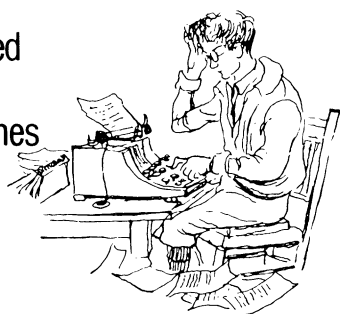


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Oracle comes true

THE advanced computerised library system being jointly developed by the State Library of Queensland and the State Government Insurance Office revels in the acronym ORACLE (Online Retrieval of Acquisitions, Cataloguing and Circulation Details for Library Enquiries).

The recent leaflet *Introducing Oracle* outlines the theory of the system and its advantages over manual systems, and you can keep in touch with the latest developments by reading *Oracle newsletter*. Both are available from the Systems Co-ordinator, State Library of Queensland, William Street, Brisbane Qld 4000.

Incidentally, I understood that the information provided at the Oracle was often in the form of a riddle or an ambiguous statement: I'm sure the Brisbane venturers are not being too literal in their use of the term.

Those requiring fuller information on ORACLE may find the 53-page booklet *Introducing Oracle: library processing in a multi-user environment* interesting. This is available on limited distribution, also from the State Library of Queensland. (ISBN 0 7242 0586 1).

AESIS

THE Australian Earth Sciences Information System (AESIS) is the Australian national data base for earth sciences, developed by the Australian Mineral Foundation in conjunction with a wide range of other Australian organisations, including companies, government departments and the National Library.

AESIS covers the full range of subject areas, from aerial surveys to water resources, taking in on the way such diverse topics as blasting, energy, historical geology, marine mining, mineral exploration, pollution, seismology and wastes. AESIS is available for searching on CSIRONET, and is also published in printed form as *AESIS quarterly*. It will also become available on AUSINET this year.

Each issue of this includes citations input to the system during the preceding quarter, and has a subject, locality, author, map reference, mine/deposit name and stratigraphic index. A cumulative index for the year is included in each December issue. A progressive cumulation, sorted into main author order, is produced separately on microfiche and comes with the December issue.

Subscriptions to *AESIS quarterly* are \$85.00 per year, including the *AESIS cumulation* on microfiche. (ISSN 0313-704X).

Occasional special lists are also published by the Australian Mineral Foundation. Two I have seen are *Uranium: a special list of references from AESIS 1976-1978* (Special list no 1A; 51 pages, 366 citations, \$20.00) and *Gold: a special list of references from AESIS 1976-June 1978*. (Special list no 2; 39 pages, 243 citations, \$20.00). These publications, or further information, are available from the Manager, Information Services, Australian

Mineral Foundation, PO Box 97, Glenside, SA 5065 (phone (08) 79 7821).

Books for pleasure

READ AND FIND OUT is the title of two booklets published by the National Book League which list 'information books' for school-age children. Revised editions of both, for the six to nine and nine to 13 age range, appeared last year. All 140-odd items in each booklet were selected on the basis of overall quality and accuracy, and not least of all, originality.

In her introduction to *Read and find out: information books 6-9*, the compiler Barbara Sherrard Smith comments that the works chosen are 'likely to open new horizons, provide new interests and above all give great pleasure'. All the items listed were in print in Britain at the time of publication of the booklets, and prices and basic bibliographical details are provided. There are five or six lines of annotation for each item and a list of publishers' addresses is appended to each booklet.

Barbara Sherrard Smith's *Read and find out: information books 6-9* (ISBN 0 85353 313 X) and *Read and find out: information books 9-13* (ISBN 0 85353 314 8) are published by the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BB and each cost 90p (60p to members of the League).

What's what in Tas

A SECOND edition of the State Library of Tasmania's *Service directory* was published in July 1979. This attractively-produced 42-page directory lists the services available at the State Library and its satellites, including government department libraries and regional libraries. Names of personnel, phone numbers, addresses and times of opening or availability are also indicated. The *Service directory* costs \$3.00 post paid and is available from the State Library of Tasmania, 91 Murray Street, Hobart, Tas 7000. (ISSN 0155-0268).

