

# THE SOURCE

## Get the message

We have all suffered from gobbledegook and verbal pollution; some sensitive souls do still notice the misused subjunctive, or split infinitive, dangling participle and wandering apostrophe. Not that there is much excuse for poor communication, written or otherwise, especially in business and technical fields, where communication is, as the cliché goes, the name of the game.

There is a mass of writing on good business writing, and 10 years or so of it is represented in Debra L. Hull's *Business and technical communication*, published by Scarecrow in 1987. In this briefly annotated bibliography there are 1209 items, ranging from the sublime ('Francis Bacon and the Technology of Style') to the curious ('Bad writing can be good business'). Topics covered include teaching programs and methods, audience analysis, style, writing assignments, technical editing, oral communication, graphics, and the use of new technology in technical communication. Most references are to American journal articles.

Debra L. Hull's *Business and technical communication* is published by Scarecrow and costs US\$22.50. The review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8108 1971 6)

## A great help

If you live in Victoria, how do you find out about therapeutic pets? Who can help if you have odd-sized feet? How can people with disabilities obtain driving lessons at concessional rates? Do pensioners have to pay for a fishing licence in Victoria?

These are a few of the questions answered with ease in *Vi-Ability*: income, allowances, subsidies and concessions for people with disabilities, which was published by the Yooralla Society of Victoria in 1988. You may recall the two earlier editions of this work, which were entitled *Income, allowances, subsidies and concessions for disabled persons*.

This useful publication lists sources of information, help and advice on

health care, housing, equipment, legal assistance, rehabilitation and work training, transport, security and emergencies, and much more besides. Information provided is necessarily brief, but guidance is provided on eligibility, and full contact names, addresses and phone, including TTY (telephone typewriter) numbers.

*Vi-Ability* was edited by Kathleen Edwards and published by the Yooralla Society of Victoria, PO Box 88, South Melbourne, Vic. 3205. It costs \$12.00 (\$11.00 for orders of five or more), with a concession price of \$8.00 for consumers. Postage is \$3.00 for one copy, \$5.00 for more. (ISBN 0 9591023 4 5)

## Small business is big business

AGPS Press continues to publish its very helpful *Managing the Small Business Series*, produced in association with the Commonwealth-State Small Business Working Party and the National Industry Extension Service.

In a span of 10-50 pages or so, the booklets in this series tackle some of the vital issues that small business people need to know about, well before the bailiffs knock down the doors, or before their money disappears in the direction of some banana republic. Some of the booklets, such as *Evaluating a franchise* (No. 14) (ISBN 0 644 03540 4), now in its second edition after many reprints, simply talk about the topic. Others, such as *Sources of finance for small business* (No. 2) (ISBN 0 644 09588 7) — a popular one, this, now in its fifth edition — and *Dictionary for small business starters* (No. 38) (ISBN 0 644 04185 4), are true reference works of considerable merit and of more general interest. So if you are fazed by demurrage, or demur at dumping duty, or want to case a financial institution (for a loan, of course), these titles will be a great help.

Titles in the series are on sale in AGPS bookshops. Further information on the series is available from AGPS at GPO Box 84, Canberra, ACT 2601. (ISSN 0314-4054)

## Bibliography of business

Looking for information on McDonald's? Or Pinkerton's National Detective Agency? Or on the Lydia E. Pinkham Company, purveyors of medicines for women? References to thousands of North American businesses can be found in Priscilla C. Geahigan's massive U.S. and Canadian businesses, 1955 to 1987: a bibliography, which was published in 1988 by Scarecrow.

Intended as a reference source for 'all libraries that have to answer questions related to individual businesses', this work covers, as its title implies, US and Canadian companies, and also US-based foreign companies. Entries are mainly monographs: the author acknowledges the existence of other tools to track down journal and newspaper articles on companies. The work is arranged by the two-digit Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC), with large conglomerates listed under the SIC assigned by Standard and Poor's. There are three indexes: company name, personal name and author.

If you are into business research in a big way, this will be very helpful. Priscilla C. Geahigan's massive U.S. and Canadian businesses, published by Scarecrow in 1988, costs US\$52.50. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8108 2186 9)

## Noxious omissions

The third edition of the *Union list of periodicals* published by Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service now includes the holdings submitted by 'all Melbourne metropolitan public libraries', which is no mean feat. About 1600 currently received titles are listed, including suburban newspapers (but excluding metropolitan dailies). Thirty-eight library services are represented, only two-thirds of which admit to keeping the *Australian library journal*. (Mr Levett will be able to make his usual not to be refused offers to the recalcitrant - would you like to wake up one night smeared with Sir John's Mustard and smothered in Hard Rock relish?). But hang on a minute, only about the same number sport InCite: less even than Punch. And with Alan Walker busily indexing it for posterity too. Hmm.

