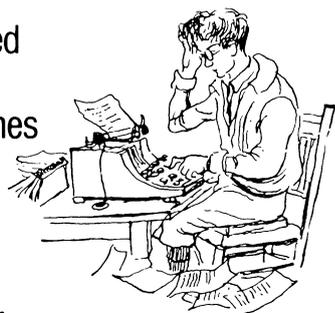


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



China studies

The Australia-China Friendship Society has produced a 15-page bibliography of China study materials, intended for teachers and in some cases students of years 7-12. The select and briefly annotated bibliography covers primary sources — Chinese folktales, legends, stories and poetry — as well as secondary works on history, geography, religion, philosophy, women and Chinese in Australia. Some audio-visual materials and relevant suppliers are also listed. The compiler, Pauline Keating, has been highly selective and has succeeded in producing a manageable and useful work.

A selected bibliography of China study materials for teachers and students in secondary schools is available from the Australia-China Friendship Society, 226 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Vic 3065. (No ISBN).

View into another world

The Visual Impairment Reference Libraries (Melbourne) have produced a brief list of children's literature with the theme of blindness and visual impairment. The Group hopes that the books listed will 'encourage young readers and create an awareness towards other children who may be visually impaired'. There are picture books, books for older children (and parents) and a small selection of reference books, all recommended by one or more librarians in the Group. The list also contains the addresses of Australian bookshops specialising in books for handicapped children.

Copies of the six-page list are available gratis from Bernadette Hodgkinson, Association for the Blind, 7 Mair Street, Brighton Beach, Vic 3188.

Nonsexist reading

Developed to provide American teachers with materials to offset the influence of sex-based texts, *Bibliography of nonsexist supplementary books K-12* lists just under 600 books arranged by reading level for grades 1-12.

Works are described as nonsexist (defined as presenting both female and male as major characters with equal skills or competencies) or compensatory (featuring females as leading characters with skills and competencies that so often have been allocated to male characters). Appendixes list further reading, describe analysis procedures of the Centre for Sex Equality Program staff and provide definitions and notes on readability. There are author, title and subject indexes. The main strength of this bibliography lies in its annotations. Its North American bias will limit its usefulness for Australian teachers and librarians.

Bibliography of nonsexist supplementary books K-12, developed by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Centre for Sex Equality, was published earlier this year by Oryx Press. It costs \$22.50 and is available locally from James Bennett. (ISBN 0 89774 101 3).

Print migration

Business publications index and abstracts is one of those infrequent phenomena — an online database which grew into a printed index. This newish Gale publication is a hard copy version of the Management Contents database.

Starting with 1983, twelve monthly issues of *Business publications index and abstracts* provided 'thorough indexing of approximately 36,000 articles appearing in over 700 business-oriented periodicals, as well as the contents of some 3,000 business books'. The 1983 cumulation is in two large volumes, one consisting of abstracts arranged by citation number, the other of subject and author entries which contain sufficient information to identify bibliographical items. If you don't need the abstracts, you needn't buy that volume. I can't help feeling that most organisations needing the kind of coverage of this work would already be using Management Contents and other management and business databases online anyway. Although I also admit that the reasons why this work is a good buy in the apologia pro vita sua-like blurb have some cogency — the volumes will

allow 'simple look-ups and searches without incurring online charges' and photocopying of citations without paying 'print' or 'type' charges. Indexing is a tricky business, in more ways than one, and I wish this youngster well in a cruel world.

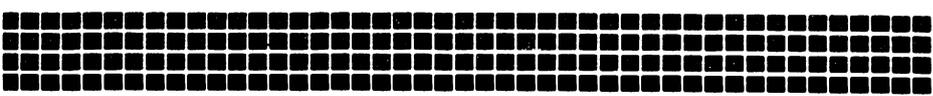
Business publications index and abstracts is published by Gale (ISSN 0739-618X) and costs US\$250.00 each for subscriptions to *Subject-author citations* and *Abstracts*. The 1983 cumulation of the former costs US\$250 (ISBN 0 8103 1518 1); so does the cumulation of the latter (ISBN 0 8103 1519 X).

Forget the story — here are the facts

Second-year communications students at Mitchell CAE are set a number of practical exercises which will stand them in good stead when they become cadet journalists or whatever. For us the exercise may be of more immediate benefit, for the result is a series of *Mitchell fact finders*: each a compendium of useful references or contacts such as a lucky journo might need were he or she writing 'a series of articles, or producing a radio or television documentary' on particular topics. The 'best' such assignments are reproduced, the second and third, which I have seen, covering subjects dear to our hearts: *Sport issues* and *Rural issues*.

The results are curate's-eggy: the compiler of the bit on animal liberation who misspelt Christine Townend's name will be in good company on the dubious dailies, especially now that journalists have to spell their own stories. And the researcher who accepts as gospel the 0900 to 1700, Monday to Friday opening hours alleged for the State Library of NSW will have less hours to fill in than they think at the Journalists' Club or E.Js. But this is too uncharitable: after all, these works are unedited — a raw curate's egg, one might say — and will be useful guides for the students' successors. They may also be helpful for librarians groping their way through topics such as these which are relatively barren of published Australian reference guides or bibliographies.

Mitchell fact finders ('volumes' 2 and 3 entitled *Sport issues* and *Rural issues* respectively) were issued by the School of Communication and Liberal Studies, Mitchell CAE, Bathurst, NSW 2795 and are available to interested libraries gratis. (No ISBNs or ISSN).



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