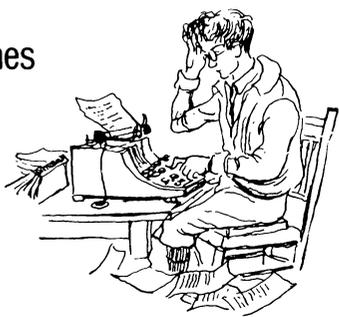


# THE SOURCE

by  
David J. Jones



## Trial by author

In which short story is there a copyright suit based on one author killing off another's fictional character? In which novel is there a witchcraft trial in contemporary San Francisco?

Legal fiction buffs ranging from the Rumpolemaniacs to the Perry Mason addicts will find suitable fodder in Jon L. Breen's *Novel verdicts: a guide to courtroom fiction*, which was published last year by Scarecrow. 421 novels or novellas are dealt with in detail, with a half-page or so of synopsis, followed by Breen's own verdict on the work. There is an author/title index, a cause of action index (from cannibalism to patent disputes) and a jurisdiction index (which even has two entries for Australia).

Jon L. Breen's *Novel verdicts* was published in 1984 by Scarecrow Press. It costs US\$18.50. (ISBN 0 8108 1741 1.)

## Faraway places . . .

What is Ubangi-Shari now known as? Which are the ACP states? Where is Krk? Have you ever heard of the Great Wall of Zhongguo? Such are the tricky questions which can be answered by Julie Wilcocks, *Countries and islands of the world: a guide to nomenclature*, the second edition of which was published earlier this year by Bingley. This work is very strong in alternative names, as well as name changes, and will be a useful addition to most reference shelves. It is not, and does not attempt to be comprehensive, so don't expect a substitute for a good gazetteer for your £9.95. *Countries and islands of the world*, by Julie Wilcocks, published by Bingley, which is a division of Library Association Publishing. (ISBN 0 85157 383 5).

Also in its second edition is Morris Fisher's compilation *Provinces and provincial capitals of the world*, a 248-page guide to the administrative bits and pieces which make up the countries of the world. These may be emirates, states, counties, provinces, regions, communes, local government areas, departments, khets and muhafazats. The contents are economically but clearly laid out, and well indexed, and the world looks reliable (although I noted that Gloucestershire had defeated the typist on one occasion).

Morris Fisher's *Provinces and provincial capitals of the world*, second edition, was also published earlier this year, but by Scarecrow Press. A review copy was supplied by Bennetts, from whom copies are available at US\$19.50. (ISBN 0 8108 1758 6).

## . . . with strange-sounding acronyms

Regular Source readers will be aware of my not-quite-amateur but indisputably intense interest in acronyms and abbreviations.

The first edition of Gale's *International acronyms, initialisms and abbreviations dictionary* has given me the chance to indulge in 730 pages of entries ranging from the commonplace to the most obscure. The emphasis in this work, a preliminary edition of which was issued last year and reviewed in the February 1985 issue of *Aust. Lib. J.*, is upon countries of the world in which English is not the major language. Over 90,000 terms are included, gleaned from a variety of sources, and Gale plans to issue two inter-edition supplements to cover new terms.

In addition a *Reverse international acronyms, initialisms and abbreviations dictionary* is projected, but for the moment you can settle for the full first edition, published by Gale Research earlier this year, of *International acronyms, initialisms and abbreviations dictionary*, for US\$150.00. (ISBN 0 8103 0509 7).

## Back to basics

Designed as a textbook for those taking the (English) Business Education Council Option Module Library and Information Work and the City and Guilds' Library Assistants Certificate, *The basics of librarianship* is now in its second edition. In a span of 250 pages, Colin Harrison and Rosemary Beenham tell a little about a lot, with plenty of further reading and even some project work ('List the 10 symbols

in BS 5261 that you think are likely to be the most used').

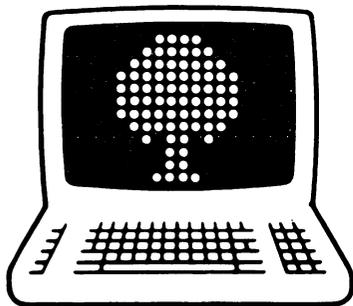
One refreshing feature of the Harrison/Beenham approach is the lack of ex cathedra statements. The student is credited with more than a modicum of intelligence and zeal, powers of observation and discrimination. On countless occasions the reader is invited to observe how such and such is done in his or her library and to suggest improvements. The British origins of this work are naturally reflected *passim*, but there is much in it which would be relevant for Australian students — what a pity there is no Australian equivalent.

Colin Harrison and Rosemary Beenham's *The basics of librarianship*, second edition, was published earlier this year by Bingley and costs a reasonable £8.75. The Source's review copy was supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. (ISBN 0 85157 370 3).

## Who wrote about whom

95,000 biographical works are listed in an enterprising new publication from the British Library Bibliographic Services division. The *Bibliography of biography*, as it is known, contains records created by BL and the Library of Congress, and covers works published throughout the world between 1970 and 1984. The microfiche bibliography has biographees' names as its main sequence, and there is an author/title index to provide additional access points. The 40-fiche set costs £75.00 (overseas price) and can be ordered from the Sales and Payments Unit, The British Library, Bibliographic Services Division, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH.

*Books in English* is a longer-standing publication of the BSD. It first appeared in an 'experimental' edition in 1970 in the technically stunning ultrafiche medium, and plugged on stubbornly through the 1970s, despite the failure of the ultrafiche format to become established. From 1981 *BIE* became available in 1:42 microfiche, which would have magnified its sales significantly. 1985 sees yet another, but less dramatic, change with *BIE* appearing in 1:48 reduction, and the publication of a cumulation in the same microfiche format of the 1.1 million records from the 1970-1980 *BIE*. This cumulation consists of around 600 fiche in their own 'permanent' storage case and will set you back £375.00 if you are an overseas buyer. Orders or further information: British Library, BSD, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1 4BH.



# AUSINET

## AUSINET EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SERVICE — NEW FROM NOV 1

A unique combination of Australian and overseas business and financial information

- 41 AUSINET Text Service databases
  - 10 World Reporter databases
  - AUSINET STATEX Service
- plus new high levels of consulting and support.

### AUSINET — THE INNOVATIVE LEADER, AGAIN

Full details from:

Adelaide — Anne Sanderson 268 1933; Brisbane — George Notaras 369 5877; Canberra — Hazel Williams 47 0988; Melbourne — David Honey or Ian Jamieson 544 8433; Perth — Don Young 322 2730; Sydney — Adrienne Lambert or Amanda Russell 437 6322; Head Office — Leigh Baker, Mark Wilson or Helen Myles (03) 544 8433.