



Top Hat Word & Index

Dexter's Corner ~ The Official Newsletter of Top Hat Word & Index

Portland's National ASI Conference was a "Gas"

That sounded so early 20th Century, didn't it? "It was a gas!" Who in the heck says that anymore?

However, that would actually be a rather accurate portrayal of a hotel and series of conference rooms full of approximately 200 ASI (American Society for Indexing) members, if you can imagine that.

It was a fascinating peek into the industry. It's not exactly a party bunch, but I wouldn't consider it a nerdy bunch either. There's a definite camaraderie element to it, as veterans were there on their 30th conference...not kidding...and while the social aspect is always encouraged, everyone had a focus on getting to specific classes and lectures they'd signed up for. No "conference skippers" were at all evident as everyone was freelance, attending on their own dime.

While it cost a pretty penny, there was much value in attending. I plan on making it to Minneapolis next year. Hopefully once again it will be, well, a gas. ~P

Here comes a USDA summer!

Attending the Nat'l ASI conference, like the one that just took place in Portland, allows an indexer in an otherwise isolated industry the luxury of seeing what his peers are up to.

After attending conferences in several industries such as urban planning, housing, and solid waste, this annual conference for the nationwide indexing community proved to be the most valuable in terms of how the attendees are vested in it.

Attendees at an indexing conference aren't typically being sent by their employers for just another training endeavor. In an industry of solopreneurs, they're there to learn the latest ideas and methods in the industry. It's a matter of fundamental business survival.

That being said, I found that many of my peers participated in one of three distance learning courses: USDA, ASI, or Berkeley. At the end of April, I decided in the interest of diligence and extra training to enroll in the USDA course. I'll be chipping away at that this summer, along with other jobs and projects. ~P

Summer 2009 Edition!



So...um, who is Dexter again?

He can be hard to reach, but you may visit the [Meet Dexter](#) page to find out more about our "animated" newsletter editor. We'll leave you with a picture of his penny farthing. When visiting [Dexter's page](#), be sure to drop him a line! ~K



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