



Short Shrift

Australian books 1983 (ISSN 0067-1738), published late last year by the National Library of Australia. Familiar format for this select list of recent publications and standard works in print. \$5.50. Essential.

Prometheus, vol 1 no 1 June 1983 (ISSN 0810-9028). Bound to be useful. 'The journal of issues in technological change, innovation, information economics and science policy'. Edited at the Information Research Unit, Department of Economics, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld 4067. Twice yearly. \$25.00 p.a. Far from lightweight.

The Jonathan Coleman doodle book (ISBN 0 9599177 5 6) sent by a publisher who thought I needed some light relief. Published in 1983 by Horan, Wall and Walker, Surry Hills, NSW. \$3.95. Zany, off-beat and sometimes just off.

Platforms for government (ISBN 0 9592935 0 7) is strictly non-fiction. What the four main Australian political parties say they stand for, what eminent insiders like David Combe and Sir William McMahon say the platforms stand for, and what Geoffrey

Hawker says about the whole caboodle. Indexed. Published in 1982 by (a new one for me) Yarralumla Soft in association with David Combe and Associates. \$29.95. The Ayes have it.

The Ethnic communities in New South Wales - a handbook of statistics (ISBN 0 9594072 1 9). Basic information on the 11.6% of the NSW population from a non-English speaking background. Published in 1983 by the Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales, 154 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. \$4.00. Commended by the Source - and Neville Wran.

Tactical mapping newsletter (ISSN 0811-4684) from the Australian Institute of Cartographers. Documents development of maps and graphics for the visually impaired. Available from Byrne Goodrick, AIC Tactical Mapping Working Group, GPO Box 1292, Canberra, ACT 2601. Gratis.

Computer technology in local government (ISBN 0 9595028 5 8) by Eric W. Howard. Reports on a study tour in Australia and overseas. Published by the Foundation for the Technical Advancement of Local Government Engineering in Victoria, 71 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne, Vic 3205. \$5.00. Cheap introduction.

Cheap eats in Sydney (ISSN 0706-2761). Third edition, 600 restaurants, 45 cuisines. Horan Wall and Walker again. \$3.95 for starters.

Link-up (ISSN 0158-5460) from the National Library of Australia Library Services for the Handicapped. News, technological innovation, information sources. Was it here that I first learned about ABLEDATA, that useful database of products for the disabled? Also in audio format. 6 issues per year. Gratis.

David J. Jones

National computer service for 10,000 schools

PRIMARY and secondary schools throughout Australia have decided on a national computer system to share information on their library holdings.

Co-ordinated by ASCIS - the Australian Schools Catalogue Information Service - a major tender for the provision of online and batch services has been let to ACI Computer Services.

Georgina Cane, newly-appointed Director of ASCIS, explained the ambitious project: School libraries play a major role in meeting the information requirements of both students and teachers. ASCIS believes that with a national system for the co-ordination and delivery of school-based information services it can realise the potential benefits of individual resource collections. Students, teachers, and school libraries will now have access to resources beyond their separate capacities to acquire.

The software successfully tendered by ACI is IBM's DOBIS - an internationally implemented library management system which provides not only for the generation of catalogue cards and microfiche, but also for specific library functions such as acquisitions, circulation, online searching and serials control.

ACI will provide online access to DOBIS through its national network based on an IBM 3081 computer located in Melbourne. This network is already used for ACI's AUSINET public database service.

INSEARCH LTD/DIALOG

Insearch Ltd. is the Research & Development Company of the NSW Institute of Technology. Insearch Ltd/DIALOG is the Australian and New Zealand agent for Lockheed's DIALOG Information Retrieval Service, the world's leading online information system. Applications are invited for the position of a

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who is required to present DIALOG Seminars in major cities in Australia and New Zealand, to market the DIALOG system and to provide customer service under the direction of the DIALOG Training Co-ordinator.

Professional qualifications acceptable to the Library Association of Australia are desirable. A science (chemistry) graduate is preferred. Online database searching and teaching experience would be an advantage. Salary negotiable.

Applications close March 2nd, 1984. Further information may be obtained from Jennifer Affleck on (02) 264 6344. Address: PO Box K16, Haymarket, NSW 2000.

They're doing it again!

The last time the Special Libraries Section of the NSW Branch organised tea under the trees, followed by an inspection of the Royal Botanic Gardens Library, everyone enjoyed it so much they wanted to do it again. So they are. Why not join them? See Happenings for further details.

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