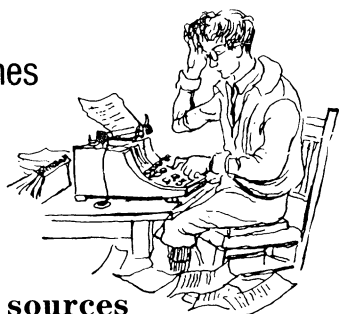


THE SOURCE

by
David J. Jones



Salubrious sources

A bibliography which has not only the marks of a competent bibliographer but also the seal of approval of specialists in its subject-matter as much in its favour. If it also tackles a hitherto neglected area, and is Australian to boot, it is obviously worth more than a passing glance.

Such is *A guide to consumer health information*, which was published last year by Health Link, the Health Information Centre at Westmead Hospital. Health Link was established to provide a focal point at the hospital for health information to be made available to patients, relatives and staff. All of the material in the Centre's collection has been approved by the relevant specialists, and the items in the present *Guide* have undergone the same scrutiny. Included are references to books, pamphlets and a few periodical articles arranged under broad subject headings, such as cardiovascular system, skin, accidents and emergencies, then under more specific sub-headings. Most of the items listed are in print, and many are available free of charge from the sources listed. This work will I think satisfy its compilers' worthy aim of providing a checklist for other libraries establishing a consumer health collection, as well as being a useful tool for health care professionals at large and of course for librarians building collections. It is an excellent first effort — future editions should perhaps pay more attention to a convenient subject approach, indicate age-groups for which items are appropriate and perhaps note which pamphlets are available in languages other than English.

In the meantime buy a copy of *A guide to consumer health information* — it's excellent value at \$5.00 post free from Health Link, Westmead Hospital, Westmead, NSW 2145. (ISBN 0 9589910 4 9)

Consistently contemporary

One of my favourite multi-volume reference books is *Contemporary authors*, which has been around since 1962. October 1985 saw the publication of volume 115 in this series, the thousand or so entries bringing the grand total of *CA* to over 82,000. The very broad coverage of the work is one of its attractions — authors who write in languages other than English, for example, are covered if their works are published in the United States or are translated into English. With volume 104 the editors of *CA* broadened their scope to include authors deceased since 1900 — previously *CA* covered only living writers and those who had died since 1960. Reference staff should read the prefaces to their latest volumes of *CA* with characteristic care before discarding any of the early volumes which they believe may have been superseded by revised ones: over the years there have been changes to the revision system. As before, the cumulative index in each volume also covers other Gale literary series, such as *Contemporary literary criticism* and *Authors in the news*.

The 115th volume of *Contemporary authors: a bio-bibliographical guide to current writers in fiction, general nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television and other fields* was published in October 1985 by Gale Research and costs US\$88.00. (ISBN 0 8103 1915 2; ISSN 0010-7468)

Two from IFLA

Back in 1981 Dietrich Borchardt and John Thawley's *Guide to the availability of theses* was published by IFLA, and covered theses offered at universities around the world, indicating where you would stand a fair chance of locating a copy of the thesis of your choice. A further IFLA publication which appeared in 1984 covers theses at non-university institutions, such as CAEs, institutes and similar establishments. 199 such are listed in G. G. Allen and K. Deubert's *Guide to the availability of theses: II non-university institutions*, with details of awards granted, publishing information, library access, copying provisions, bibliographic control and other useful data. Issued as IFLA Publication no 29, this work was published in 1984 by K. G. Saur and costs DM42.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. (ISBN 3 598 20394 2)

In 1984 IFLA was also responsible for the pub-

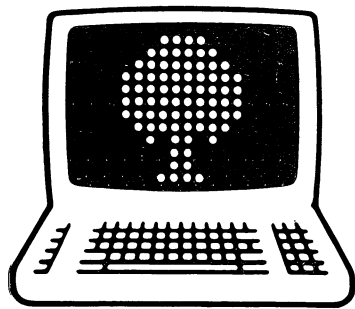
lication of *A guide to developing braille and talking book services*, a brief overview of current practices in producing braille and talking books. This work is intended to be of particular assistance to those charged with establishing new facilities for the visually handicapped, and includes a wealth of practical advice for small as well as large-scale ventures. Edited by Leslie L. Clark in collaboration with Dina N. Bedi and John M. Gill, *A guide to developing braille and talking book services* was issued as IFLA Publication no 30, and published by K. G. Saur at the price of DM42.00. (ISBN 3 598 20395 0).

Library school obliquities

Directories of library school personnel must evoke the same kind of enthusiasm from their contents as they do from their users. It ranges, in the former case at least, from a bare response (name, rank, serial number) to a curriculum vitae with bibliography of minor thesis proportions. The compilers of such works persist doggedly and to the general benefit of directory consumers.

One such directory is *Library schools and lecturers in librarianship in Australia and New Zealand*, the third edition of which was published by AusLib Press last year. This 339-page work gives basic information on 34 Australian and 2 New Zealand institutions offering professional and technician courses as of last year. Information is provided on courses available, staff, entry qualifications, student numbers and so on. Fuller details are given for the 150 or so lecturers, with some entries spreading on to 6 or more pages, providing plenty of space for the aforementioned bio-bibliographical excursions. That is not to deny the importance of the compilation of works such as *Warwickshire's deserted villages* and *The 'Big Jump' and its consequences* in the development of a rounded lecturer in librarianship, simply to question the need for the full details of these extracurricular publications. The compiler and editor should wield his electronic blue pencil, as well as trying to drum up fuller entries from the name, rank and number respondents. The result, in the inevitable fourth edition, will be leaner but overall no less illuminating.

Library schools and lecturers in librarianship in Australia and New Zealand was compiled and edited by Edward R. Reid-Smith and was published last year by AusLib Press in Adelaide. It costs \$32.00 (ISBN 0 9589895 2 4)



Australian and New Zealand Books in Print — only available online from Booknet.

Full details from:

Adelaide — Jim Franks 268 1933; Brisbane — George Notaras 369 5877; Canberra — Hazel Williams 47 0988; Melbourne — Ian Jamieson 544 8433; Perth — Don Young or Phillipa Baines 322 2730; Sydney — Steve Cartland (02) 437 6322.

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