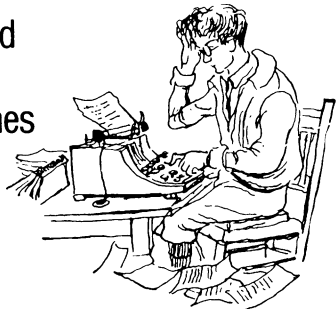


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## What's the latest?

The Research and Development Department of the British Library sponsors a creditable number of research projects — perhaps not as many, in these straitened times, as they would like, nor as might be necessary, but there it is.

The recognition and interpretation of handwritten script by computer, for example, is being explored with the help of a BLRDD grant — the pipe-dream of cheap conversion of handwritten catalogue entries is still a fair way away, though. Initially a 'good clear and consistent style will be imposed on the user', which will obviously rule out some of the venerable spiderings which I have seen masquerading as catalogue entries.

This is just one of the projects mentioned in *Research reviews* no 3, September 1982, which was entitled *Advances in technology*. Copies of this issue are available free from BLRDD, Sheraton House, Great Chapel Street, London, W1V 4BH.

The second *Research review* (July 1982) dealt with *Library automation*, and discusses in a span of 32 pages the development of computerised library 'housekeeping' systems, with an emphasis on the British scene. The four pages dealing with automation at BL are particularly informative. Their use of computer input microfilm to automate the BM catalogue is especially heartening for other research libraries which hope to convert their files without rekeyboarding a complete catalogue.

*Library automation* by R.G. Woods (*Research reviews* no 2) will cost you £2.00 (No ISSN !?)

## AV Update

'Irregular, but useful' is the (accurate) label of *AV update*, a newsletter published by the AACOBS Queensland AV Subcommittee.

Since it was first published in July 1983 it has provided short news items on topical AV developments and innovations. The first issue told how to teleconference, and about some sources and equipment for disabled users.

Further information on *AV update* is available from Neville Meyers, Secretary, AACOBS Queensland State Committee, c/o State Library of Queensland, William Street, Brisbane, Qld 4000, phone (07) 221 8400. (No ISSN)

## NZ specials

The New Zealand Library Association has recently published a new edition of its very useful *DISLIC: directory of special libraries and information centres in New Zealand*. The new edition, the fifth, contains entries for 385 libraries. As well as providing all the kinds of information you would expect from such a directory, *DISLIC* has no less than seven indexes to extend its usefulness: indexes by parent organisation, type of organisation, subject, publications, named and special collections, personnel, locality and library symbol.

I'm inclined to agree with the blurb that *DISLIC* with its 111 pages of clear easy-to-read type is an essential tool for all special and reference librarians and employers' in New Zealand. It will be useful for some special libraries and reference collections in Australia too.

*DISLIC*, 5th edition, was edited by Paul Szentirmay and Thiam Ch'ng Szentirmay, is published by the NZLA and costs NZ\$19.90 (NZ\$14.90 for NZLA members).

## Directory assistance

Who supplies anthropometric tape? Who makes stair lifts? Where can you buy a talking typewriter? Tough questions like these can be answered quickly using the newly published *Disability aids directory*.

This work, which is believed by its publishers to be the first 'comprehensive directory of its kind to be published in Australia' lists many hundreds of suppliers of products and services for the elderly and for people with disabilities. Entries are arranged in broad groups — building fixtures, communications, clinical

and therapeutic aids, and so on — to which the user is guided by a products index which is really very good. There are 887 product groups, which makes the directory usefully specific. Entries do not, however, provide detailed information about individual products — you will have to contact suppliers for that.

Also included are the names and addresses of Australian and some overseas organisations devoted to the interests of people with disabilities, and a 464-item list of publications — user feedback will make these sections fuller and more useful in future editions.

*Disability aids directory*, published earlier this year by Mount Eagle Publications, PO Box 84, Heidelberg, Vic 3084, is a creditable 'first'. It costs \$9.50, plus \$1.00 postage. (ISSN 0812-4663)

## Profiles high and low

It's easy enough to get basic information about the Federal ministry, although of course to keep the data up to date is trickier. It's also possible to track down speeches in Hansard and elsewhere, press releases and articles about ministers and so on. But it takes time, and resources which may be spread all over the country. Many organisations subscribe to clipping services to find out what is being written about politicians. And there is at least one tailor-made service providing, on a subscription basis, profiles of the federal ministry, complete with a range of extracts from newspapers and periodicals, which will be updated in line with ministerial mortality or otherwise.

*Australian Federal Government Profile* is the beast in question. It tells you who is in the ministry, how long they have been in Parliament, qualifications and occupations, party positions, recreations (did you know that Mr Dawkins breeds dogs?), what major speeches they have made in Parliament (and the date) and, most intangible information of all, what 'policy directions' may be associated with each minister. Then there are the extracts reproduced from newspapers and periodicals. All very useful stuff. Only you can tell if the demand in your institution, and the time saved in referring to this service, justifies its by no means insignificant cost.

Further information on *Australian Federal Government Profile* is available from Infoquest. (ISBN 0 949519 03 0).

# Information Management

## ON SHOW IN BRISBANE

The full product range, live demonstrations, latest databases and key members of the team

Catch up with the leaders on Stands 42 and 43, August 27-31

Full details from:

Adelaide — Neil Hodges 268 1933; Brisbane — George Notaras 369 5877;  
Canberra — Long Tjhia 47 0988; Melbourne — Terry Heffernan 543 6166;  
Perth — John Kelly 322 2730; Sydney — Adrienne Lambert 662 7011.  
Head Office — Ian McCallum, Leigh Baker and Diana Killen (03) 543 6166.

# ACICS AT LAA/NZLA

ACI  
Computer Services