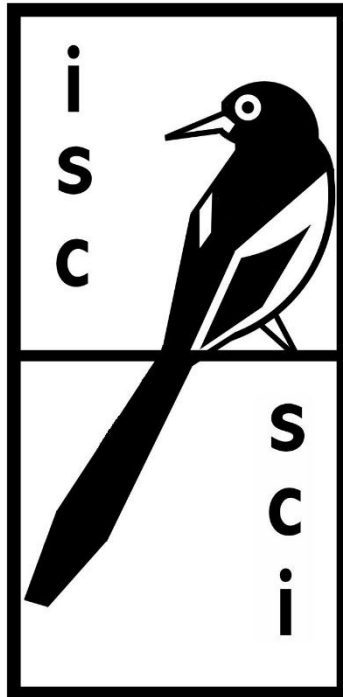Location! Location! Location!

Vancouver, BC
May 30-31, 2025

ISC/SCI Conference 2025 Program

May 30–31, 2025

Timetable (Full details inside!)

Thursday, May 29. Fireside Chat in Orca Lounge, all others in Orca Room.

Conference Meeting/Setup	9:00
ISC/SCI Board Meeting	10:00
Lunch	1:00
Meeting for ICRIS Representatives	2:00
Fireside Chat	4:00
Stitch Circle	4:00
Informal Meet & Greet	5:30
Dinner at a Local Restaurant	7:00

Friday, May 30. All Sessions, Breaks, Lunch, and AGM in Isabel MacInnes Room.

Welcome	8:45
"X-Men United, Indexers Divided?" Jolanta Komornicka, Devon Thomas, Pilar Wyman, Michele Combs, Gina Guilinger	9:05
Break	10:05
"'X' Marks the Spot," Michelle Guiliano	10:20
Comments	11:20
Lunch	11:30
Keynote: Locating Respect and Accuracy in Indexing with *Elements of Indigenous Style*, Rhonda Kronyk	12:30
Break and Chat with UBC Press Editors	1:30
"What Not to Index," Emma Warnken Johnson	2:00
Break	2:45
AGM	3:00
Banquet – Place of Many Trees	6:00

Saturday, May 31, 2025. All Sessions, Breaks, and Lunch in Isabel MacInnes Room.

Welcome	9:00
"AI," Elizabeth Bartmess	9:10
Break	10:10
"Pain Location Meets Remediation," Natalie Grant	10:20
Comments	11:20
Lunch	11:30
"B.C. Hansard Index," Kim Christie	12:30
Break	1:30
"Large, Larger, Largest," Caroline Diepeveen	1:40
Break	2:10
"Indexing Conundrums," Max McMaster	2:20
Door Prize Finale	3:20
Final Remarks	3:30

Sunday, June 1, 2025. Stephen's Session will be in the Orca Room.

Optional Outing to Museum of Anthropology	TBD AM
"Every Entry in Its Place," Stephen Ullstrom	1:30

Thursday, May 29, 2025

All events in the Orca Room, except Fireside Chat, which is in the Orca Room Lounge.

9:00 – 10:00	**Conference Meeting/Setup**
10:00 – 1:00	**ISC/SCI Board Meeting**
1:00 – 2:00	**Lunch for ISC/SCI Board, ICRIS Members, and Conference Committee**
2:00-3:30	**Meeting for ICRIS Representatives**
4:00 – 5:30	**Fireside Chat**

You know what the metatopic is. You've discovered your favourite indexing software. You even have a purple pen for those times an indexer just needs to mark-up on paper. But what about all the other aspects of indexing that don't get covered in the coursework and books? How do you land that first client? How do you set your rates? How do you manage your time?

Alexandra Peace is ready to answer all these questions and more! Join her for a Fireside Chat that will answer all your burning questions about launching your indexing career (and I'm pretty sure she'll answer indexing questions too!). Separate registration is required.
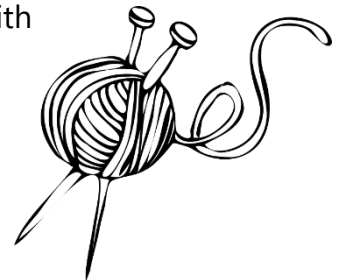
This session is for anyone who considers themselves new to indexing: current students, recent students, indexers who've only completed a handful of projects, and those considering indexing for the first time but aren't quite sure what it's all about.

