



THE SOURCE

The crisis in collecting

The shrinking dollar and escalating book and journal prices have given a sharp edge to the question of acquisitions rationalisation.

In August 1987 AACOBS (Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services) held a day-long seminar in Brisbane on this very topic. All the 130 participants from eleven types of libraries in the region enjoyed — judging by the papers — a lively and stimulating day, with a variety of viewpoints being expressed. These ranged from the restrained scepticism of Derek Fielding — ‘as long as the University of Queensland maintains its present spread of teaching and research, its library will continue to hold only core collections...’ — to Tom Cochrane’s hope of a technological ‘fix’.

These, and the other thought-provoking papers, have now been published for AACOBS by Griffith University Library, under the predictable title *Acquisitions rationalization*.

Copies are available from the editor, Bruce Edwards, at Griffith for \$7 plus \$1.50 postage. (ISBN 0 86857 249 7)

Creating for children

The September Seminars held in Canberra each year by the Children’s Book Council provide a unique insight into the creative processes of children’s writers in Australia. Now, in *The inside story: creating children’s books*, the benefits can be shared with a wider audience.

In this well-presented work we can read the thoughts of nineteen authors, publishers and illustrators. We are let into the secrets of how Patricia Mullins did her research for *Rum-*

mage. Why Victor Kelleher is attracted to fantasy. How the platemakers in Hong Kong cleaned off the sticky tape and finger prints which Ann James had deliberately incorporated in the artwork of *Penny Pollard’s diary*. Of course there is much more to this splendidly-edited collection of addresses than mere anecdotes — it’s very meaty stuff, and well worth reading by anyone with more than a casual interest in Australia’s children’s books.

The inside story, edited by Belle Alderman and Stephanie Owen Reeder was published in 1987 by the Children’s Book Council. It costs \$15, plus \$3 postage and is available from Seminar Publications, CBC PO Box 420, Dickson, ACT 2602. (ISBN 0 909612 08 0)

A kind of magic

‘A story must grab us, characters must make us care, situations must be dramatic, language must sing’ writes Hazel Rochman in her lively exposition of the art of ‘booktalking’.

Tales of love and terror: booktalking the classics old and new describes her technique of introducing treasures of literature to young audiences, stimulating their interest and no doubt infecting many of them with her obvious love of the written (and read aloud) word. She focuses upon different themes — animals, survival, love, terror, war — and provides a list of titles arranged by theme or genre. This is a splendid little book: the writing is lively, the selection of titles eclectic, the arrangement logical and the price reasonable.

Tales of love and terror by Hazel Rochman was published in 1987 by the American Library Association. It costs US\$15.95 and my review copy was supplied by Bennetts. (ISBN 0 8389 0463 7)

Database dollars and sense

The perilous path of the database creator comes under further scrutiny from the Australian Database Development Association in *Stitched up or sewn down*, which was published in 1987.

This 78-page work, edited by Sherrey Quinn, contains the proceedings of ADDA’s 1987 seminar, and deals with tricky topics such as contract negotiation and database costing. Among the words of wisdom offered are Anthony Gould’s generally optimistic view of the future of the Australian online industry, Diana Killen’s hard-headed exposition of the human element in contracts, as well as interesting sidelights from some of the country’s pioneering (and surviving) database creators.

Stitched up or sewn down was published in 1987 by ADDA and costs \$30 (\$25 to ADDA members). Compulsory reading, along with Neil Speirs’ *The search preserve us* (Hawthorn, Vic: ADDA, 1986), if you are teetering on the brink of database creation. ADDA is at PO Box 53, Hawthorn, Vic 3122. (ISBN 0 9590967 4)

Healthier than ever

In 1985 Westmead Hospital in Sydney’s West published a very useful little book of consumer health information — books and pamphlets, that is, which present health information in language which the general readers can comprehend.

There was a good response, not least from ‘The Source’, and a new edition was published in early 1988, incorporating a number of welcomed improvements, including an index. There is also a useful list of contact addresses for Australian support organisations in such varied fields as twins and home safety. The star rating for the titles listed has been dropped in the second edition — in fact all the items have been ‘reviewed and approved by specialists associated with Westmead Hospital’, so they come with pretty good credentials anyway. Items intended for children are identified, however.

Copies of *A guide to consumer health information 1988* are available from Health Link, Health Information Centre, Westmead Hospital, Westmead, NSW 2145. The price is \$8. (ISBN 0 9589910 5 7)

Sweet violets

How truly broad the field of women’s studies in Australia has become can be gauged by the scope of the new edition of *The violet pages*, which was published in early 1988.

This 80-page work lists women researching in subjects as diverse as sexism in health care, women artists, self defence and technological change. Entries are arranged by research area, followed by a ‘people directory’ and a list of publications by the women concerned.

Lenore Coltheart, Shirley Fitzgerald and Bronwyn Davies’ *The violet pages: a women’s studies research directory* was published in 1988 by (you guessed it) The Violet Pages, GPO Box 2656, Sydney, NSW 2001. It costs \$10. (ISBN 0 7316 2337 1).

• *Chinese language newspapers in the National Library of Australia* is a 51-page guide to the most comprehensive collection of its kind in Australia. The NLA currently holds over 300 newspaper titles in Chinese, published in China itself and fourteen other countries, including Australia. This guide was prepared using Asiagraphics Chinese wordprocessing software on an IBM PC. This work illustrates how texts can be prepared in Chinese characters or in a combination of Chinese and roman scripts. Entries are arranged alphabetically by Wade-Giles romanisation, and there are country/province and subject indexes.

Chinese language newspapers in the National Library of Australia was published by the NLA in 1987. It costs \$6.95. (ISBN 0 642 10418 2)

by
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