

# BOOK REVIEW

**International Guide to Library and Information Science Education; A Reference Source for Educational Programs in the Information Field World-wide.** Edited by Josephine Riss Fang and Paul Nanta with the assistance of Anna J. Fang. Munich: K.G. Saur, 1985. (IFLA Publications 32).

Most of us who work in libraries, library schools, and in the broad range of organisations and enterprises which require the skills of document and information organisation, analysis, retrieval, promotion and management are well aware of the diversity of approaches throughout Australia taken by educators in transmitting these skills. Just the names given to qualifications shows this variety. What is true for Australia is also true for the rest of the world.

This reference work has entries for 526 schools of librarianship, library science/service, information science/services/studies/management (and other variant names), in 100 countries beginning with Albania and ending with Zambia (which might have amused George Orwell amongst others). Even so, a list of 74 countries is included from which 'no evidence of library and information science educational programs could be obtained', but perhaps the reader won't expect to find library schools in smaller countries such as Haiti, the Maldives, and the Seychelles? The geographical definition of 'country' is not provided and I wonder why the Falkland Is. are listed but not, for example, the Solomon Is. and the Vatican City, which might be regarded as a country by devout Roman Catholics. Fascinating global perspectives and philosophical conjectures can be gained from the most unlikely sources!

As well as the necessary information of name, address and person in charge of the School, each entry covers the School's year of founding, the administrative structure within which it operates, its financial basis, and the programs offered.

The programs are described following the parameters of: entrance requirements; duration of the course; scheduled hours (i.e. total hours of academic study, practical study, and 'credit' hours); requirements for the completion of the program (e.g. course work, final examination etc.); name of the final award; objectives (i.e. the level and type of professional work for which completing students are prepared); contents of the program; enrolment figures, and language of instruction. The section on program content is minimal and a typical entry is 'includes all types of media, computer application, data base utilization, research methods, research projects.' Most objectives' statements are similarly brief, and a typical entry states 'professional work in all areas of library and information science, including administrative and supervisory activities.'

At the end of each entry is a section which lists the number of administrators, full-time and part-time faculty; the types and academic degrees of the full-time faculty, the percentage of time faculty spent on teaching, research and other professional activities, including the number of monographs and recently, referred articles published; physical resources available to support the School's

courses, continuing education activities; and professional status. At the beginning of each entry for each country there is a chart describing its general educational system and the duration of primary, secondary, tertiary and post-tertiary studies. As is to be expected in a publication of this type which depends on contributed information, entries vary considerably as to the amount of information provided.

This directory provides basic information about formal library and information studies world-wide at the professional level. As such, it provides an overview at, more or less, one moment in time. It assists in providing 'a basis for comparison and international recognition of professional qualifications' but as the editors acknowledge, does not provide sufficient information about program content, quality, study methods and student evaluation to be a complete handbook for the recognition process. It is a great pity the directory does not concern itself with para-professional programs for library technicians. Even so, further analysis of the information in this directory alone would yield some interesting data about the patterns of library and information science education throughout the world.

*Moira MacKinnon*  
Chair, LAA Board of Education

## Sir Basil writes . . .

A cooperative effort has brought to the National Library the correspondence of a key figure in the 19th colonial administration of Fiji and Tonga.

The University of Newcastle and a Canberra academic augmented National Library funds to acquire a significant collection of letters by Sir Basil Home Thomson. Thomson was a British civil servant, whose book about his experiences in Tonga, *The Diversions of a Prime Minister*, was a best-seller in 1890. Apart from his time in the tiny Pacific kingdom, he was Governor of Dartmoor Gaol and, as Director of British Intelligence, was the captor and interrogator of Sir Roger Casement, convicted and hanged for gun-running to Ireland. Scandal and mystery surround Lloyd George's sacking of Thomson at the height of his career in 1921.

The letters were among a large amount of material originally offered to the National Library at \$13,000 by a resident of the English town of Bath.

The Library decided not to buy the collection, but reconsidered following offers of assistance. The University of Newcastle donated \$1000 after representations from Associate Professor Noel Rutherford, of its History Department. As an expert in Pacific History, Professor Rutherford realised the biographical and historical importance of the correspondence for studies of Thomson's life, as well as for the study of Tongan and Fijian history.

An independent donation of \$1000 was made by a historian at the Australian National University who sees the collection of value to biographers of Thomson. With this assistance, the National Library was eventually able to purchase the collection for \$8000.

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## Update On Saztec

Saztec IRS has appointed CLIRS Ltd, Australia's leading legal and commercial online information service, as a sub-agent to assist in the representation of the Pergamon Infoline (UK) service. Saztec IRS has appointed CLIRS Ltd as the exclusive private database gateway service for Australian users of Pergamon Infoline.

This coincides with the announcement of two new databases CHEMQUEST and MIDEAST available to users of Pergamon Infoline. CHEMQUEST is an automated catalogue of commercially available research chemicals. MIDEAST covers aspects of life and work in the Middle Eastern countries concentrating on business and economics. There are now over fifty databases on Pergamon Infoline available for searching.

Pergamon Infoline has also purchased ORBIT Search Service (USA) and the two services will be gradually absorbed into a single service over the next twelve months. Pergamon Infoline is about to provide telecommunications access for its users to both Bibliographic Retrieval Services (USA) and the European Space Agency Information Retrieval Service (Italy).

Please note the new address for Saztec IRS:

Contact: James Harker-Mortlock  
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