



Govt bibliographies

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BIBLIOGRAPHIES 1974-1976 / Roberta A. Scull. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Pierian Press. 1979. 310pp. \$20.00 ISBN 0 87650 111 0.

THIS bibliography of bibliographies continues a similar work by the same compiler which covers the period 1968-1973 (Pierian, 1974. ISBN 0 87650 055 6 : \$15.00. Not seen by the reviewer). It contains 1561 entries, the numbering of these continuing that of the earlier volume. Reference is made in some entries to related works cited in the earlier work.

Almost 300 of the entries are for the US Government Printing Office's *Subject bibliographies*. These are merely title listings in number order. Other entries give full bibliographic details, including pagination, and where appropriate, SuDoc classification number. They are annotated as to scope, indexing, and in some cases, method of compilation and quality.

Purchasing and availability information is also given when known. Prices are current as of September 1978, but the introduction does warn the reader that they are subject to change without notice. Information regarding the ordering of materials listed is intended for American libraries. There are other sources available to libraries in this country for buying NTIS documents, for example. There are also Australian depository libraries, full and partial, from which items may be borrowed.

The major arrangement of the bibliography is by broad subject. These headings are broken into more specific subject groups. There is also a subject oriented index to aid the reader in finding what he/she wants. Titles are used in the index when they are distinctive or can be used in place of a subject. They are indicated by block letters, although this is not stated in the introduction.

The bibliography includes works available from the US Government Printing Office, those not generally available for distribution, those available only from the issuing agency, from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) or from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Listing of TVA titles seems to be comprehensive, it being the major author listed in many of the science/technology subject groups.

The two volume set may be of value to those libraries with major collections of US government publications. Probably not many other Australian libraries will want to buy the work being reviewed, however. It is not, like *Government publications of Australia: a list of lists*¹, a bibliography of bibliographies of government publications. It is a bibliography of bibliographies published by government agencies. These may or may not contain publications of the publishing agencies.

Michael Harrington
State Library of Victoria

¹Compiled by the Sub-Committee on Government Publications of the AACOBs Victorian Regional Committee. 2nd ed. Melbourne: Library Council of Victoria, 1979.

AACR2 sampler

EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATING AACR 2 / Eric J. Hunter and Nicholas J. Fox. London: Library Association, Cataloguing and Indexing Group. 1980. 184pp. £4.95 (£3.95 to LA members). ISBN 0 85365 951 6.

A number of AACR2 manuals and 'samplers' were published in 1980. Although this sampler is published by the (British) Library Association, it is not an official LA interpretation of AACR2.

The greater part of this work consists of 383 examples (catalogue entries according to AACR2) arranged in an alphabetic main entry sequence. The examples cover monographs, serials and all significant media forms. Most unusual efforts have been made to include a wide variety of nonbook materials. For example, the 'realia' catalogued include: a body exerciser, butterflies, an alarm clock, a shell, a silver-plated shoe horn, a replica of the Liberty Bell, a table mat, a sculpture and an X-ray of a broken leg.

In each example, the catalogue entry is followed by a brief commentary which cites the AACR2 rule numbers used to solve specific problems in cataloguing that work.

Of course, the examples are not there simply to be browsed. Central to the use of the sampler are two detailed indexes. In the first (the problem and general index) the reader is directed to examples for such cases as 'theses', 'chairmen of committees', 'armed services', and 'persons with more than one pseudonym'. The second index is arranged by rule number.

The headings used in the examples are uncompromisingly 'pure' AACR2, with no allowances for stated national agency exceptions or ABACUS interpretations. Thus the 'United Kingdom', the US 'House of Representatives' and unabbreviated 'Departments' are firmly included. Some of the headings raised an eyebrow even of this reviewer, for example 'BBC' with a see reference from 'British Broadcasting Corporation'.

I found a small number of typographical errors, but these were not significant. The treatment of cartographic materials seemed to this reviewer to be a little offhand and inaccurate. But I have no major criticisms of this work. It will certainly repay exhaustive analysis by any cataloguer. *Warwick Cathro*
National Library of Australia

Focus on state libraries

FOCUS ON STATE LIBRARIES: A REPORT TO THE NATION / Denis Richardson. Melbourne: Australian Library Promotion Council. 1980. 38pp \$1.75. ISBN 0 909739 17 X.

