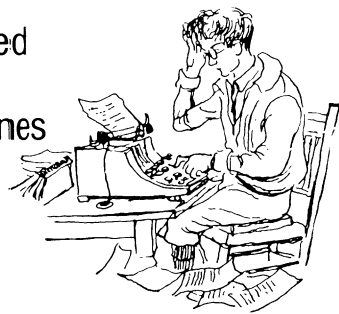


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Something special

92 special libraries, covering subjects as diverse as disasters and decorative arts, occupational medicine and ornithology, palaeontology and penology, are listed in a new edition of the *N.S.W. Government special libraries directory*.

This edition, compiled by Rosemary Bell for the New South Wales Government Special Libraries Group, continues in the vein of earlier directories issued by the State Library of New South Wales. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order by key words in the parent institution's name (e.g. Board of Fire Commissioners) which takes a little getting used to, although there is always the contents list and the subject index to help you along. Information is given on subject scope, collection size, departmental objectives, public access, interlending policies, equipment and staff names.

Copies of the *N.S.W. Government special libraries directory* are available gratis, while stocks last, from Rosemary Bell, Librarian, Department of Main Roads, PO Box 198, Haymarket, NSW 2000, phone (02) 218 6520. (ISSN 0726-7754)

What musical shall we do next?

There are many books available on staging a musical, but in Richard Chigley Lynch's opinion 'none have [sic] adequately addressed the question that the amateur company asks itself when a musical finishes its run' — what musical shall we do next?

Lynch has therefore compiled *Musicals!: a directory of musical properties available for production*, consisting of almost 400 entries for musicals ranging from *The adventures of Marco Polo* (with music based on themes of Rimsky-Korsakov) to *The Zulu and the Zayda* (for the original production of which a Zulu and Yiddish glossary was provided).

Along the way there are of course the golden oldies, the *Gigis*, the *Godspells*, the *Hairs* and the *Mames*. Each entry gives basic information on the musical's origin and availability (book, music, lyrics, publisher of libretto, recordings, licensing agent, cast, and whether a condensation or anthology from the musical has been published). Agents and publishers listed, it should be noted, are the American ones, and local users will still need to do a bit of hunting around to make best use of this work.

A very useful feature of Lynch's book is the brief description given of each musical: what it's about, how hard it is to stage, which audience it will best suit, strong points, weak points, general evaluative comments. There's enough good material here to keep the Wombat Beach Musical Society busy for at least 400 years. Richard Chigley Lynch is assistant curator of the Billy Rose Theatre Collection at the New York Public Library, and certainly knows his *Musicals*!

Published last year by the American Library Association and priced at US\$19.50, this work, like so many ALA publications, is printed on pH-neutral paper. Review copy supplied by the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 0 8389 0404 1)

ARGAP 2 the rescue

We all have our favourite reference books. And those which infuriate us. My favourite infuriating reference book has been *ARGAP: a research guide to Australian politics and cognate subjects*, the work of the bibliovore Henry Mayer, with Margaret Bettison and Judy Keene. *ARGAP* was published as long ago as 1976, and I can remember cutting my teeth on it as a reviewer, enthralled by the work's usefulness, but confused by its idiosyncratic (but certainly not idiotic) arrangement.

Henry Mayer has now, with Liz Kirby (one of the merry band of Librarian/research assistants), produced *ARGAP 2: a second research guide to Australian politics and cognate subjects*, which updates and complements its predecessor. Like *ARGAP* it covers

much more than the Australian politics its title implies, simply because the authors recognise the pervasiveness of political life. I can remember warning beginning librarians about this book: 'Don't be put off by its title. It's more like a research guide to Australia in general'.

In the absence of an Australian Walford or Sheehy, in the days before Radford, Sheehan, Choate and others had chipped away at the rich lode of Australian reference materials, I have used *ARGAP* and Borchardt's *Australian bibliography* to get leads, to check citations, to refresh the memory and to explore unfamiliar territory. And once you got used to *ARGAP*'s arrangement and made allowances for its less than perfect index, it was useful.

ARGAP 2 should prove to be equally useful, and, by the look of it, somewhat less infuriating. There are in it over a thousand succinctly and pithily annotated entries, continuing the numbering system adopted in *ARGAP*, under nineteen broadish subject headings which match the first volume, except for an additional chapter dealing, bravely, with science, technology and society.

There are 160 'Notes' — mines of information, gems of experience, timesaving comments on subjects as diverse as *InCite* (all plugs gratefully received), visualcy, security organizations and public opinion polls. A most welcome feature of *ARGAP 2* is the index, a combined author, title and subject index to the present volume and to the 1700 items and 150 notes in the previous volume. This index will help the hard-pressed reference worker find information quickly, reserving a ramble through chapters, pleasurable though that is, for more leisurely times. Buy it. Use it. Wander through it. It's infuriatingly good.

ARGAP 2, by Henry Mayer and Liz Kirby, was published last year by Longman Cheshire. It costs \$39.95. (ISBN 0 582 71495 8). If you don't already have *ARGAP 1* there may be a few copies still around, at about \$39.00. (ISBN 0 7015 1786 7).

The latest edition of *So You Want to Work in Libraries*, published by the NSW Branch of the LAA is now available.

Single copies are available free of charge. Contact Jenny Angus at the LAA (02) 692 9233.

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