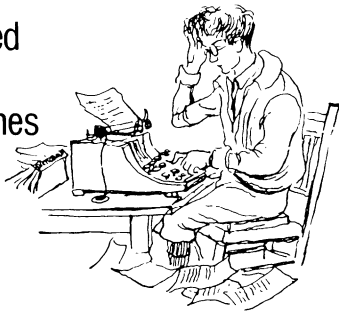


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Glorious graphics

One of the outstanding things about the recent launch of the ACI (Australian Consolidated Industries) ORBIT service, other than the quality of the champagne and nibbles, was the publicity booklet *AUSINET, QUE and ORBIT*. The surrealistic illustrations, which are incidentally available separately as posters, are eye-catching and larded with symbolism.

AUSINET (the Australian Information Network), now 'owned' by ACI Computer Services, most readers will know of. QUE is essentially the ACICS private file service for those with the inclination and the wherewithal to create and control their own private computerised information files.

ORBIT, which is the online information retrieval service of the American System Development Corporation, figures in the ACI booklet because ACI is now the Australasian sales representative for this service.

As well as offering training and advice for ORBIT users, ACI will also offer local offline print facilities for ORBIT searchers. This feature could mean saving a week in obtaining extensive offline printouts of search results.

Copies of the booklet *AUSINET, QUE and ORBIT* are available from ACI Computer Services, PO Box 42, Clayton, Vic 3168, or through your local ACICS office. It's worth getting just for the pictures.

A promising start

Only a day before I came across the first issue of this publication, a colleague and I were bemoaning the coverage of business topics in Australian indexing services, and she sighed 'Wouldn't it be nice if someone started an Australian business index!' Someone just did.

Entitled, originally, *The Australian business index* began in February 1981 and is published monthly. It indexes around 14 business journals and 'serious' newspapers (wider coverage is promised in future issues) ranging from *The Australian* to the *Australian Stock Exchange Journal*.

Articles are indexed by company name and under subject and country or state headings. Only Australian publications are indexed, but not only Australian topics, so you can discover, for example, that Mr Obote is wooing foreign cash, and can wonder, along with the *Australian Financial Review*, whether Mrs Thatcher's budget will be a Band-aid one.

Coverage is selective — the index does not cover daily market reports, for instance, but is of course much wider than that of any other current Australian indexing service for this subject area. No indication is given whether the index will cumulate (annually, one hopes), or what subject authority list is used (the *APAIS Thesaurus* might be a useful model). Nor is there any indication whether the index will be made available in machine-readable form: there is an obvious and lucrative market for an online business index in Australia.

Areas such as this will probably be explored by the compilers, Neil Speirs and Denise Hare, after an initial dipping-the-toe-in-the-water period. One hopes that this project will attract a good deal of support.

The *Australian business index* is available from PO Box 430, Milsons Point, NSW 2061. (ISSN 0706-0467). It costs \$135.00 per year.

Pinpointer package

Late last year AACOBS made funds available to support a project to assess the feasibility of producing a package of all the materials indexed in *Pinpointer* on microfiche.

Pinpointer, which is published by the Libraries Board of South Australia and should be held by every public library service in Australia, indexes about 60 periodicals. Its emphasis is upon popular periodicals, mainly Australian, in the fields of crafts, recreation, do-it-yourself and interior design, and other topics.

The AACOBS-funded project is to supply microfiche copies of the indexed periodicals once a year and to sell these copies as a package which can be used in conjunction with the indexing service or in its own right.

Approaches to the publishers of the periodicals affected have been promising and if all goes according to plan, AACOBS will produce the package of 1981 issues in mid-1982. Further information on this project will be available later this year.

Expatriate theses

A considerable amount of research into Australian history has been conducted in British universities, much of it the work of Australian researchers who went to Britain 'because Australian universities offered few opportunities for postgraduate research until the 1960s'.

Thus writes Eric Fry, in the introduction to his *Theses on Australian history accepted for higher degrees of universities in the United Kingdom, 1901-1976*. 82 theses are identified, catalogued by subject, period and part of Australia with which it deals, and classified as major or minor according to its perceived importance to scholars of Australian history.

Many well-known historians are represented by their theses — Beaglehole, Crowley, Serle, Gollan and others. Microfilm copies of most of the items listed are available on interlibrary loan from the National Library of Australia.

Eric C. Fry's *Theses on Australian history* was published earlier this year by the National Library. It costs \$3.75 post free. (ISBN 0 642 89803 0.)

The Territory

At Darwin Community College a special effort has been made to build up a resource on the Northern Territory. In the Learning Resources Centre there a permanent 'non-specialist eclectic collection' exists, and a list of its holdings is now available.

Special Collection of Northern Australia 1980: List of holdings, which was published last year by the College, replaces previous editions of 1977 and 1978. It is an author and title listing of the contents of the Collection, produced by a reduction of the computer printout of the catalogue. It's not beautiful, but it is legible. If response to the author/title section proves favourable, a subject catalogue may be published.

Neil Godfrey, Head of Technical Services at the College, comments that the list was produced primarily for use within the Northern Territory, 'but we feel that it may have wider interest' — I'm sure he's right.

Copies of *Special Collection of Northern Australia 1980: List of holdings* cost \$10.00

including postage and are available from the Learning Resources Centre, Darwin Community College, PO Box 40146, Casuarina, NT 5792. (ISSN 0705-1980.)

35 years young

From its humble beginnings in 1945, Children's Book Week has become so firmly established that it is difficult to believe its origins to be so recent. Few people may be aware also that it was essentially an American export, taken up and promoted with great enthusiasm by Australian librarians, educators, publishers and others.

A great deal of the history of the Week is now recorded in *The Children's Book Council in Australia 1945-1980*, compiled and edited by Eve Pownall and published last year by *Reading Time*.

After a brief but evocative introduction by Mary Townes Nyland, who was librarian of the US Information Library at the time of the first Children's Book Week in Australia, the contributors take us, state by state, through the establishment and growth of the Children's Book Council. A final section deals with some of the national activities of the Council, such as the Book of the Year Award and the Picture Book of the Year, as well as the publication *Reading Time*. This is a useful chronicle of a significant organisation, which benefits greatly from the freshness of the memories of its contributors.

The Children's Book Council in Australia 1945-1980 compiled by Eve Pownall is published by Reading Time, PO Box 159, Curtin, ACT 2605 as Reading Time Publication no4. It costs \$5.00. (ISBN 0 9594385 0 5).

Give 'em an Oscar

The first complete catalogue of the National Film Lending Collection for 20 years was published by the National Library of Australia late last year. The catalogue contains entries for over 16,000 films and videocassettes available for loan, arranged in dictionary form — a complete entry may be accessed by title, subject or series.

The Collection is the first of the NLA collections to be catalogued entirely in AUS-MARC (Australian Machine-Readable Cataloguing) format. And — another first — this is the first film library catalogue in Australia to be produced using this internationally compatible computer format.

The *National Film Lending Collection* is available only on microfiche and costs \$12.50 post paid. New additions to the Collection are signalled in the hard-copy *Film acquisitions*, which appears quarterly and costs \$7.50 post paid. Orders for either or both should be sent to the Sales and Subscriptions Unit, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600. □

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