Alexandra Peace edits, proofreads, and indexes in rural Nova Scotia within a strong national and international network of colleagues. Alexandra indexes scholarly and trade books, edits trade books, and teaches indexing at the Chang School, Toronto Metropolitan University. She has a science degree from McMaster University from a long time ago. Alexandra has won volunteer awards from both Editors Canada and ISC/SCI.

4:00 – 5:30   Stitch Circle

There's something about indexers that makes many of us take up crafting. Maybe it's our knack for tracing threads through the weft and weave of complex arguments. Maybe it's our willingness to sit with knotty problems until we've worked out the solutions. Maybe after a day of having our fingers dashing across keyboards, our hands still itch for something to do in the evenings. Whatever the reason, many of us knit, crotchet, cross-stitch, embroider, quilt, draw, and otherwise create amazing items—often while in Zoom meetings or around a conference table. Last year, during our virtual conference, we offered cross-stitch and colouring patterns, themed to ISC/SCI. This year we're doing one better. Not only do we have patterns for those with restless fingers, we will also have a Stitch Circle! Patterns, yarn, thread, and needles will all be available. **New crafters are welcome!** Whether you forgot your project at home, are in need of inspiration, have always been curious to learn, or just want to hang out with fellow indexers, the Stitch Circle is for you.

5:30 – 6:00   Informal Meet & Greet

After the Fireside Chat and Stitch Circle, continue the discussion with other indexers as we relax from our travels with some craft patterns and conversation. Bring along a coffee or tea and relax from your travels. This is an opportunity for newer indexers to meet indexers with a range of experience and make connections prior to the sessions getting underway on Friday. This way, you'll know someone you can sit with during lunch and begin making those all-important networking connections for your years to come as an indexer. For those of us who've been around a while, it's a chance to reconnect, put faces to names, and spend time with old friends.

7:00   Dinner

Join us for dinner! We'll meet at the Welcome Table at 7pm and walk to a local restaurant for dinner (or for a drink if the jet-lag's hitting). Let us know if you plan to join us so we can make a reservation.

Friday, May 30, 2025

All sessions, breaks, lunch, and AGM will take place in the Isabel MacInnes Room.

8:45 – 9:05   **Welcome**

9:05 – 10:05   **X-Men United, Indexers Divided? A Roundtable on Differing Approaches to Indexing the Same Text**
Jolanta Komornicka, Devon Thomas, Pilar Wyman, Michele Combs, Gina Guilinger

In this roundtable discussion, four indexers and the panel chair discuss their approach to indexing the same text. The conversation will look at how indexers address the various challenges and even humdrum decisions that arise in our work. The indexes will be made available to attendees in advance and questions from the floor are encouraged. Attendees are also welcome to try their hand at indexing the book (J. Andrew Deman's *The Claremont Run*) — the proofs will be on the conference website, available to those who have registered (thank you to University of Texas Press and Andrew Deman for letting us do this!). Attendees can also use the proofs to follow-along with the discussion.

Jolanta Komornicka is a professional freelance indexer specializing in the academic humanities and social sciences, as well as ttrpg manuals. They particularly love any kind of history book. http://closereadingie.com.

Devon Thomas has been a professional indexer since 2006, providing indexes in subjects including history, literary criticism, business, cookbooks, and education. http://www.devindexing.com/.

Pilar Wyman is a professional freelance medical indexer and indexing consultant. She is an ICI-certified indexer and has been involved in indexing since late 1983, writing indexes since 1990. http://www.wymanindexing.com/.

Michele Combs is a professional freelance indexer specializing in cookbooks, guidebooks, and newsletters, with subject focuses of arts and crafts, education, and history.
https://carpeindexum.com/welcome/indexing/.

Gina Guilinger is the owner of Weight of the Word Indexing Service, offering indexing services in a variety of subjects for trade and industry publications since 2011. Gina is a past president of the American Society for Indexing and lives in Colorado with her teenage daughter.

