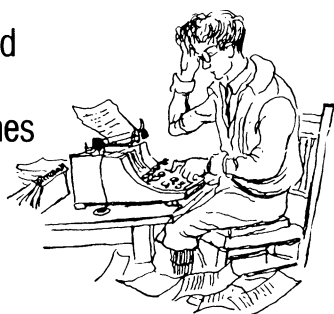# THE SOURCE

Edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones

LURP THE GIN, LAD*

The second expanded edition of A.C. Montgomery's *Acronyms and abbreviations in library and information work* holds the key to these and other perplexing short forms which rub shoulders in the jargon of our profession. 98 closely-printed pages, international in scope, and based on the English language literature of librarianship. Australian coverage is reasonably good – FLAA being a notable omission, although ALAA is here.

Well worth purchasing for its convenient international coverage, A. C. Montgomery's *Acronyms and abbreviations in library and information work* was published last year by the Library Association. It costs £7.75. ISBN 0 85365 904 4).

Suburban libraries united for regional planning; Technical Help for Exporters; Global information network; Library Administration Division (American Library Association).

lucky kids

'Squillions of great ideas' (ugh!) are promised by the second edition of *Sydney for kids*, published earlier this year by Horan, Wall and Walker, who style themselves hyperbolically 'The Information Agency'. This is an excellently-indexed 96-page guide to outings, activities and other exciting things for children to do in the Sydney area – and many of the activities are free. My family has made good use of the first edition, and this one looks even better.

Sydney for kids is available from Horan, Wall and Walker, PO Box 8, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. It costs $3.95 post free if you believe everything you read on inside front covers, or $4.95 including postage if you espy the mail order coupon at the centrefold. It's good value at either price. (ISSN 0727-4327).

Far East

A year's German-language publications on East, Central and South-East Asia are covered in *Deutsche Fernostbibliographie 1981/ German Far East bibliography 1981*, which was published last year by Saur. This, the third volume, contains over 700 references, broadly classified. with an author, title and keyword index. Full bibliographical information is given, and prices too. Appended is a 75-page select bibliography of periodical articles on modern China, this time not restricted to German-language materials. *Deutsche Fernostbibliographie 1981* was published in 1982 by Saur. It costs DM60.00. (ISBN 3 598 20143 5.)

English language material is the focus of *Asian literature in English*, not unexpectedly. This is another of the guides to information sources published by Gale Research. It lists translations of ancient and modern literary works from China, Japan, Korea, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, Tibet and Turkey. There are anthologies, works of criticism and literary history, bibliographies and other works of reference. In all 2224 works are dealt with, most with brief annotations.

Compiled by G. L. Anderson, *Asian literature in English* was published in 1981 by Gale Research. It costs US$36.00. (ISBN 0 8103 1362 6.)

Reliable Radford

For years I, and many like me, have bemoaned the lack of a good annotated guide to Australian reference books. Other works have partly filled the gap, if obliquely.

Henry Mayer's *ARGAP* (Melbourne: Cheshire, 1976), for example – a rambling but generally underrated work. And Jan McDonald's *Recent Australian refere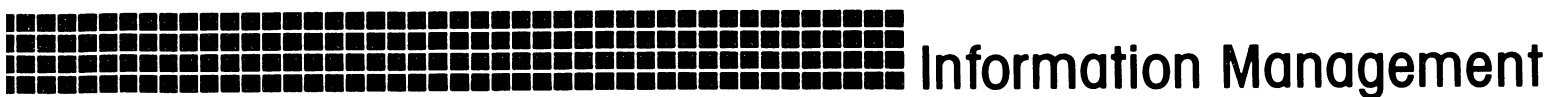nce tools* (Canberra: Australian Parliamentary Library 1978), which, although not annotated, at least indicates which titles are considered more important by the compiler.

Dietrich Borchardt's *Australian bibliography* (Sydney: Pergamon, 1976) too is useful, as is Victor Crittenden's more recent *Current Australian reference books* (Canberra: AACOBS, 1982). Some coverage of Australian ready reference material is also given in Janine Schmidt and Barbara Poston Anderson's *Sources of brief factual information* (Lindfield, NSW: Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, 1982).

But now, for philosophy, religion, language, the arts and literature there is Wilma Radford's long-awaited *Guide to Australian reference books: humanities*, which the compiler describes, with characteristic humility, as 'modest'. In fact the modesty of its 91 pages represents this work's achievement: it is a carefully selected guide to the most useful works of reference or quasi-reference on Australian topics or topics in Australia. Just as inclusion means something, so too does exclusion. Miss Radford refers to the variety of reasons which have occasioned the omission of some materials from this work. There has, for example, been deliberate exclusion of 'parts of books and serials as well as persons, associations, institutions, Government agencies, computerised information services'; the number of individual sports dealt with has been deliberately limited also; and works dealing with a particular individual, town or city (with the exception of some works on capital cities) are also excluded.

Within her declared parameters, Miss Radford achieves all that one could hope a librarian with a lifetime's experience of solid work in and around reference libraries would achieve: authority, impartiality, readability, comprehensiveness and accuracy. Buy it and use it *now*, and look forward to the time when other areas of Dewey, Australia-wise, are equally well covered by publications from the Association. Miss Radford's 'Amy' is a most welcome addition to the Australian bibliographical family; let us hope she does not languish long sibling-less.

Wilma Radford's *Guide to Australian reference books: humanities* was published earlier this year by the LAA. It costs $18.00 ($12.00 to LAA members), plus $0.70 postage. (ISBN 0 86804 007 X)

Information Management