdom, SI, Thursday only*)  
Considering the challenges and issues of indexing texts with multiple authors.
- Peer review (*Leader: Alan Rutter, SI*)  
Discussion based on a peer-review exercise on a short publication in the Penguin Modern Classics Series (Wendell Berry, *Why I am not going to buy a computer*), which participants will complete prior to the conference. Text to be supplied by post to UK participants. (Text is also available on Kindle, but obviously without page numbers.)
- Free chat (*Leader: Rachel Gee, SI (Wednesday); Ruth Ellis, SI (Thursday)*)  
An opportunity to talk with your colleagues about anything indexing related.