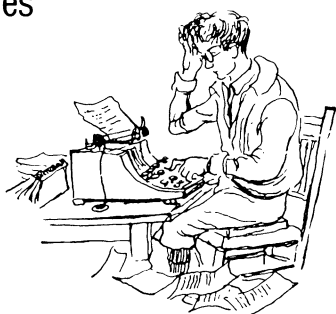


THE SOURCE

David J. Jones



people in Australia and New Zealand 'currently researching or teaching in women's studies', the latter defined broadly. For each individual there is a contact address and an indication of discipline and specialty within that discipline. There is a subject index and an abbreviated list of courses taught. A further, fuller edition is projected, but for the present anyone wishing to trace those engaged in women's studies in Australasia will find this 90-page directory essential.

The women's studies research directory: the violet pages was compiled by Bronwyn Davies, Shirley Fisher and Lenore Coltheart and was published by the Violet Pages, GPO Box 2656, Sydney, NSW 2001 and costs \$5.00 (ISBN 0 949636 13 4)

Describing diversity

The enormous variety of materials in the Australian national collections poses commensurate challenges to those who look forward to a common database. Such a database, or at least a common format for cataloguing collections, would have great benefits for the institutions and of course for users. Some early spadework has been performed by the Australian Committee on National Collections (ACNC). Its Subgroup on Data Elements has now produced *Major data elements: a study to identify data elements common to the ACNC institutions*, a 24-page guide to terms used to identify items within collections. The kinds of items covered would include those typically held in the National Library, the Museum of Australia, the Australian National Gallery, the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Archives. Each data element is briefly described, with definitions, synonyms and examples provided. It all looks very promising. The day when buttons, boomerangs, Braques, bibliographies and bureaucratic brickbats will all be in One Big Catalogue probably isn't all that far away.

Major data elements was published in 1985 by the National Library of Australia for the ACNC. (ISBN 0 642 99328 9)

Victorian potpourri

The contents of one of Australia's richest sources of Victorian manuscript material has been unlocked with the publication of *Sources of Victoria's heritage* late last year. This massive 400-page work is a catalogue of the manuscripts held by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, was compiled by Maree Bowe and

edited and splendidly indexed by J. G. Marshall. The Society's collection, which now contains some 20,000 documents, is eclectic, ranging from a testimonial for an aspirant to a messenger position in the Legislative Council, to voluminous collections of family and business papers. There are a number of illustrations, showing one what a depasturing license [*sic*] looked like, for example. In her note on the indexes Julie Marshall gives some indication of what the manuscript cataloguer is up against, apart from the obvious problems of poor handwriting or smudges at crucial points: spelling variations, or difficulty in identifying people referred to in letters by their given names only. The resulting index — or indexes, covering names, subject and ships — is excellent.

Sources of Victoria's heritage, compiled by Maree Bowe, was published as Historical Bibliography Monograph no 14 of the Bicentennial History Project. Copies are available from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 1 City Road, South Melbourne, Vic 3205 at \$30.00 post free (\$20.00 plus postage for RHSV members). (ISBN 0 949776 29 7)

Second folio

A book which, in passing, tells you who produced the 'No Knickers' advertisement, who designed the Macquarie Bank logo, and who produces the instant win games for your corn flakes packet, can't be all bad. For the main purpose of *The Australian advertising folio* is to provide background information on a number of Australian and New Zealand advertising agencies for prospective clients and competitors. The 1985/86 edition is now before us (the first edition appeared last year), and gives us a page or more of samples of each agency's work, a list of principals, together with a 'statement of principles', and a list of main clients — at the time of publication, of course. Some direct marketing, graphic design, PR, creative and media consultants have their entries too. There is an index to personnel and a client index, arranged by product.

The Australian advertising folio is well-designed and should fulfil its ambition of serving the agencies and their clients — as well as providing some interest for the curious consumer. It was published last year by The Australian Advertising Folio Pty Ltd, 14 Berry Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060 and costs \$28.95 including free delivery in Australia and New Zealand. (ISSN 08140006)

's a big world

The Yearbook of international organizations grows more enormous with each passing edition, and resting on (or rather crushing) my knees at this moment is the first volume of the 12th edition, for the years 1985/86. With this edition the number of volumes expands to four, with the fourth, entitled *World problems and human potential*, delving into some 4,500 'problems perceived by international constancies'. And as an indication of things to come, it is noted in the foreword that online access to the *Yearbook* database is planned. In the meantime you can get three volumes of the four volume set — organization descriptions and index, geographic, and classified subject and region volumes — published by the doubttable Saur, for DM980 the set. My review copy was supplied by the equally doubttable James Bennett. (ISBN 3 598 865 6)

Ink, then yellow, now violet

Guess that the extent of women's studies in Australia is something of an unknown quantity to many readers. I was surprised at the large number of individuals listed in *The women's studies research directory: the violet pages* — 381 to be exact. There are entries for

A short history of library automation:

support problems; software problems; capacity problems; response-time problems; data conversion problems.

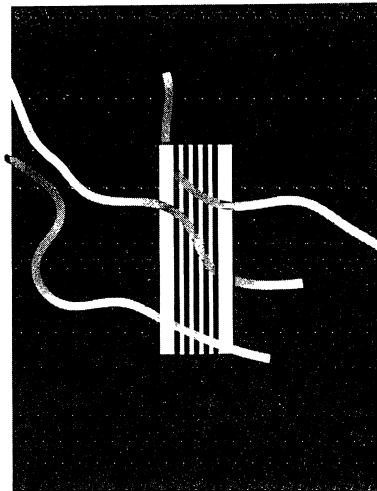
Burnt fingers.

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