10:05 – 10:20 **Break**

10:20 – 11:20 **"X" Marks the Spot: Uncovering the Right Rate for your Indexing Services**
Michelle Guiliano

Whether you are a newish or experienced indexer, deciding what to charge a client for an indexing project can be challenging. There are many moving parts to consider. Having a system to streamline the rate-setting process can take away any second-guessing and the fear of missing out on the job. My advice? Let the numbers speak for themselves.

Although **Michelle Guiliano**'s background is in the sciences, she finds herself to be more of a generalist—equally comfortable indexing books on disco or business leadership. Guiliano has grown her passion for indexing into related ventures, including the Freelance Indexer Exchange podcast. Find out more at www.linebylineindexing.com.

11:20 – 11:30 **Comments**

11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch**

12:30 – 1:30   **Keynote: Locating Respect and Accuracy in Indexing with *Elements of Indigenous Style***
Rhonda Kronyk

Indexing is all about helping readers find information—so how can indexers ensure they are accurately and respectfully locating Indigenous content? Rhonda Kronyk will demonstrate why the second edition of *Elements of Indigenous Style* is an essential resource for indexers working with books by or about Indigenous Peoples. From determining appropriate names and spellings to understanding interconnected cultural concepts, *Elements* provides crucial guidance. But does its value extend beyond the technical aspects of indexing? Join Rhonda as she explores this intriguing question and considers how *Elements* can shape indexing practice in deeper ways.

UBC Bookstore will be onsite with copies for sale of *Elements of Indigenous Style, 2nd edition*, by Gregory Younging, edited by Warren Cariou, before and after the keynote presentation. All major credit cards accepted but not cash.

Rhonda Kronyk (she/her) is a settler/Tsay Keh Dene research, writing, and editing consultant. She is a founding member of the Indigenous Editors Association, and since 2018, Rhonda has been educating editors, writers, publishers and students on how to work with stories about Indigenous Peoples.

1:30 – 2:00   **Break and Chat with UBC Press Production Editors**

UBC Press is one of very few academic publishers who directly hire freelance indexers, rather than leaving it to the authors. Members of UBC Press's Production Editorial team will be on hand to answer your questions.

2:00 – 2:45   **What Not to Index: A Flow Chart for Passing Mentions**
Emma Warnken Johnson

Sometimes deciding what not to index is even harder than deciding what to include. The definition of a passing mention is subjective and flexible — as it should be — but it can lead to a lot of uncertainty and decision fatigue. During a particularly challenging project with lots of potential passing mentions, Emma created a flow chart to help her

make consistent decisions about what should be indexed and what should be left on the page. In this presentation, she'll talk about how and why she put together her flow chart and how she uses it in her indexing practice.

Emma Warnken Johnson *is a freelance academic editor and indexer, primarily working in the humanities and social sciences. In 2025, she'll reach her 15th anniversary in publishing and will (hopefully!) write her 50th index. Find Emma at* www.emmawjohnson.com*.*

2:45 – 3:00   **Break**

3:00 – 4:30   **AGM**

6:00 – 8:00   **Banquet**

Place of Many Trees

Bring your banquet ticket (in your welcome packet if you purchased one)!

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Saturday, May 31, 2025

All sessions, breaks, and lunch will take place in the Isabel MacInnes Room.

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome**

9:10 – 10:10 **AI: Where You Can Use It and Where You Shouldn't**
Elizabeth Bartmess

Elizabeth Bartmess will cover how AI (in the form of large language models like ChatGPT) works, why you should not use it to index content, and how AI is likely and unlikely to change in indexing-relevant ways in the near future. Bartmess will also discuss where and how indexers can use AI to improve their workflow, in particular writing macros and regular expressions to speed indexing.

Elizabeth Bartmess, winner of the 2023 Purple Pen for New Indexers, has extensive technical experience, she volunteers with the Open Cindex project, with ASI and she taught ASI's 2024 "Make Your Own Macros" online learning course. Her academic background is in social psychology and information science.

