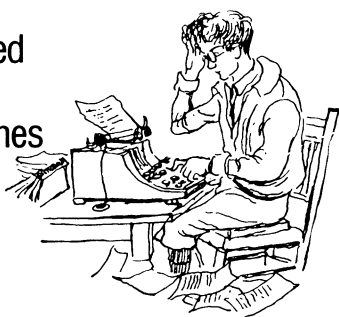


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Both sides of the box

TV probe is an interesting attempt to foster reasoned argument from all sides of the mine-strewn topic of Australian television.

The editor of *TV probe* is Henry Mayer, who in his preface to the first, free issue, stoutly asserts the need for such a magazine to render the current conflicts more constructive.

In a gesture which may be interpreted, or misinterpreted as appeasement, the first issue of *TV probe* has been financed by a grant from the Children's Television Advisory Board of the Nine Network.

It makes for very informative reading, as it focuses upon one of the more vexed areas of television: children's programming. The contributors deal with children's perceptions of heroes and heroines, with their viewing habits, their part in advertising strategy, what they think about children's programs, the 'C' classification and much more.

Contributions have come from academics, industry workers, journalists, concerned public interest groups, a clergyman and even Tony Staley. An appendix lists contacts in television stations who are involved in children's programs.

TV probe is available from Box 377, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney Union, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, phone (02) 660 6036. (No ISSN.)

Rupert bares his teeth

RUPERT, the organisation which monitors thorny issues such as freedom of information and government accountability, has joined forces with Monitor News Service to create National Watchdog, a public interest information service.

As well as producing the fortnightly *National watchdog* newsletter (\$20.00 per year, ISSN 0159-3757), this new body, centred around the Federal Parliamentary press gallery, offers a rent-a-lobbyist service. \$30.00 per half day will provide you with some of the following services: getting questions asked in Parliament, monitoring the performance of any Federal MP's on any issue, keeping you informed of inquiries and debates relevant to your issues, or providing advice on the timing and content of news releases.

Watchdog's purpose is stated as representing 'views that would otherwise go unheard, but which don't involve sectional views on religion, race or party politics'. Further information about Watchdog and subscriptions to the newsletter are available from PO Box 346, Dickson, ACT 2602.

Impeccable references

IF you are looking for a reference book review published in the period October 1977 to September 1978, you will find *Reference sources, 1979*, edited by Linda Mark, a good place to start.

This work provides indexing to all reference book reviews in about 270 journals

(including *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* and the *Australian Library Journal*) published between those dates.

Most of the materials reviewed are English-language works published in the United States, but the scope of the work is not restricted to that category. In addition, notes on many reference books sent to Pierian Press, the publishers of *Reference sources*, have been included.

Arrangement is by main entry, with cross references from title, editor etc. There are two subject indexes - one broad and the other as specific as the Library of Congress Subject Headings allow. There is also a classified subject approach by Dewey. Each entry contains excerpts from reviews or brief notes by the compiler and cites the journal in which reviews have appeared.

Reference sources, 1979 was published earlier this year by Pierian Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and costs US\$48.00 (ISBN 0 87650 117 X). The 1977 and 1978 volumes are still available, as are the predecessors of this work, entitled *Reference book review index 1970-72* and *1973-75*. This set makes a useful adjunct to the standard reference guides by Walford and Sheehy, for selection and evaluation of reference material.

Another excellent source of evaluative material on reference books is the 13th *Reference and subscription books reviews* compilation, published this year by the American Library Association.

This edition includes 427 reviews and notes published between September 1978 and July 1979 in *Booklist*. The reviews are reprinted in their entirety and are the products of a very distinguished group of reviewers.

As an appendix there is an excellent review article on purchasing an encyclopaedia, together with reprinted comments on encyclopaedias published during the period covered. A shorter article covers desk dictionaries.

Reference and subscription books reviews 1978-1979 is published by the American Library Association and costs US\$20.00. (ISBN 0 8389 3237 1). Earlier issues of this work are also available, back to 1968.

What a relief

A NEW Japanese process for making raised-line illustrations may prove useful for the world's visually handicapped. The process, described in a recent issue of *News* from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, can produce raised-relief pictures from photographs and printed illustrations.

It is simple, fast and 'relatively inexpensive'. A chemically treated paper picks up and raises images from printed matter. Two adapted photocopiers are used to transfer the images to the copy paper. The height of the raised illustrations depends on the intensity of the print image: white comes out flat, black is up to three times higher than a braille dot and greys are somewhere in between.

The process may find application in braille magazine production or in improving current methods of embossing for materials containing maps, charts and diagrams.

NEWS is published by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542. (ISSN 0160-9211).

How many books in Bourke?

OR how much turnover in Taree? Or per capita expenditure in Parramatta? These and other factual questions can be answered by *Public library statistics*, which is published each year by the Public Libraries Division of the State Library of New South Wales.

These statistics, which formerly were included in the annual report of the Library Council of NSW, cover metropolitan and country libraries in NSW. Details are given, library service by library service, of population, expenditure, bookstock, acquisitions, discards, borrowers, circulation, staff and various ratios between these figures. *Public library statistics* is available from the Public Libraries Division, 8th Level, CAGA Centre, 8-18 Bent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. (No ISSN or ISBN).

Free - \$10 per year

FREE is a Canadian newsletter which lists and evaluates a selection of free materials and services available in Canada and the United States. Each item has been 'selected and evaluated by teachers and librarians'.

A recent issue which I saw listed items on the Netherlands, mushrooms, softball, wildlife (a lot on that topic), Norway, food terminology and megavitamin therapy.

FREE is not itself free: it costs C\$10.00 per year (six issues). It is published by Dyad Services, PO Box 4696, Station C, London, Ontario, N5W 5L7. (ISSN 0708-4625). □

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