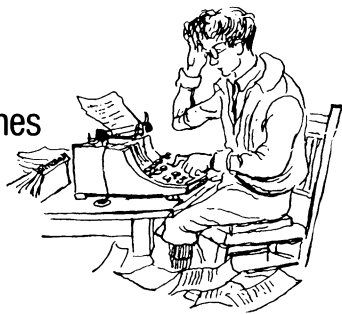# THE SOURCE

by
David J. Jones

Mammoth microfiche

K.G. Saur and ambitious publishing projects have become almost synonymous, at least in the bibliographical and directory milieu. So I guess I wasn't entirely astounded when I learned of one of Saur's most ambitious projects to date: the microfiching of the world's largest library catalogue.

The catalogue in question is, of course, the *Main Catalog of the Library of Congress (MCLC)*, covering approximately 7½ million titles catalogued by LC between 1898 and 980. It is a dictionary catalogue, with entries for author, title, subject, added entries for series, editors, translators, illustrators and so on, in one alphabetical sequence. 25 million cards, which at LC live in 24,000 catalogue drawers, will be reproduced on about 9,000 fiche.

The micropublishing project, which began last year, should be completed by 1988. There will be 18 instalments in all, and buyers may elect to pay in full on receipt of the first instalment, or on receipt of each shipment. The fiche will be standard 105mm × 148mm, negative, 48× reduction, and available either in diazo or silver halide. The catalogue will also be available in roll fiche format — this is the way it will be housed in the Library of Congress, with roll fiche readers to eliminate the problems of maintaining and refiling microfiche.

The *MCLC* will be available locally through James Bennett Pty Ltd, and further information on the scope of the project and on the monumental *Catalog* itself can be obtained from them at 4 Collaroy Street, Collaroy, NSW 2097, phone (02) 982 2122.

The unmasking of Toenail Point

Following the success of the first volume of placenames and their origins, Richmond-Tweed Regional Library has now produced a guide to the significance of further names in the northern region of New South Wales. In *Place names of the Tweed, Brunswick and Upper Richmond Regions*, you can find out who the Byron of Byron Bay was. Who had breakfast at Breakfast Creek. And all about a wide range of intriguing names, from Toenail Point to Strike a Light. This 64-page paperback is a very welcome addition to the small library of Australian placename dictionaries, and is excellent value at $5.00 (plus 60 cents postage within NSW and 70 cents interstate).

Place names of the Tweed, Brunswick and Upper Richmond Regions is available from Richmond-Tweed Regional Library, PO Box 80, Lismore, NSW 2480. (ISBN 0 949459 02 X)

One big FAMILY

Children's rights, remarriage, stepfamilies, family planning, technology and the family — these are a few of the subjects regularly covered by the Institute of Family Studies for its FAMILY database. FAMILY is a splendid example of a new Australian computer-produced database, and its printed equivalent is as good as any abstracting service I have used.

The database covers publications from 1980 onwards, and includes references to and abstracts of Australian material and material written by Australians in overseas publications on the daunting field of families and family life in Australia. Since September 1984 the database has been available online on the AUSINET network.

The first annual volume contains 1449 entries — the extent of the database in late 1984 — arranged in classified order, with comprehensive name and subject indexes. In future there will be quarterly issues of *FAMILY*, published in April, July and October, cumulating in an annual volume issued in December. If it lives up to the standard of volume one, which it doubtless will with the help of strong support from subscribers and online users, *FAMILY: Australian Family Studies Database* has a bright future.

Further information on the printed and online product is available from the Family Information Centre, Institute of Family Studies (a Commonwealth statutory authority), 766 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000. (ISSN 0814-6594)

IYY offering

Among the publications which have been produced to coincide with International Youth Year is a useful information guide and bibliography from the Research Service of the State Library of New South Wales.

Entitled *Working with youth: programmes, projects and schemes*, this 100-page book has two sections: the first provides annotated references to English-language materials on youth programmes around the world, with an emphasis on developments over the past ten years. Areas covered include unemployment, school to work transition, homelessness, family planning, delinquency, recreation and minorities. In all 264 items are listed and described, all of them available at one or more listed libraries in the Sydney region. The second part of the work consists of a list of reference sources for youth workers, compiled by the Community Information Development Association.
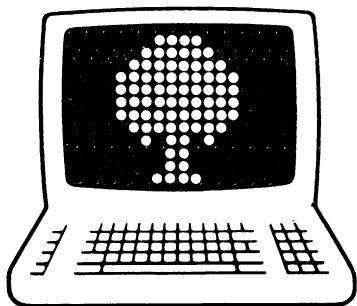
Copies of *Working with youth* are available gratis from the Research Service, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, phone (02) 230 1414. (ISBN 0 7305 1111 1.)

35 years of strikes

The coal strike of 1949 has been widely regarded as one of the great turning points in the history of the Australian labour movement. It is also the starting point, more or less, of Garry Radley's very useful *Strikes in Australia 1949–1983: an evaluative guide to sources of information*, which was published last year by the Industrial Relations Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

This 65-page booklet leads the user through the bibliographical tangle, from how to find relevant theses to an assessment of sources of statistical information, with many informative excursions along the way. Radley is able to show how relatively piecemeal is the bibliography of industrial disputes in Australia, and concludes with a number of recommendations to help remedy the situation. For anyone with even a passing interest in recent labour history in Australia, this work will be most welcome.

Published last year in the 'Industrial Relations Resource Series' by the IRRC at UNSW, Garry Radley's *Strikes in Australia* costs $7.00 post free ($9.00 if invoiced). (ISSN 0726-8513.)