The Australian Library Promotion Council has been concerned in 1980 with the problems and needs of State Libraries. Denis Richardson's report *Focus on State Libraries* is an admirable, if depressing summary of these problems.

To anyone working in a State Library the difficulties outlined are all too familiar and there is often a nasty feeling that one is not just treading water but slowly sinking.

Richardson gives a brief historical outline of the development of State Libraries and of problems inherited from the past. He then goes on to define the role of State Libraries in a changing social environment. To attempt to resolve these inherited problems and at the same time fulfil these new roles is impossible with present levels of funding.

I would like to comment on two problems

mentioned by Richardson; the long term effect on collection building because of inadequate funding and the unfortunate tendency of Government to view books and library staff as alternatives rather than as complimentary.

State Libraries have a unique responsibility to maintain retrospective collections of archival material, Australia and general reference material. This responsibility is not felt to the same degree by any other type of library.

Richardson, writing about the 1930s Depression, says that 'for many librarians in some of our well-known libraries it is a recurring gap in collections where the effect of financial cuts can be seen to this day'. With the dramatic increase in published material since the 1930s the problem of book selection and collection building is far more complicated. To attempt long term collection building with very limited financial resources is likely to result in librarians in the year 2030 complaining about the 1980s gap.

The second problem, that of inadequate staff levels is again common to all State Libraries. As staff costs account for an increasing proportion of the library budget, the Government view appears to be that restricting staff will solve the problem of providing more money for books. Staff and books are, however, complimentary inputs in the libraries output, that being the provision of access to the recorded knowledge of our society. By limiting staff the public are as effectively denied access to these resources as they would be if the collection were limited. Indeed a small special library, adequately staffed may be able to provide better access to resources via inter-library co-operation than a large library unable to maintain and exploit adequately its own collection.

Focus on State Libraries is subtitled *A report to the nation*. It is hoped that the 'nation' do in fact read it. As Richardson says 'it is doubtful whether the average Australian has a clear understanding of the work of their State Library'. This statement could well be extended to those in Government responsible for funding State Libraries. *Nick Mayman*
Library Board of Western Australia

Research guide

LIBRARY RESEARCH GUIDE TO EDUCATION / James R. Kennedy Jr. Ann Arbor: Pierian Press. 1979. 79pp. ISBN 0 87650 116 1. US\$4.50.

THIS book fulfils admirably its purpose of demonstrating to writers of term and research papers in educational psychology and related subjects, search strategy for information sources.

The emphasis is on writing the paper rather than on the mechanics of using bibliographical tools. However, no detail of the use of these tools seems to have been overlooked. For example, the use of subject tracing notes on catalogue cards for establishing subject headings and the reference to periodicals as sources, not only for recent information, but also when there is not enough information to be found in books.

Difficulties in searching are raised and help in overcoming them is offered. A comment on the arbitrary language of subject headings is followed by an explanation of how to use *Library of Congress subject headings* and the apparently formidable tasks of using *Current index to journals in education* and *Social sciences citation index* are reduced to a series of manageable steps.

Nevertheless, it is never assumed that the printed guide will render redundant personal

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As it was thought that the full classification was likely to be too detailed for the majority of collections, an abridged version has also been provided.

The classification was submitted for trial use in libraries prior to publication. It will be of interest to and may have potential use in libraries developing large collections of literature concerned with film and television.

Paul McNally

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IBBY papers

THROUGH FOLKLORE TO LITERATURE / Maurice Saxby. Sydney: IBBY Australia Publications, 1979. 229pp. \$10.00. ISBN 0 90821 00 5.

THROUGH Folklore to Literature was an inspiring conference held in 1978 and sponsored by the Australian National Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

The published conference papers offer a multicultural and multidisciplinary view of the origins and impulse to story. The 14 speakers represented complementary areas of expertise, from storyteller to collector, to translator, to publisher, to interpreter — each convinced of story's value in presenting a world view of cultures.

