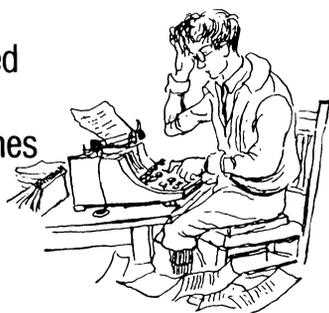


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Accessibility — and otherwise

In case you missed, or need to be reminded about it, last year the NSW Contact Panel of Project MIND (Meeting the Information Needs of the Disabled) produced, and the LAA published, *Directory for the disabled: tertiary library services in N.S.W.*

This 57-page guide shows the accessibility of the libraries of NSW universities, technical colleges and CAEs. It includes not only the central libraries, but even the branches. Each entry shows the location of ramps (if any), lifts (if any), type of doors (including width of opening), special facilities (such as the availability of volunteer readers for blind patrons) and general information (such as aisle widths, catalogue heights). This little work will help potential users avoid the monumental steps and slippery floors, the slimline doorways and listless lobbies — or take appropriate precautions.

Copies of *Directory for the disabled* are still available from the LAA and cost \$7.50 (\$5.00 to LAA members). (ISBN 0 86804 025 8).

Glossary #1

If you don't know your hyperbola from your abscissa, you may find Stuart W. Hubbard's *The computer graphics glossary* a useful way of avoiding embarrassment.

Published by Oryx last year, this 95-page publication provides brief (up to six lines) definitions of terms limited to those which are 'directly pertinent to computer graphics'. Naturally there are many general terms, such as 'online' and 'offline' which are listed too, and some of the terms defined, for example 'turnkey', have wider meanings than those given in this context. In some cases the definition distinguishes between computer usage

and specific graphics usage, and this would be helpful if it were more consistently done.

An interesting feature is the inclusion of names (generally registered trade marks) of computer graphics software packages. This is an honest enough attempt to set down and explain some of the festering jargon, and will be a useful adjunct to the more generalistic dictionaries of data processing, if you are really into CAD/CAM and computer graphics at large.

Stuart W. Hubbard's *The computer graphics glossary* was published earlier this year (copyright date 1983) by Oryx Press and is available from James Bennett Pty Ltd. It costs US\$24.50. (ISBN 0 89774 072 6)

Glossary #2

I have always been agreeably surprised, seldom disappointed, when I turned to Harrod's *Librarian's glossary* on questions terminological. Occasionally, though, I sought a transatlantic word, or usage, and had to look elsewhere, scratching around in a number of sources, including the venerable *ALA glossary of library terms*, published in 1943. That work was viewed as tentative, and for the past forty years the American Library Association's thoughts have, from time to time, strayed to a new edition of the *Glossary*.

Last year those thoughts became reality with the publication of *The ALA glossary of library and information science*, edited by Heartsill Young. Young, a professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin, has been assisted by a team of distinguished, and judging by the finished product, hard-working experts.

The *Glossary's* purpose is 'to bring together, in one place, the definitions of terms that relate to the provision of access to recorded information by libraries and similar information agencies . . . and to the functions and activities performed by those agencies'. Terms are drawn not only from librarianship, but also from printing and publishing, graphic arts, computer science, telecommunications, reprography, educational technology and archives administration. This is a tall order, but diligently met. Only prolonged use, rather than theoretical page-hopping, will show the true value of this work, and expose any weaknesses.

But on first acquaintance, I found this long-overdue 'new edition' outstanding. Terms are

explained succinctly, but not cryptically so. Coverage is excellent. Use of 'see' and 'compare with' references is comprehensive and consistent. Physically it cannot be faulted, save for the minor quibble that the best way to explain some terms like 'Schwabacher' and 'Fraktur' is to illustrate them. It's printed in good old Times Roman, solidly bound in linen cloth, and (a practice surely to be emulated by all self-respecting library publishers with a sense of history) printed on pH-neutral stock. The editor and all associated with the *Glossary* deserve our congratulations and our thanks. The publishers deserve our orders, in their hundreds.

The ALA glossary of library and information science was published last year by the American Library Association and costs US\$50.00. (ISBN 0 8389 0371 1)

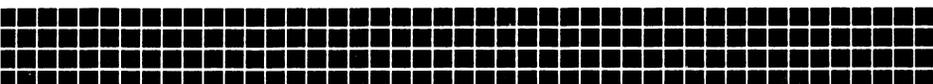
US literature

100 American authors, chosen because they are 'frequently studied in courses by undergraduates and graduate students' are the focus of Valmai Kirkham Fenster's *Guide to American literature*, which was published last year by Libraries Unlimited.

For each author she lists published works, both separate and collected, edited texts, including autobiographies, correspondence and diaries, together with an indication of the whereabouts of significant collections of authors' papers or manuscripts. There is also a good selection of secondary works, arranged under the headings biography, criticism, bibliographies and reference works. Comments given along the way are evaluative and helpful.

The first 65 pages are devoted to general reference tools and other materials which will be of use to the student of American literature, including some basic guidance on the use of libraries and on conducting a literature search. Fenster's work will be useful on campuses where significant numbers of American authors are studied. Elsewhere most librarians will be able to get by with Sheehy, the *Oxford companion to American literature*, contemporary authors, *The reader's encyclopedia of American literature* and various bits of Kunitz, bearing in mind, of course, that none of the latter was designed for the specific audience of Fenster's book.

Guide to American literature by Valmai Kirkham Fenster was published last year by Libraries Unlimited and costs US\$23.50. (ISBN 0 87287 373 0).



Information Management

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