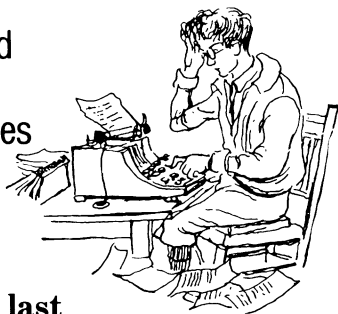


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



ALISA – at last

There have been lax in not noting *ALISA* sooner. After all *ALISA* has been alive and well since 1982, and if ever a guernsey was justly reserved, ACHLIS merits it.

ALISA: Australian library and information science abstracts is a product of the Australian Clearing House for Library and Information Science at Footscray Institute of Technology Library. This energetic enterprise collects data on published and unpublished Australian material on subjects within its ambit, supplies such data to *Library and information science abstracts* in the United Kingdom, to the *Australian education index* and online to AUSINET. Citations, complete with abstracts, for all items handled by ACHLIS appear in an annual *ALISA* volume, as well as on the AEII database on AUSINET.

The 1982 annual volume showed a healthy crop of Australian surveys, reports, research papers, dissertations, submissions, major bibliographies and newsletters, as well as journal articles, on Australian librarianship – 483 items, in fact. 1983 was an even bigger year, with about 700 entries. Only staffing limitations prevented a bumper crop.

Entries are arranged by broad subject, with name and an excellent subject index. This is a most worthwhile venture, vastly improving access to published and near-published material of vital interest to Australian librarians in all kinds of libraries. It is not until one sees the impressive extent and range of material covered in *ALISA* that one gets a true idea of the work being carried out in our field in Australia, for which we have hitherto had to hunt in a variety of

sources, home-grown and overseas. To *ALISA* a belated but by no means bathetic welcome!

ALISA 1982 annual volume costs \$20.00 and is available from the James Bennett Group, or direct from the Administration Unit, FIT Library, PO Box 64, Footscray, Vic 3011. Orders to FIT should be prepaid, please. (ISSN 0810-9265).

Now for the seven-year itch

The Source is seven years old this month. It began in an earlier incarnation of the *Australian Library Journal* on that most inauspicious day, April 1st 1977. It was intended to be an overflow column for bits and pieces which the Editor of the *ALJ* couldn't fit in elsewhere or couldn't make head or tail of. Whether the compiler managed any better we leave posterity to decide.



As the compiler's confidence grew, he even began to write some of his own headlines – some excruciating puns and some other rather strained plays on words. Nowadays he is prepared to own up to all the headlines in the column: blame where blame is due. Gradually the miscellaneous bits dropped out from the Source and the compiler's own preoccupation, reference works, especially Australian ones, came to the fore.

On attaining its seventh year of printed existence, the Source thought it might be useful to try to answer some commonly-asked questions about itself (answers below):

Q.1. Is the Source compiler one person, or

are there several compilers using one name?

- Q.2. How do you get raw material for the column?
- Q.3. Is the Source illustration really a portrait of the Source compiler, and who did it?
- Q.4. Who published *Death by association* (*InCite* vol 3 no 1, 22 January 1982, page 3)? And have you read it?
- Q.5. How long does it take to produce the column for each issue? And how do you find time to do it anyway?
- Q.6. And why do you do it?

It only remains to thank the column's constant readers over the past few years, the LAA publications staff for finding space, and the publishers and members who have sent in items to look at and note. If all of you can keep that up, I guess I can too.

- A.1. Ask my analyst.
- A.2. Much of it materialises in a plastic tray marked David Jones at LAA House. Some finds its way through the mass of official mail at my place of work (please try to avoid that – the official mail, I mean, not work). More still showers down like manna during meetings of the Editorial Board. Some actually reaches me at home – the sign of a true reference sleuth. One item was addressed to the Library Association of Australia, c/- David Jones Pty Ltd, at my home address.

A.3. Unfortunately not. It's actually based on an illustration from Manfred Michael's *Timpetill* (OUP), a novel about a town where the children are so naughty that all the adults run away and leave them to their own devices. The chap with the typewriter is trying to bring out the town's newspaper. The original illustration was by Richard Kennedy.

- A.4. (a) Nobody, although judging by the response to the item, there is an eager market out there waiting to be tapped.
- (b) Of course not, I only reviewed it.
- A.5. (a) About a fortnight, in my spare time, of course.
- (b) With difficulty.
- A.6. Because I enjoy it. I find it stimulating. And what feedback I receive tends to confirm my view that it is a Useful Thing to do.

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