10:10 – 10:20 **Break**

10:20 – 11:20 **Pain Location Meets Remediation: Preventing "Tech Neck" and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**
Natalie Grant

Why does sitting cause so much trouble? Learn about common musculoskeletal conditions for those who sit a lot, remediation strategies, and specific exercises to increase your capacity, improve your mobility and interrupt those prolonged postures. Natalie will not only take you through these exercises, but will also provide video resources so you can continue them independently when you return to work.

Natalie Grant is a Registered Physiotherapist and an Assistant Professor of Teaching in UBC's Department of Physical Therapy. She is passionate about musculoskeletal rehabilitation, strength training, outdoor activities, patting neighbourhood cats, and baking treats for friends and family to enjoy.

11:20 – 11:30   **Comments**

11:30 – 12:30   **Lunch**

12:30 – 1:30   **B.C. Hansard Index: A Roadmap to Parliamentary Debates**
Kim Christie

Kim Christie will present an overview of indexing parliamentary transcripts for the provincial legislature. A PowerPoint presentation will guide the audience through the topics outlined. Time permitting, a short demo of the live B.C. Legislative Assembly's website will highlight Hansard index features available to the public.

Parliamentary indexing is a niche market. The skills needed include indexing multi-authored works, maintenance of extensive authority lists, working with a team of indexers on the same sessional indexes, year over year. The presenter will share some of the unique and interesting aspects of Hansard indexing work and answer questions.

Kim Christie has been the Index Team Lead for Hansard Services at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia since 2022. Previously a Hansard editor, she has a library degree and a background in cataloguing. She can be reached at Kim.Christie@leg.bc.ca.

1:30 – 1:40   **Break**

1:40 – 2:10   **Large, Larger, Largest: How to Handle Large and Complicated Indexing Assignments**
Caroline Diepeveen

This presentation will cover the process of handling very large indexing projects. Sub-topics will include the entire indexing process: from providing quotes, to organizing your work and keeping an overview, to cross referencing and editing, and finally invoicing.

The aim of the presentation is twofold: for those who have not worked on large indexing projects before, to enable them to decide for themselves whether taking on large projects is for them and for those who have experience with large indexing projects, to discuss and learn from each other's experiences.

Caroline Diepeveen has been a freelance indexer since 1998. Having started her indexing career when living in Scotland, she is now based in the Netherlands, where she was one of the founding members of NIN (the Netherlands Indexing Network). She is also a part-time politician, now serving in her 2nd term as a member of the Middelburg town council for the Dutch labour party. Email: cdiep@zeelandnet.nl.

2:10 – 2:20   **Break**

2:20 – 3:20   **Indexing Conundrums**
                         Max McMaster

Max McMaster will lead us through a number of those "what do I do now dilemmas" which plague all of us as indexers. The session will be deliberately interactive and designed to stretch the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the participants, bearing of course the audience for the given index in mind. Some of the examples will cover alphabetizing, so brush up on your alphabetization rules before the session.

Max McMaster is an Australian freelance book indexer, having compiled over 2900 indexes. He has won three ANZSI Medals and was an instructor for the University of California, Berkeley Extension indexing course from 2010-2022. Full details available at: www.masterindexing.com.

3:20 – 3:30   **Door Prize Finale**

3:30 – 3:40   **Final Remarks**

Sunday, June 1, 2025

TBD Morning   Optional Outing to Museum of Anthropology

MOA is committed to promoting awareness and understanding of culturally diverse ways of knowing the world through challenging and innovative programs and partnerships with Indigenous, local, and global communities.

1:30 – 4:30   Every Entry in Its Place: A Live Indexing Workshop
Stephen Ullstrom

Orca Room

Join Stephen Ullstrom in this interactive workshop as he indexes a trade book he has not previously read. Stephen will think aloud as he works, unpacking his decision making, this time with a greater emphasis on the editing process. Come ready to ask questions, pick up some tips and tricks, and see how one indexer puts theory into practice.

Stephen Ullstrom is an award-winning indexer living in Edmonton, AB. He is the author of Book Indexing: A Step-by-Step Guide *and the* Indexing Matters *newsletter.*

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