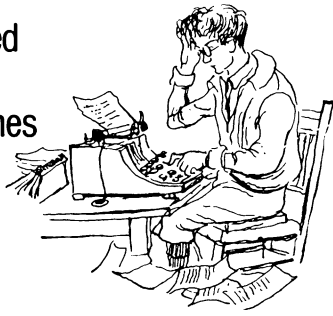


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Happy ending

After 12 years the ambitious project of surveying the world's publishing and bookselling industry has been completed.

For it was as long ago as 1972 that the first volume of *The book trade of the world*, covering mainly Europe, appeared, followed by volumes for the Americas, Australia and New Zealand, and Asia. In 1984 it was the turn of Africa. A section of the work is devoted to each African country, from the largest down to the smallest state or island — this volume goes as far afield as St Helena and the Cape Verde Islands. There is general information on the country, its history (with a book trade slant), how the trade is organized, information sources, taxes, copyright, national libraries and bibliographies, statistics of book production, prizes, fairs, imports and reviewing.

There is also a long and very informative introduction providing an excellent overview of the continent's book trade. The 391-page work is rounded off by a cumulative index to all four of the volumes. Editors Sigfred Taubert and Peter Weidhaas have welded the contributions of forty local observers into a consistent and readable form.

Africa, being volume 4 of *The book trade of the world*, is published by Saur, and is priced DM140. My review copy was supplied by Benetts. (ISBN 3 598 10354 9)

Statistical sources

In his *Guide to Australian economic and social statistics* (Sydney: Pergamon, 1983), A. J. Hagger provides a very neat and discursive helping hand on statistical publications from a variety of sources.

More recently Gerard Newman's *Sources of*

Australian official statistics gives guidance on publications from Australian Government departments and authorities. The most heavily used section of Newman's work will be his subject list — who issues figures about housing assistance, films, postal services, quarantine or payments to States? Readers may be astonished by the range of statistical information produced outside the Australian Bureau of Statistics, although of course Newman covers ABS publications too. Newman's work, Hagger's and the ABS catalogue form a useful trio to have on your shelves if you or your readers need more than a smattering of statistics. Gerard Newman's *Sources of Australian official statistics* was issued last year as supplement no 1 to *Monthly economic and social indicators* by the Legislative Research Service of the Department of the Parliamentary Library.

Copies are available gratis from the Publications Officer of the Department, Kurrajong Annex, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. (ISSN 0729-4905)

Databases by the dozen

Do you want to find an Australian database about Trichoptera? Or Federal Court decisions? Or Victorian motor vehicle registrations?

These and about a hundred other databases are listed and described in the very useful *Directory of Australian databases* published last year by the Australian Database Development Association. The Association, which was formed in November 1982, represents public and private sector organizations directly involved in the development or provision of access to publicly available Australian databases.

The 1984 *Directory* is seen by ADDA as a first step in gathering more complete industry information, and revised editions are planned — *Directory* information is held, not unnaturally, in a database to facilitate updating. To be eligible for inclusion, databases must be available online (not just in machine-readable form), must be publicly accessible and must be available through database producer, vendor, subject and acronym indexes. It's well laid out, and has a limpid introduction.

Directory of Australian databases was published last year by the Australian Database Development Association, PO Box 53, Hawthorn, Vic 3122. It costs \$35.00 (\$25.00 to ADDA members). (ISBN 0 9590967 0 1)

Knox, Knox — Who's there?

Last year the City of Knox, Victoria, published a very useful guide to historical materials on its area. *Exploring the history of the City of Knox: a catalogue of source material* describes items held by the Knox Historical Society, Sherbrooke Historical Society, Emerald Historical Society, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Puffing Billy Preservation Society, the local councils, local libraries and the La Trobe.

The emphasis is on local materials, although some general historical items (e.g. *Bailliere's Gazetteer*) are also listed. Some artefacts are also described, including a lure pot and a graft shovel, if you ever need one. The 417 items listed form an excellent starting point for the local historian, genealogist or student of the area. It has a good index, too.

Exploring the history of Knox was prepared by Kathleen Fennessy, Frances O'Neill and Ruth Leveson and was published last year by the City of Knox, 511 Burwood Highway, Knoxfield, Vic 3180. It is gratis. (ISBN 0 9590899 1 8)

Humble beginnings

The origins of library services in South Australia, their development and the major figures and organisations involved are the subject of a modest but useful bibliography compiled and published last year by Robert Phillips.

In this 78-page work, which is really a bit more like a reference guide than a pure bibliography, the compiler covers general works which may be useful, the scanty sources on the 1834-1856 period (relying largely, for want of other material, on newspaper references and a few archival sources), the growth of the institute phenomenon, the State Library and other SA libraries. There is a helpful introduction to each section, and items mentioned are extensively annotated. This work will be outstandingly useful for the growing band of Australian library historians, who will no doubt forgive some of the rougher edges of this first and perhaps a little tentative edition: the slips in proof-reading, the abbreviated imprints and the lack of comprehensiveness in the index.

Further information on *A bibliography of South Australian library history 1834-1984* may be obtained from its compiler, Robert W. Phillips, 4/6 Melba Street, Downer, ACT 2602. (No ISBN)

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