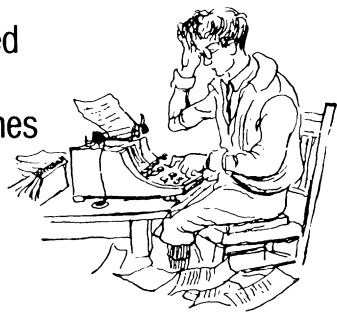


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Disabilities online

A wide range of online databases will provide references and in some cases product information relevant to the handicapped and the libraries which serve them. *Disability information online* is a recent leaflet from the National Library of Australia which lists and briefly describes 19 databases providing information on specific disabilities, services or products for the disabled and references to special format materials for disabled users.

The databases listed are all available through the Computer Search Services of the NLA, and may also be accessible through State or local sources. So if you want to know who supplies inclinators, or the source of braille versions of bestsellers, this leaflet, and the databases it lists, will be a help.

Copies of the leaflet are available from the Library Services for the Handicapped Section, NLA, Canberra, ACT 2600.

On another front, the NLA is carrying out a world-wide survey of library materials for the blind, on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The survey, which will involve the collection of information from over 300 major libraries and institutions around the world, will collate information on catalogues, lists and directories of materials for the blind. The object is to facilitate international sharing of resources for the visually handicapped.

Cable basics

Cable television has tremendous potential for non-entertainment purposes, and this has been explored by a number of libraries in the

United States since the early 1970s. By the early 1980s, however, there had developed a distinct loss of impetus, if not of interest. The optimistic view that, given the right chances, cable will achieve its real potential, is the philosophy behind *Cable for information delivery*, published earlier this year by Knowledge Industry Publications. Editor Brigitte L. Kenney and seven co-writers introduce the concept primarily to librarians, educators and 'cable professionals'. The latter are targeted because many of them 'appear to be somewhat mystified by the concept of non-entertainment uses for cable systems'.

The history of library involvement, current developments, the basics of cable technology, legal issues and sundry aspects of the library applications are treated in clear, no-nonsense terms. How are libraries linking with the new technology? Some are planning to place their online catalogues on the cable menu. Others operate local electronic information services via cable. Some libraries have used cable TV lines to provide high-speed data transmission between central computers and outlying libraries at a cheaper rate than leased telephone lines. Whether cable TV will ever achieve the prominence in Australia that it has in North America remains to be seen — certainly the era of satellite transmission of television programmes within Australia is well and truly upon us. This well-produced work tells a little of what may be in store, and issues a number of challenges to the receptive reader.

Cable for information delivery, edited by Brigitte L. Kenney, was published earlier this year by Knowledge Industry Publications, White Plains, New York. It costs US\$34.50 and my copy was supplied by the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 0 86729 056 0)

Charting the Reef

One of the useful products of the REEF database is a recently published indexed list of *Maps of the Great Barrier Reef*. REEF, by the way, is a computerised database developed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in association with the CSIRO, which includes an almost bewildering array of references to the Reef in print and non-print.

The present work lists 663 items, arranged by the northernmost latitude of the map. By scanning the book from front to back you travel north to south (left-handers will prob-

ably travel south to north), or you can use the index to place names, which refers to item numbers. Normal information about publisher, author, date, scale and size is also given, together with any series numbers. 'Most of the items listed can be obtained through normal library channels,' as the editor, Jean Dartnall, nautically puts it. But in cases of particular difficulty the GBRMPA Library is willing to help with locations.

Maps of the Great Barrier Reef: an indexed list of maps and charts of the Great Barrier Reef Region was published this year, I think — the final date for the inclusion of new items was November 1983. Copies are available gratis from the GBRMPA. (ISBN 0 642 52361 4).

Also available from the GBRMPA is *Cook, cays and corals*, a very substantial bibliography of books, maps and articles, both popular and scholarly. This bibliography was published in 1982. Contact Jean Dartnall, Librarian, GBRMPA, PO Box 1379, Townsville, Qld 4810. (ISBN 0 642 52297 9).

Celluloid cornucopia

Having put East Germany, Poland and France under close focus, the *International directory of cinematographers, set- and costume-designers in film* now zooms in on some of the smaller film-making nations.

Volume 3 dispatches Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania and Yugoslavia in a span of 297 pages of reduced typescript, an austere format which is uniform with other volumes in the series. As with the earlier volumes, each entry provides skeletal information — date of birth, place of birth and studies, speciality — followed by a chronological list of films with which the subject is associated. It is encouraging to see this useful reference work spreading — it really is a mine of information, especially on 'minor' figures in film.

International directory of cinematographers, set- and costume-designers in film, volume 3: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Yugoslavia (from the beginnings to 1980) was published last year by Saur, costs DM98.00 and is available locally from James Bennett. (ISBN 3 598 21433 2)

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