

# Directory of Australian Directories

Ralph Reid, 'directory gazer', looks at some of the directories reviewed for the LAA's *Directory of Australian Directories*. (Part 2)

*Directory of Australian Directories* contains descriptions of 38 current directories in the field of library and information services. These vary considerably in orientation and coverage. Some are based on service type (public libraries, academic libraries, etc); some on service area (North Queensland, Sydney area, South Australia, etc); and some on collections coverage (arts, environment and conservation, life sciences, etc).

On the whole, most perform their basic directory function quite well — this type of directory is generally compiled by librarians, after all. And because they have different purposive orientations comparisons are, if not invalid, at least inelegant. I would, however, like to comment briefly on four directories in this area. These are ones that are slightly out of the general typology, for one reason or another.

First, for sheer overwhelming coverage of a restricted resource area, the most outstanding example is *Map Collections in Australia: a Directory*. Compiled by Nancy Rauchle, it is a guide to 300 map collections in mapping authorities, government agencies, educational institutions, companies and private collections, and was obviously a labour of love. Now, unfortunately beginning to slip out of date (the 3rd and latest edition dated 1980) it deserves to be continued to be maintained by our custodians of cartographia.

A somewhat newer directory which represents a laudable endeavour in practical co-operative librarianship is the *Directory of Commercially Published Microform Collections in Australian Libraries*, compiled by Isabella Trahn and Johanne McLachlan of the University of NSW Libraries. A finding list of over 80 Australian national, state, academic and special libraries holdings of commercially published microform collections, it is published (naturally) on A6 microfiche, and is a resource of which the compilers may be justifiably proud.

A slightly more unusual co-operative effort is *Library Collections in Ballarat and Surrounding Areas*. Not your mainstream library directory, by all accounts, but a model of co-operative coverage of regional resources. Published by the Inter-Link Project, it attempts to cover everything — colleges, primary and post-primary schools, kindergartens, pre-school centres, government departments, community service organisations, clubs and societies, and personal and private collections. I can not vouch for the degree of coverage, but it is an admirable attempt that deserves full marks for trying.

For the full-bore version of the co-operative collection coverage directory, seek no further than the LAA publication, *Directory of Collection Strengths in Victorian Libraries*, edited by Phillip Kent and John Thawley. Like all epics, it was years in the making, but was worth the wait. It illustrates how a backbone of co-operative collection development might begin to be established (although not necessarily, arguably, in print format); in fact, it prompts the question of where are its equivalents from other states. Perhaps it will persuade laggard librarians toward the value of such efforts; look, and be convinced.

**NOW IN STOCK** — IMCA's Information Consulting in Australia: a practical approach. Proceedings of a seminar held in Melbourne 28 February 1986. Edited by Jennifer Goddard, Marion Dormer and Helen Campbell. ISBN 0 9591200 3 3. Price: \$20 LAA members; \$27 non-members (plus \$1.50 postage and handling). Order now from LAA, 376 Jones St, Ultimo NSW 2007. Send a cheque with your order or phone Head Office for a proforma invoice.

The LAA's Literacy Section has produced a new edition of their Literacy Kit. Pamphlets in the kit cover the following topics: literacy — what librarians can do; literacy contacts; literacy resources; suppliers of literacy materials. Send \$3.50 (plus postage) to Sue Pentland C/- Williamstown City Library, 104 Ferguson St, Williamstown Vic 3016.

## 1989 NZLA Conference

The 1989 NZLA Christchurch Conference is being held on 12-17 February 1989. The 1989 conference committee is in the process of drawing up the program and would like to include any distinguished overseas librarians who may be visiting Christchurch at that time.

If you can help with this request, contact Mr R. W. Hlavac, University Librarian, University of Canterbury, Christchurch 1, New Zealand.

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