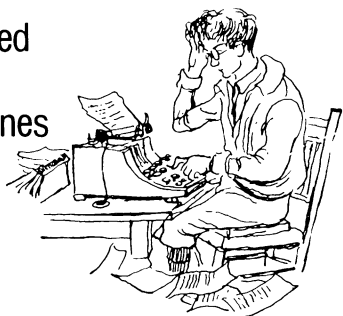


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## Canadiana on fiche

The microfiche edition of the Canadian national bibliography *Canadiana* is a very fine product, judging by a recent issue (Jan-Sep 1980) which I have inspected. It is now a COM (computer output microfiche) production incorporating a number of improvements over the previous non-COM microfiche version of the printed *Canadiana*.

It has more indexes, with expanded entries and continuous cumulation through the year. There are ISBN and ISSN indexes, a classified index using Dewey, an author/title/series index and separate English and French subject heading indexes. The COM version is also published six to eight weeks before the printed *Canadiana*.

Further information is provided in *Canadiana: Canada's national bibliography: microfiche edition (an introduction)* which was published by the National Library of Canada last year, and which also appeared on the first fiche of the first issue of the microfiche edition for 1980.

The subscription price for *Canadiana (microfiche)* is C\$96.00 per year, which will bring you 11 monthly issues with cumulating indexes and one annual issue. Prepaid orders should be addressed to Canadiana Editorial Division, Cataloguing Branch, National Library of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N4, Canada. (ISSN 0225-3216).

## Online...

James Hall, a prolific bibliographer and directory compiler of online services, has now produced a second edition of *Online bibliographic databases: an international directory*, in co-operation with Marjorie Brown.

As one would expect this edition is larger than the first (1979), listing 198 databases arranged alphabetically with a general name/subject index. Intended as a quick reference guide, the directory provides for each database the name and address of the producer, the title of any parallel printed version, subject field, details of the online file available and from whom they are available and typical charges.

Hall also lists relevant documentation for each database. All but one of the databases listed are from Europe or North America (the odd one out, WATERLIT, is produced in South Africa and is available from a North American vendor). So much for the 'international' in the title.

The only mention of Australia, and for that matter of Japan, is in an appendix listing online service suppliers. And in Australia's case only ANSTEL is listed. Very well-produced, but of limited usefulness to Australian libraries at least until MIDAS goes European.

*Online bibliographic databases: an international directory*, 2nd edition, by James L. Hall and Marjorie J. Brown, was published earlier this year by Aslib. It costs £24.00 (£20.00 to

Aslib members). (ISBN 0 85142 138 5 (Aslib); 0 8103 0528 3 (Gale)).

## ... and off

Eighty British information services whose products are *not* available online are listed and described in another new Aslib publication.

Ainslie Dewe and Mary Ann Colyer's *British information services not available online: a select list* is based on files kept by the Aslib Information Division and questionnaires. The services listed are commercial and are available to anyone willing and able to pay for them. Abstracting and indexing services are excluded unless they offer some form of back-up service, such as an enquiry service or a photocopy service.

Many of the services provide company information on British and other companies in card or report form. Others are principally consultants, or, like one with the delightful name Brainchild, are information brokers. Subject and name indexes guide the user to the entries required. This would be a useful little book for the business person needing independent information about British industry or commerce at long distance.

*British information services not available online* by Ainslie Dewe and Mary Ann Colyer was published last year by Aslib and costs £7.20 (£5.60 to Aslib members). (ISBN 085142 137 7).

## Appropriate technology

A wide range of materials which describe tools and techniques requiring only small amounts of capital and which are 'appropriate' within the current meaning of the word, are described in *Appropriate technology sourcebook*, the second volume of which was published by Volunteers in Asia in January this year.

Compilers Ken Darrow, Kent Keller and Rick Pam compress into 816 pages a mass of helpful descriptive material in what is essentially an extended bibliography. The work deals with agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, water supply, energy of all kinds, housing, domestic industries, co-operatives and health care. Each section is prefaced by background comments, and each entry is highly evaluative. Full bibliographical information is given for each item listed.

One of the appendices is an excellent glossary of alternative technology terms, so if you want to know what a sod house is, or how to spell Trombe as in Trombe wall, or what the tragedy of the commons is all about, this is for you. The book is also excellently indexed.

*Appropriate technology sourcebook*, volume 2 (volume 1 was published in 1976) is an essential acquisition for all libraries with any adherents of the 'alternative' lifestyle among their borrowers. It was published by Volunteers in Asia, Stanford, California, in January this year and is available locally from Second Back Row Press, PO Box 43, Leura, NSW 2781. It costs \$8.95. (ISBN 0 917704 06 1).

Incidentally the Second Back Row Press, which is run by two ex-librarians, has just issued its 1981 catalogue. Items listed range from backyard bee-keeping guides to Jack Lang classics. Well worth looking into.

## Co-operation – pros and cons

Many co-operative activities are under way in Australian school libraries, and a selection of case studies illustrating benefits and problems has been compiled for the Schools Commission by John Cook.

Entitled *School library co-operation in action: case studies in the co-operative acquisition of resources*, the discussion paper briefly describes eight programs, from broadly-based ones such as NICS (Northern Inter-Library

Co-operation Scheme) to more localised ones such as AMBUSH (Aldgate, Mylor, Bridgewater, Upper Sturt, Scott Creek, Heathfield and Iron Bank Rural School).

Appendices list projects funded under various Schools Commission programs since 1977 which involve library resource sharing.

*School library co-operation in action* by John Cook was published by the Schools Commission last year. Copies are available gratis from the Commission. (ISBN 0 642 89731 X).

## PNG news

The National Library Service of Papua New Guinea now publishes a news bulletin to keep librarians in PNG and abroad informed of developments of mutual interest.

The first issue, January/February 1981, concentrates on technical services and reports decisions made at the National Library about AACR2 and proposed geographical expansions for the PNG region in the Dewey Decimal Classification.

Future issues of the *National Library bulletin* will deal with subject headings, name changes in government departments and other topics of general interest.

*National Library bulletin* is to be published six times per year and is edited by Alison Gordon. It is available from the National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, PO Box 5770, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

## Western resources

167 libraries, public, special, university, college and otherwise, are listed and described in the excellent *Guide to library services in Western Australia*.

Published last year by the Special Libraries Section, Western Australian Group, the *Guide* also gives brief descriptions of the resources and organisation of some of the state's major library systems, together with a little history. There is a name index and a questionnaire-induced subject index which the compilers freely admit may lack consistency – still, it's better than no subject index.

Copies of *Guide to library services in Western Australia*, published by the LAA Special Libraries Section, WA Group, are available from Lee Doyle, Librarian, Confederation of Western Australian Industry, PO Box 6209, Perth, WA 6000. Price: \$10.00 (\$7.00 to LAA members). (ISSN 0705-1220). □

## WAT

What Acronym's That  
compiled by Fran Hegarty

A list of acronyms and abbreviations from Australian library literature, for students of librarianship.

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