)AD's the word!

ıe of the titles plannned for publication by e LAA early next year is the Directory of ıstralian Directories — DAD for short! It will ntain descriptive listings with a subject in- x to current directories published in and levant to Australia.

Librarians are well aware of the value of ·ectories as a reference resource; they are so aware of the difficulties that exist in the entification and location of directories. though several small-scale and specific-pur- ıse listings of directories have been pro- ıced in Australia in recent years, none has tempted the comprehensive coverage that AD is intended to achieve.

AD, son of Ralph

AD is the brainchild of its compiler, Ralph eid, who has been working at identifying, cating, and describing directories since April is year, towards a target publishing date ırly in 1987.

Ralph says that so far he has identified over 700 directories and expects that the final number for inclusion will be around 850. A pilot programme of data collection was run from April to July but the results were somewhat disappointing. Some librarians sent back responses indicating that no directories were produced by their organisation when Ralph was aware that this was not the case.

'I had thought that my librarian colleagues, as information providers, would have been much more responsive than that.'

'As an example of this,' he said, 'most shires and municipalities that have public library services now also publish community information directories; some are even published by the libraries themselves. But the *InCite* notice gleaned only two municipal community information directories; not exactly an overwhelming response. I had thought that my librarian colleagues, as information providers, would have been much more responsive than that.'

'On the other hand,' he continued, 'I have received some very enthusiastic and encouraging assistance and comments as to the potential value of DAD as an information resource.'

Assistance with the project

LAA members could provide much-needed assistance in this project by forwarding title, publisher and availability details of any directories that their library (or their parent organisation) produces — and preferably a copy of the directory, if possible — to Ralph Reid at 1 Ian Street, North Ryde, NSW 2113. Printouts of subject/title searches of automated catalogues or databases in which directories are listed would be especially welcome. Ralph would also appreciate any volunteers in other states prepared to act as 'eyes and ears' to report on some of the more ephemeral locally-produced directories, which are the hardest of all to locate.

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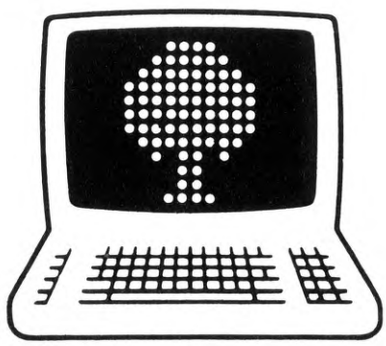

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