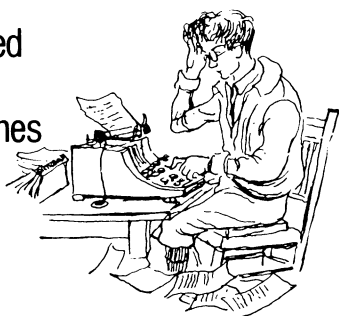


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Death – what to do about it

IN her *Practical guide to survival: preparing and coping with death*, Kate McAllister, a recent WAIT library studies graduate, provides a thorough guide to the practical aspects of death, funerals, property and wills.

Her booklet, published by the Council of Social Service of Western Australia, is aimed at residents in that state, but much of the information is of general application elsewhere. Considerable attention is given to different forms of burial and cremation, including do-it-yourself funerals. The legal aspects of the latter may, and probably do, vary from state to state.

The booklet also lists organisations which can help widows, widowers and bereaved families, and these are naturally limited to those established and operating in WA – many of them are of course operating in other states and a check of the telephone directory will confirm this. A final section deals with the less practical aspects of coping with a loss – one's feelings and the new life ahead.

This booklet is an excellent guide to the vital topic of death, useful not only for WA readers. Kate McAllister's *Practical guide*... was published by the Council of Social Service of WA in 1979 and costs \$1.00 (No ISBN).

Braille breakthrough

NATIONAL Braille Press in Boston, USA, is claiming a major breakthrough in braille printing. They have used the computerised compositor tapes of *National Geographic* to operate braille presses automatically.

NLS News, the publication of the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the

Blind and Physically Handicapped, May-June 1979, reports that the new technique will eliminate the time-consuming task of manual stereographing and will eventually mean that braille versions of magazines can be produced in one-fifth of the time required with traditional methods.

The April issue of *National Geographic* was ready in braille one month after the printed version. In time, there is no reason why the braille version of magazines should not appear at the same time as the print version. There is the possibility that books produced using compositor tapes can also be published quickly in braille. Some manual intervention is still necessary, but as the National Braille Press programs become more sophisticated, this will diminish. *NLS News* is available from the Service at 7000 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231. (ISSN 0160-9211).

NSW curriculum

THE first edition of *Guide and index to selected materials* has recently been issued by the Curriculum Branch of the NSW Department of Education. This publication, which has already been distributed to schools in the Metropolitan West and Western Regions, is a production of the Curriculum Information Project.

This trial project aims at providing teachers, curriculum consultants and educational administrators at all levels with access to a wide range of curriculum support material.

The 480 items in the first edition were collected in late 1979 by the project team, Marianne Broadbent and Hazel Vickers, with the assistance of Metropolitan West and Western Region personnel.

The *Guide and index* includes information about school level policies and programs, regional publications, unit outlines and units of work, curriculum statements and newsletters, professional association publications, discussion and conference papers and reports of innovative programs from all parts of Australia.

At present many of the items are available to staff in the two regions mentioned, but other regions are gradually being phased into the project. A limited number of copies of the *Guide and index* are available to organisations such as teacher education institutions and schools of librarianship.

Further information can be obtained from Marianne Broadbent, Co-ordinator, Curriculum Information Project, Directorate of Studies, NSW Department of Education, PO Box 33, Sydney NSW 2001, phone (02) 240 8716.

LC gets reading machine

A KURZWEIL Reading Machine, which translates print into synthesised speech, has been installed at the Library of Congress.

The Kurzweil electronically scans print material placed face down on a glass plate and feeds the images into a minicomputer which recognises each letter, groups the letters into words, computes pronunciation and stress and produces synthetic speech.

Controls of the machine enable a trained user to speed up or slow down the reading rate, to have previous lines repeated, to spell out obscure words or to mark certain words or phrases for future reference.

The acquisition of the Kurzweil machine is reported in the January-February 1980 issue of *News* from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and a general article on the machine appears in the January 1980 issue of *Wilson library bulletin*. Also reported in the same issue of *News* are a talking computer terminal and the beginning

of an intensive braille study.

News is available from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542. (ISSN 0160 9211).

Nuclear and other issues

THE Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament (AICD) has as a principal aim the provision of information warning the public of the dangers of nuclear warfare and armaments. This is an area of great concern to many librarians and library users, and that is why I think it worthwhile to draw your attention to the AICD's irregular *Nuclear countdown: A journal of Pacific resistance*. It is unashamedly anti-nuclear without being rabid. It costs \$1.50 per issue from AICD, PO Box A243, Sydney South, NSW 2000. (No ISSN).

Some Hope

THE fourth in the series 'Australian bibliographies' published by the Oxford University Press is Joy W. Hooton's *A.D. Hope*. This very full bibliography lists some 2500 items, ranging from Hope's early poems and prose writings, published mainly in student magazines, to *Spätlese* which appeared in *A Late picking* in 1975. Also included are some of Hope's unpublished works, and many works about the poet. Two indexes are provided: one to the works of Hope and the other to editors, reviewers and illustrators. *A.D. Hope*, by Joy W. Hooton, published by the Oxford University Press, is excellent value at \$5.95. (ISBN 0 19 550523 9).

Paper permanence

A REVISED edition of *Library test procedures*, by George M. Cunha, has been published by the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI). Since the publication of the first edition in 1972, a number of new tests for paper permanence have emerged, and those most suitable in a library environment are selected and reviewed in Cunha's work. Fifty-four procedures are listed and described in this loose-leaf volume. Cunha will be familiar to many as the author of *Conservation of library materials* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1971-72). *Library test procedures* costs US\$24.00 and is available from TAPPI at 1 Dunwoody Park, Atlanta, Georgia 30338, USA. □

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