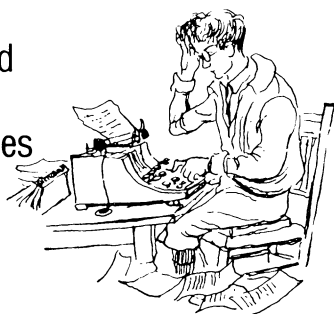


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## Reference library – \$3,850 o.n.o.

The AACOBS Working Party on Bibliography has been concerned for some time that the reference collections of many public and school libraries are not as strong in Australian materials as they might be. This concern has led to the preparation of an excellent brief guide to 325 Australian reference works which, at a total cost of around \$3,850, would provide a real backbone for a good reference collection.

*Current Australian reference books*, which was edited by Victor Crittenden, deals with Australia in general in a span of 47 pages, with entries arranged in Dewey order, and in the remaining 20-odd pages lists works dealing with specific states. The general works are helpfully annotated, and there are title and name indexes to the whole work. (Obviously great selectivity has been used, for this work is intended 'for medium and small libraries', and readers may have quibbles about inclusions and exclusions. Why Gartner's coin catalogue but not Renniks? Why not *Legal research: materials and methods* (one of my favourites)? Why *Modern Australian poetry* and *Australian literature to 1900*, both in the Gale Information Guide series, but not *Modern Australian prose*, which is in the same series? No doubt user response will make the second edition even more useful than this. Reference librarians and students will find this a manageable overview of the more commonly-used and less specialised material.

If more depth is required, there is of course Wilma Radford's outstanding *Guide to Australian reference books: humanities* (Sydney: LAA, 1983) which appeared too recently for Crittenden to have noted, and in

due course its companion volumes. In the meantime *all* reference libraries should purchase Crittenden's *Current Australian reference books*, both for collection development and as a staff aide-mémoire. It was published in 1982 and is now available from the AACOBS Secretariat, c/o National Library of Australia, ACT 2600. It costs \$7.50, postage included (\$5.00 to AACOBS members). (ISBN 0 642 88518 4)

## Community info

A preliminary edition of a classification scheme for community information was issued by the Library Council of Victoria last year. Designed to cover organisations in the fields of leisure, education, health, social welfare, community action and research, *Classification and thesaurus of community information and associated terms* was devised by Sue Healy and Peter Fraser, with John Bailey as consultant.

The classification, which is alphabetical, has form divisions as well as notations for place, agents, issues and problems, services, people and animals. Not unnaturally the place divisions for Victoria are much more specific than those for other states. The thesaurus lists topics covered by the classification scheme, and indicates each topic's notation. Broader terms, narrower and related terms, as well as scope notes are included. This preliminary edition of the scheme is being issued to encourage libraries and other organisations concerned with community information to comment on it before it is issued in a final form.

Copies of *Classification and thesaurus of community information and associated terms* by Sue Healy and Peter Fraser are available from the State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000. The cost is \$8.00. (ISBN 0 909962 38 3.)

## Of local interest

Three substantial publications dealing with local issues have now been published by the NSW Branch of the LAA in its Occasional Paper series.

*Local history – conservation and restoration procedures for public libraries*, which is Occasional Paper no. 4, records the proceedings of a workshop sponsored by the Branch and the Sydney Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) in 1980. The workshop concentrated on the practicalities of

public libraries coping with a growing responsibility for local history collections. Papers dealt with a wide range of common conservation problems, and appended to this publication are a useful glossary of conservation terms, a select bibliography and some useful (mainly NSW) addresses. *Local history – conservation and restoration procedures for public libraries* were published in 1981 and costs \$5 (\$4 to LAA and ASA members). (ISSN 0155-5472; ISBN 0 909915 82 2).

Conserved and restored records, as well as a wide range of other resources in the public library, need organisation for efficient use and as its Occasional Paper no. 5 the NSW Branch published John Flint and Anne Franklin's *Local studies collections: guidelines and subject headings for organising and indexing resources*. The subtitle says it all – there are 200-odd pages of good sense and helpful advice, and the subject headings are very full. They provide a broad spectrum of local preoccupations, from malls to septic tanks, baby health centres to graveyards. *Local studies collections* was also published in 1981 and costs a mere \$10. (ISSN 0155-5472; ISBN 0 909915 95 4).

The records of local government bodies, frequently entrusted to the librarian, if indeed they are retained at all, are the subject of the sixth Occasional Paper. This too sprang from a workshop arranged by the NSW Branch and the Sydney Branch of the ASA. Entitled lengthily, but accurately, *Local government records in New South Wales: control, management, preservation and use*, and edited by Marie Ryan and the ubiquitous Patricia Ward, this 86-page work features contributions from users of the records, archivists (university, state, national and local), conservators, librarians, a records manager and a town clerk. The alarming background to the workshop is painted in the introduction by Patricia Ward, and the limitations of present regulations relating to the preservation of local government records come through loud and clear. *Local government records in New South Wales* was published last year and costs \$10 (\$7 to LAA and ASA members). (ISSN 0155-5472; ISBN 0 909915 97 0).

Copies of all three Occasional Papers are available from the LAA Head Office and are displayed and sold at NSW Branch meetings.



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