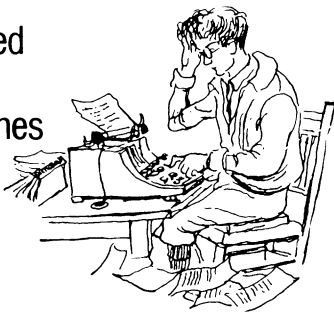


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Youthful resources

Those involved with young people in the Australian Capital Territory – parents, teachers, administrators, librarians and researchers – will be well served by a recent guide to relevant resources published by Canberra College of Advanced Education.

Belle Y. Alderman's *Resources for young people: a guide to national and local collections in the ACT* is a substantial, 228-page guide, identifying 'special strengths of collections suitable for young people from birth to eighteen years'. She includes a wide cross-section of resource centres and special collections, from the ACT Council for Children's Film and TV to the Yarralumla Primary School. The work provides detailed information (one or two pages per entry) on scope of collection, contents, history, collection policy, approach (how catalogued or arranged) and access. And it has a very full subject index.

Copies of Belle Y. Alderman's *Resources for young people*, which was published last year by Canberra CAE, are available for \$10.00, including postage, from the University Co-operative Bookshop Ltd., CCAE, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616. (ISBN 0 85889 23 2).

PRO in a nutshell

The Public Record Office in London holds records of the government and the central law courts from the eleventh century. Its potential for the serious genealogist is enormous, and to help such persons, as well as historians and other researchers, there are

numerous specific guides, lists and calendars of documents.

Jane Cox and Timothy Padfield's *Tracing your ancestors in the Public Record Office* is a concise 94-page guide to how to make the best of the PRO for tracing forbears, emphasising the most useful forms of record for that purpose, but mentioning many others along the way. The guide introduces birth, marriage and death records, census records, wills and probate records, records of changes of name, legal document series. It touches upon that well-known graveyard of unfulfilled great expectations – 'dormant funds'.

A very helpful feature of this work is the introduction to records by special groups of people – soldiers, sailors, marines, Welsh people, bankrupts, living persons, emigrants, merchant seamen and criminals, among others. There is a short list of useful addresses, mainly in the United Kingdom, and a very well-prepared checklist on how to find a record of a birth or baptism (e.g. was the birth in St Petersburg between 1818 and 1940? Was the birth at sea?) ending with the very sensible instruction: Take expert advice. Some of the records of Australian interest mentioned here are available on microfilm in the Australian Joint Copying Project, so one needn't go to London to find everything listed.

The lack of an index is an annoyance, but the very full contents list is some consolation. Otherwise this is an outstanding little book, very helpful and well-presented. Jane Cox and Timothy Padfield's *Tracing your ancestors in the Public Record Office* was published in 1981 by Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It costs £3.95. (ISBN 0 11 440114 4).

Lies of the third kind

Librarians who would think of 'Skewness' as some remote Scottish outpost, or 'chisquare' as an Oriental board game would do well to read I. S. Simpson's *Basic statistics for librarians*, the second edition of which was published by Bingley this year.

Since the publication of the first edition eight years ago the assessment of performance levels of libraries, the librarian's need for numeracy and other demands have made a knowledge of the practicalities of statistics even more vital for library managers at all levels. This work serves as a useful basic student text on the pretty broad

subject at a fairly elementary level. It will also be helpful for practising librarians wishing to increase their statistical expertise. There are excellent summaries of the basics of sampling, averages, indexes, time series, analysis of variance, correlation and regression and other vital statistical concepts. Examples given in the text all relate to libraries or librarianship, to make you feel more at home as well as to illustrate applications of the techniques described.

I. S. Simpson's *Basic statistics for librarians*, second edition, was published earlier this year by Bingley. It costs £9.75. (ISBN 0 85157 352 5)

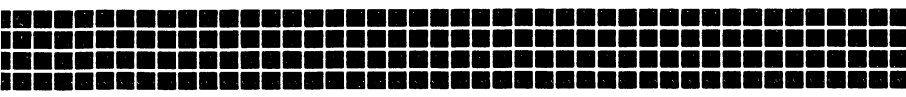
The pick of Trotsky

Louis Sinclair's massive 1000-page primary bibliography of Leon Trotsky was published by the Hoover Institution in 1972, and Sinclair himself published a supplement in 1978 and an addendum in 1980. Secondary materials have not until now been covered by a single bibliographical source. Wolfgang Lubitz's *Trotsky bibliography*, published last year by Saur, should therefore fill a long-felt vacuum. Scholarly interest in Trotsky and derivative movements has been increasing in recent years, with the centenary of his birth in 1979 and the fortieth anniversary of his assassination in 1980. That year also saw the freeing of access to the Trotsky Archive and Harvard University.

Lubitz has produced an excellent selective bibliography of 3227 items in all print genres, restricting his coverage to material in European languages – it is interesting to note that Lubitz reports 32% of the titles to be Russian and 30% to be in English.

Arrangement is alphabetical by main entry, and there are name/subject, source, series, dissertation and chronological indexes. The introduction is in English and in German, but the name/subject index is in German only, as is the terminology used within entries in the bibliography – one hopes that this will not be too great a handicap for Trotsky scholars. It will certainly be a nuisance for librarians who have no German.

Trotsky bibliography by Wolfgang Lubitz was published in Munich by K. G. Saur in 1982. It costs DM 98.00 and is available locally from the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 3 598 10469 3)



Information Management

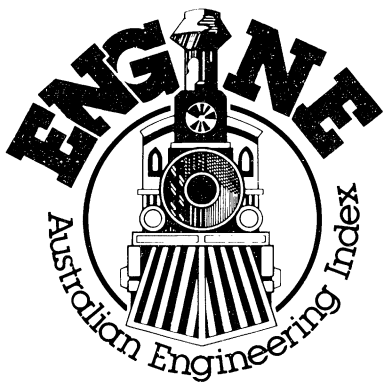
AUSINET's 21st, AUSTRALIA's 1st –

The Australian Engineering Index. From the Institution of Engineers, Australia. All IE Aust. material since 1980, with abstracts from 1981.

Steam ahead with ENGN on AUSINET.

Full details from:

Adelaide – Dave Gillard 268 1933; Brisbane – George Notaras 369 5877; Canberra – Long Tjhia 47 0988; Melbourne – Ian McCallum and Leigh Baker 544 8433; Perth – Bob Till 321 2859; Sydney Steve Cartland 662 7011.



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