Words, words, words

25,000 word-related works are listed in the second edition of *Dictionaries, encyclopedias and other word-related books*, published by Gale Research in 1979. This work consists of reproductions of Library of Congress catalogue cards, arranged by LC classification. Included are compilations of acronyms, Americanisms, colloquialisms, etymologies, glossaries, idioms and expressions.

Volume one contains entries for works which have English as at least one of their languages; volume two contains references to non-English materials. There are no author or title indexes, and one's subject approach, if familiar with the LC classification, is by a brief key word index to the classification. Not a work to refer to in haste, but certainly useful in its idiosyncratic way.

Dictionaries, encyclopedias and other word-related books is published by Gale and costs US\$112.00 the two volume set (ISBN 0 8103 1131 3). Volume 1, *English and polyglot books* (ISBN 0 8103 1129 1) and volume 2, *Non-English books* (ISBN 0 8103 1130 5) are available separately at US\$48.00 and US\$64.00 respectively. These works are distributed in Australia by the James Bennett Group.

Nunn and Moon

BRENDA MOON'S *Periodicals for South-East Asian Studies* is a union catalogue of holdings in British and selected European libraries. It attempts to include all periodicals, both current and extinct, of Asian or East Asian interest considered to be of 'substantial value'

for South-East Asian studies.

The countries covered are Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor and Vietnam. Some materials published in or about Assam, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia and Polynesia are also included.

The author is quick to point out that this work is complementary to G. Raymond Nunn's *Southeast Asian periodicals: an international union list* (London: Mansell, 1977). Nunn lists holdings in the United States and in South-East Asian libraries, and is selective in his British and European coverage.

Moon aims at comprehensive British coverage and excludes holdings in US and South-East Asian institutions. Nunn lists only periodicals published in South-East Asia; Moon includes periodicals relating to South-East Asia wherever published. Moon's nicely-produced union list is arranged alphabetically by main entry, with plenty of references and notes on changes of title.

The work unfortunately suffers from appendicitis — there are 50 pages of late entries, and it's a pity that they are not interfiled with the main sequence. *Periodicals for South-East Asian Studies* is published in London by Mansell and costs £30.00. (ISBN 0 7201 0730 X).

Salty stuff

THE great circle is a new journal devoted to all aspects of maritime history. As it is published by the Australian Association for Maritime History, one expects an emphasis on Australian topics perhaps, but it is much broader in scope.

Articles in vol 1 no 2 (October 1979), for example, deal with the Indian Ocean and South China Sea between 1600 and 1650, the geography of smuggling in the western Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Canada Shipping Project. Items of particular interest to librarians are a survey of the W.L. Crowther Library at the State Library of Tasmania, book reviews and a bibliography of recent publications on maritime history.

The great circle is a substantial (80-plus pages per issue) and well-produced journal. It appears twice yearly and is available for a subscription of \$15.00 from Mr Vaughan Evans, Honorary Secretary, Australian Association for Maritime History, c/o Box 4149 GPO, Sydney, NSW 2001. (ISSN 0156-8698).

Indian Ocean holdings

TO coincide with the International Conference on Indian Ocean Studies held in Perth in August 1979, the National Library of Australia published *The Indian Ocean*, which is a select guide to material on that topic in the National Library.

In 200 pages the work deals with some 600 items, covering the history, geography and social aspects of the area, as well as listing scientific, pictorial and manuscript works. Maps and charts of the Ocean are also listed.

It is emphasised that only a selection of material is shown, and that the bibliography concentrates on the Ocean itself, islands in the Ocean and littoral states 'in relation to the Ocean, with passing reference only to their internal affairs'. For more detailed coverage of littoral states the reader is referred to other NLA publications.

There is certainly a wealth of material even here, although it would have been much more accessible if a subject index had been provided — a three-page guide to the arrangement of the bibliography must suffice. There is a detailed personal name index. *The Indian Ocean* is available from the Sales and Subscriptions Unit and costs \$22.50. (ISBN 0 612 99150 2). □