

THE SOURCE

Line's busy

O brave Gower Publishing! O brave British Library! To be launching a new journal in these dog-days of dwindling dough. *Alexandria* is the rather illustrious new title, and Maurice Line its doughty editor.

First published in May 1989, *Alexandria* will appear three times a year, and will deal primarily with 'national and international library and information issues'. It has its origins, a blurb tells us, in the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Section of National Libraries, which identified national libraries and what they get up to as a relatively neglected area in the journal literature.

The influence of national libraries within their own countries, and the cooperation between the national agencies, are certainly issues of some moment. Developments involving national libraries in areas such as the exchange of bibliographic data, open systems interconnection and rationalisation of collecting policies are just a few of the lively concerns of the present, reflected in thoughtful articles in the first issue of *Alexandria*. A good perspective is provided in Joyce Line's review of national libraries of the world, based mainly on an examination of the literature of the past couple of years. If, as is hoped, this becomes a regular annual review, it will be a valuable resource and documentary record.

Alexandria: the journal of national and international information issues is published by the British Library and Gower Publishing, and costs £75.00 per year. (ISSN 0955-7490)

Victoria unmasked

The steady progress of desktop publishing is marked by the appearance of

the eighteenth edition of the *Victorian Government directory* — a remarkable technical achievement.

Production involved optically scanning the seventeenth edition, sending off entries to departmental contacts for updating (80% of them being able to respond with floppy disks), and then putting it all together. A process 'not without its headaches', but, judging by the finished product, well worth the investment in paracetamol.

The directory is a good example of its species: names, addresses, contact numbers (and the names of real people), concise descriptions of functions, organisation charts, lists of free publications, an Acts index, and indexes of personal names and subjects.

The eighteenth edition of *Victorian Government directory* was published in June 1989 by Information Victoria, and is available by mail from the Victorian Government Printing Office, PO Box 203, North Melbourne, Vic. 3951, for \$25.00 (plus \$2.65 postage). (ISSN 0158-1589)

Worth toying with

As well as being the bicentenary of white settlement in Australia and the eleventh birthday of 'The Source', 1988 marked 10 years of the *Toy Libraries Association of Australia newsletter*.

The TLA has celebrated the event with the publication of *Best of ten years*, being a selection of articles from the newsletter, compiled by Valerie Packer. Life size dolls, stacking cylinders (particular favourites, those), a history of the toy library movement, hints on displays, the role of toys in remediation, how to do a community newsletter, puppet patterns: a potpourri of pertinent matters. And seven commandments for writing what you mean.

At around \$7.00 including postage, this, and other publications of the TLA, are good value. Further information about the Association is available from the TLA, c/o Noah's Ark Toy Library, 2 Elizabeth Street, Artarmon, NSW 2064. (ISBN 0 9589931 3 0)



David J. Jones

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