Current President of IBBY, Hans Halbey, elaborated on the achievements and future plans for the international organisation dedicated to 'One world through literature'. Following the keynote address were speakers who explored the origins and variations of storytelling traditions. Anne Pellowski, Director of the Information Centre on Children's Cultures, presented historical evidence of early storytelling traditions; and Mae Durham Roger surveyed the major folklore collectors. Both agreed on the necessity for the storyteller to create the ambiance of the culture from which the story emerged. This same problem exists in the translation of the written story according to Shigeo Watanabe, who seeks the essence of the culture for translation.

The storytelling traditions of the Papua New Guineans were presented in contrast to those of the Aborigines. Ulli Beier identified their common characteristics, and, as well, reiterated Catherine Berndt's interest in preserving a people's heritage.

Speakers also professed a conviction that cross-cultural understanding could be enhanced through folklore. Marlene Norst discussed the importance of recognising each culture's stories and stressed the value of sharing stories. As a writer who links two cultures through her stories, Patricia Wrightson recounted her hesitancy in exploring and elaborating on Aboriginal lore as a basis for her fantasies. To those present at the conference, Aboriginal speaker Jack Davis's exhortation to Patricia Wrightson to 'be bolder' bolstered a move towards cross-cultural understanding.

Story was also presented as an occasional collaborative effort by two speakers. Delivered in an inimitable storytelling style, Edward Blishen both entertained and informed listeners of his writing efforts with Leon Garfield to provide retellings of the Greek myths. Complementary work created by an author and illustrator team was described by Robert Ingpen, whose books produced with Colin Thiele are well known.

As the conference proceeded, each speaker added layer upon layer of illuminating perspectives so that the conference aim was successfully achieved:

'To examine the origins, that impulse to story as a means of making experience manageable; to explore those universal elements which speak directly or symbolically to the human heart; to express those cultural voices, especially those of the Australian Aborigine and our neighbors to Papua New Guinea; and to voice the tale that is told and the song that is sung when cultures meet in harmony and mutual respect'. (p2)

The collected conference papers thus provide either opportunity for leisurely review or for a rewarding first acquaintance.

Belle Alderman

Canberra College of Advanced Education

Research guide continued

help from the reference librarian and the student is advised to seek it if unsure of how to proceed.

There are two diagrammatic sections — a summary diagram of search strategy and guidelines for proceeding — which briefly recapitulate the substantive points in the text, beginning with choice of topic and ending with the use of comprehensive bibliographies. The style is light and clear, avoiding the use of library jargon, the figures elucidate the text and the short summaries at the end of each chapter precisely encapsulate the content.

It is recognised that the writing of term papers requires thought and perseverance and that looking for, finding and evaluating sources of information are inter-related aspects of the process. The guide does not necessarily make it easier, but should increase the educational value of the exercise for the student.

In spite of its United States provenance, this guide will be useful in Australian universities and colleges. It is directed to students, but this reviewer wonders how many of them would sit down to extract its readily available wisdom even when referred to it by a lecturer in education or a reference librarian.

I strongly recommend it to librarians undertaking instruction in library use as a model of clarity in explaining the use of bibliographical tools.

Joy Guyatt, University of Queensland

Film and TV

FIAP CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR LITERATURE ON FILM AND TELEVISION / M. Moulds. London: Aslib, 1980. ISBN 0 85142 131 8. Price unknown.

This classification was produced under the auspices of the Documentation Commission of the Federation Internationale des Archives du Film.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide a basis for the development of a classified catalogue of published materials relating to film and television. The scheme has been derived from the Universal Decimal Classification drawing widely on the devices and auxiliaries of that classification scheme.

An acquaintance with the operation of UDC would assist in using this classification. Access to a copy of the abridged English edition of UDC is essential in order to apply the new classification.

The classification is arranged under 11 major subject areas, Reference and General Material; Institutes, Festivals and Conferences; Film Industry: Economics and Production; TV Industry: Economics and Production; Distribution and Exhibition; Society and Cinema/TV; Education; Aesthetics and Theory; History, Genres, Specific Films/TV Programs; Biography; Miscellaneous and Special Collections.

The classification is intended for use in organisations concerned with the development of large and wide ranging collections of literature relating to film and television. The scheme is not intended for use in classification of film collections.



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