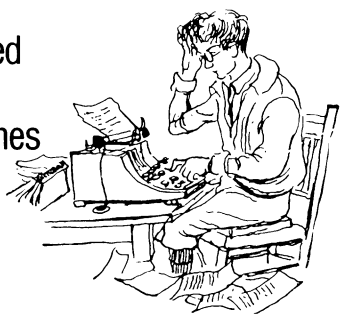


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



News of AUSINET

AUSINET news has finally been pronounced dead and the first issue of its successor has appeared.

The new *ACI Computer Services Information Retrieval System newsletter* will appear monthly and will carry short items on developments in AUSINET and ORBIT (for which ACICS is now Australasian agent).

In the first issue, August 1981, we read of a national survey of online system use, are introduced to AUSINET's DUMY and learn of new files on AUSINET and ORBIT.

The two-page newsletter will disappoint those who remember the fulsome detail of *AUSINET news* fondly – fuller information on some of the topics touched upon can be found (and paid for) on the DUMY database.

ACI Computer Services Information Retrieval Systems newsletter is published by ACI Information Retrieval Group, PO Box 2, Clayton, Vic 3168. The newsletter is automatically distributed to AUSINET, ORBIT and QUE users. (ISSN 0706-4969).

Candle-end economics'

In 1976 Mrs Thatcher wrote, on the specific subject of spending on arts and libraries: 'I don't believe in the present economic situation that it would make sense for any Government to look for candle-end economics which would yield a very small saving, whilst causing upset out of all proportion to

the economics achieved'.

Today the British public is reminded of Mrs Thatcher's words, and can draw their own conclusions from a massive reduction in expenditure forced upon some public library authorities.

In the last financial year only 16 library authorities were able to allow book funds to keep pace with inflation, five froze their budgets and 25 made actual cash cuts. Shropshire libraries, it is reported, are collecting money from their readers in order to buy new books.

In one prong of their strategy to increase public awareness of the impact of the cuts the National Book Committee produced the pamphlet *Where have all the new books gone?*, highlighting the public library as a Cinderella service. Whether Mrs Thatcher turns out to be the fairy godmother in disguise remains to be seen.

Copies of the pamphlet are available from the National Book League, Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18 2QZ.

For discerning viewers

Media review digest is now in its 10th year, providing an index to reviews of films and filmstrips, records and audiotapes, slides, charts, media kits – the whole of non-book materials, in fact.

Arranged by medium and therein by title, *MRD* gives references to reviews in a wide range of professional and general periodicals, ranging from *Previews* to *Playboy*.

In the style once used by *Book review digest*, *MRD* indicates favourable reviews by a + sign and unfavourable ones by a -. A purely descriptive article gets a *. Occasionally a one-line extract from a review is given, for example 'A long day's journey into ennui' (*Star Trek*, the motion picture, as described by, would you have guessed, a *Time* reviewer).

Prices and availability in the US are also given, as well as recommended ratings from various advisory bodies. There are classified subject, general subject, reviewer and geographical (including many Australian entries) indexes. Names and addresses of distributors in the US are appended.

With the mass of material it covers and the mass of sources which it surveys, *Media review digest* is not cheap. The 1980 volume costs US\$120.00, including a supplement covering January-June 1981. It is published by Pierian Press. (ISBN 0 87650 129 3).

On visual impairment

'Did you realise', asks Bernadette Selleck, Co-ordinator of the Melbourne Visual Impairment Reference Libraries Group, 'that there are six reference libraries in Melbourne holding ink print materials about blindness and visual impairment and another library which has similar information on cassette?'

No, I didn't, actually, so it was with interest that I read of the formation of this group which aims to make its materials more accessible to the general community and to develop resource sharing. Its other guiding principle is to foster more enlightened and realistic attitudes about visually impaired people.

The librarians in the group have compiled a brief description of their libraries and the services provided, and have prepared a short book list of materials on blindness and visual impairment. The book list is intended to be of interest to the general reader, to the families of the visually impaired and to school students.

Bernadette would be happy to send a copy of this document to interested libraries. She can be contacted at the Library, Association for the Blind, 7 Mair Street, Brighton Beach, Vic 3188.

3-D copiers and other news

A copier which will produce three-dimensional versions of maps, pictures and other works direct from printed paper sounds like good news for some disabled persons.

Among other applications, it will enable braille to be photocopied. Information on this system is now available from the National Library of Australia. News on developments such as this is given regularly in *Link-up*, the NLA's newsletter for library services for handicapped people.

Link-up, which is also available in audio format, also notes recently published resources in printed and other forms and highlights the work of committees and other organisations concerned with services for disabled library users. *Link-up* is available free of charge to any interested organisation or individual.

Enquiries should be directed to Cliff Law, Chief Librarian, Library Services for the Handicapped, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600, phone (062) 62 1251. (ISSN 0158-5460)

Cheap eats

To prove that if you want to eat dirt cheap you don't necessarily have to eat dirt, John Thackera and Hilary Arnold have compiled *Cheap eats in Sydney*, a restaurant guide with a different flavour.

The emphasis is very much on high value rather than haute cuisine as the authors epitomise some 200 eating places in the city and suburbs, ranging from the Department of Veterans Affairs cafeteria (cheap breakfast) to Swamy's Uninflated Indian Restaurant.

All of the restaurants have one thing in common – you can eat a reasonable meal in them for less than \$10, often for much less.

The first edition of *Cheap eats in Sydney* by John Thackera and Hilary Arnold was published in July this year by Horan, Wall and Walker, PO Box 8, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. It costs \$3.50 (\$4.50 posted). (ISSN 0706-2761) □

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