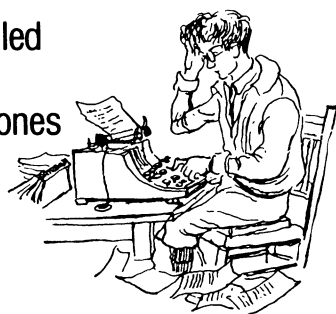


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Which bibliography?

There is no national bibliography of Namibia, right? The most likely source for Namibian imprints is the *South African national bibliography*, right? Wrong — on both counts.

There is the *Namibische National-Bibliographie/Namibian national bibliography*, an externally produced national bibliography published in Basle. Information on elusive national bibliographies from this and other third world countries is provided in G. E. Gorman and M. M. Mahoney's *Guide to current national bibliographies in the third world*, a new Zell/Saur publication. Sixty countries are covered, from Algeria to Zimbabwe, as well as a number of regional bibliographies. For each bibliography there is a detailed publishing history, an exposition of its scope and content and a very full evaluation of its usefulness.

A beam of bibliographical light on a relatively obscure area, G. E. Gorman and M. M. Mahoney's *Guide to current national bibliographies in the third world* was published last year by Hanz Zell Publishers, an imprint of K. G. Saur. It costs DM88.00 and my copy was supplied by James Bennett. (ISBN 0 905450 08 6 (Zell); ISBN 3 598 10446 4 (Saur))

Which atlas?

Kenneth Kister has already applied his not inconsiderable abilities to the comparative examination of encyclopaedias and English-language dictionaries. With *Kister's atlas buying guide* he finds his way around 'general English-language world atlases available in North America'. The 105 titles he covers range from large works intended for adult users, such as the *Times atlas of the world*, to

small children's atlases, such as the *Big blue marble atlas*.

Most of the atlases listed were published in the 1970s or early 1980s (the closing date for adding new titles, price changes and so on was September 1983). Many of the atlases are available in Australia roughly in the form in which Kister would have seen them. For each title Kister provides variant titles, publishers and North American distributors' names, publication dates, number of pages, prices, ISBNs and a half- to one-page evaluation — there are also references to any reviews of the atlases which have been noted. Kister's introduction is a thorough exposition of how to judge an atlas, and the guide is rounded off by a full subject and title index, a bibliography and charts comparing some of the principal features of the atlases described.

Smaller Australian libraries would be better served by the modest encyclopaedia buying guide published a while ago by the Libraries Branch of the South Australian Education Department. Large Australian reference libraries where the question 'Which atlas should we buy?' is sometimes heard will find this new Kister guide quite handy.

Kenneth F. Kister's *Kister's atlas buying guide* (now there's a trap for the Incite proof-reader!) was published earlier this year by Oryx Press and costs US\$37.50. My review copy was supplied by Bennetts. (ISBN 0 912700 62 9)

Two NLA bestsellers

New editions of two of the most useful National Library of Australia publications appear this year. *Newspapers in Australian libraries: a union list* puts in a welcome appearance in its fourth edition — the third, published in 1973 and 1975 was getting rather long in the tooth.

Part 1 of *NAL, Overseas newspapers*, was published in July (ISBN 0 642 99298 3) and costs \$10.00 post free. There are 3,400 titles listed in the new edition, together of course with holdings information, much of it newly reported. The second part, *Australian newspapers*, is expected to be completed later in the year, and will contain about 4,800 titles.

The fifth edition of *Guide to the National Union Catalogue of Australia* was published in June this year. As well as providing a key to the National Union Catalogue code of library symbols, together with the addresses, tele-

phone and telex numbers of participating libraries, the *Guide* also provides a detailed introduction to the Australian system of union catalogues. This introduction is all the more valuable because of the many and varied changes which the union catalogues have undergone in recent years. This *Guide* is essential for all inter-library loans officers, and reference staff will find it useful too as a directory of major Australian libraries.

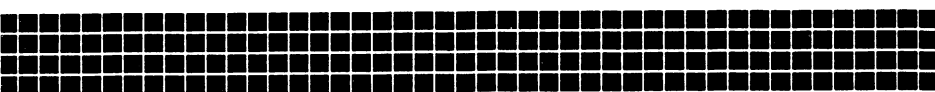
Guide to the National Union Catalogue of Australia, 5th edition, costs \$7.50 post free from the Sales and Subscriptions Section, NLA, Canberra, ACT 2600. (ISBN 0 642 99304 1)

NT landmark

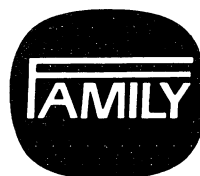
The massive compilation of the bibliography of the Northern Territory has taken a great leap forward with the publication last year of the fourth and final part of Carol Mills' *magnum opus*. Carol, who describes herself as 'the hapless bibliographer', decided in 1975 to prepare a work of 'apparently not more than 2000 entries in three parts'. It became a juggernaut, happily without the unfortunate side-effects of that vehicle, which, as far as Carol is concerned, has now ground to a halt. Part 4 of *A bibliography of the Northern Territory: monographs* is in two volumes — over 750 pages in all — and covers the Aborigines, as well as containing supplementary entries to parts 1-3.

There is also a consolidated index to all four parts, which contains author and title entries, and subject references to the classification used. This is an essential bibliography for Australian reference collections, all the more valuable for the diversity of its contents: theses, monographs, pamphlets, information sheets, parliamentary papers. I hope, as does the compiler of these parts, that this bibliographical project will continue and spread into other important areas such as archives and manuscripts, the better to build on the useful foundation which has now been made.

A bibliography of the Northern Territory: monographs, part 4, volumes 1 and 2, was published by Canberra CAE Library as number 10 in its Library Bibliography Series in 1983. The 2-volume set of part 4 costs \$20.00. (ISBN 0 85889 060 (set); ISBN 0 86889 061 5 (Part 1); ISBN 0 85889 082 8 (Part 2); ISBN 0 86889 191 2 (Part 3); ISBN 0 85889 232 4 (Part 4, volumes 1 and 2. — phew!)



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