*Union list of periodicals 1989*, revealingly compiled by Christine Mackenzie for the Reference Librarians' Cooperative, was published by DVRLS in March 1989. (ISSN1033-0933).

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Hewson (09) 384 4911.

**December 19** ALIA Library Technicians' Section.  
Christmas function. Details TBA.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

**December 1** ALIA Special Librarians' Section (NT Group). **AGM and Christmas Party.** Venue: TBA. 12.30 pm. Contact: Trish McFarlane (089) 80 2975 for further details.

## INTERNATIONAL

**November 12-17** ALIA -NZLA Medical/Health Library Sections joint conference: **Information management - needs and technological imperatives.** Contact: Margaret Gibson Smith, Philson Library, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

**November 19-December 1** **The management of archives and records: techniques and resources.** At Liverpool, UK. Contact: The British Council, PO Box 88, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.

**November 24-December 20** International Youth Library, Munich. **40th International Children's and Youth Book Exhibition.** At Bavarian State Library, Munich. Contact: International Youth Library, Schloss Blutenburg, D-8000 Munich 60, Federal Republic of Germany.

**December 12-14** **13th International Online Information Meeting.** At Olympia 2, London, England. Contact: Rebecca Blinkhorn, Press and Public Relations Officer, Learned Information Ltd, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford, OX1 5AU, UK. Phone (0865) 730275; fax (0865) 736354.

**February 13-15** (1990) NZLA. 1990 Conference: **Information + energy = power.** At New Plymouth. Registration forms available now from 1990 NZLA Conference, c/- New Plymouth City Library, PO Box 48, New Plymouth, New Zealand. Ph (067) 84 544. Fax (067) 83 257.

**May 17-19** (1990) Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable and the Dept of Language Education, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. An IBBY Regional Conference on the Pacific Rim: **Serendipity '90: Cultural roots/routes.** Contacts: Dr Ronald Jobe or Dr Wendy Sutton, Dept of Language Ed., UBC, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z5; 604 228 5233 228 5229.

**June 10-14** (1990) 13th Polar Libraries Colloquy: **Man's future in Arctic areas.** At Rovaniemi, Finland. Call for papers. Enquiries: Liisa Kurppa, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland. Telephone +358-60-324-275; Telex 19205519.

**September 3-8** (1990) International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID). 45th FID Conference: **Information, a resource for development.** In Havana, Cuba. Currently calling for papers. Contact: FID 90 Organising Committee, IDICT, Apartado Postal 2019, Cod. 10200, La Habana, Cuba. Fax: 22 8382; phone: IDICT 31 1404; 31 1448; 31 2309. fly people at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Library in August.

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education, professional development and research. It is keen to involve as many ALIA members as possible — practitioners and educators alike — in the discussion of such educational issues.

## Taking the initiative

Examples of initiatives the Section is currently involved with are:

- devising a package for a workshop on organisational change, planned for use Australia-wide, and with all types of libraries;
- designing a database to record continuing education activities, to be piloted in Victoria. 'ELISS' plans to make this computer program available to other States for development of their own databases.

Current plans are to make the Victorian continuing education activities database available in several locations within Victoria, enabling individuals to access information on continuing education offerings. This database should also assist 'ELISS' and other ALIA Sections and Branches in the planning of suitable continuing education activities.

If you are interested in contributing in a practical way to education for the profession, join an 'ELISS' Group now. Contact persons include:

### Victoria

Fay Nicholson, Division of Library and Information Studies, Institute of Education, University of Melbourne.

### New South Wales

Mairead Browne, Department of Library and Information Services, Kuring-gai CAE.

### Riverina-Murray

James Henri, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

### Australian Capital Territory

Maxine Rochester, Canberra CAE.

### Queensland

Geoff Chapman, Department of Communication and Resource Studies, Brisbane CAE, Kelvin Grove Campus.

### South Australia

Anne Hazell, Library Resource Development Unit, Education Centre, Adelaide.

### Western Australia

Vicki Williamson, Curtin University Library.

### Tasmania

Christine Frey, University of Tasmania.

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## In praise of Katz

Bill Katz is one of those rare figures in the literature of librarianship: the author of recognised standard works, an editor whom one actually remembers, and an editor with stamina to boot.

Back in 1971 Katz edited *Library Lit*, reproducing the best articles in the field that had been published in the previous year, drawn from an amazingly wide-ranging variety of sources. And from then on, a jury would select the 'best' thirty or so items for the year from 200 or more pieces that (mainly) Bill brought to them for judgment. The approach was far from parochial: Katz and his fellows looked well beyond library periodicals for 'writing of relevance and interest to librarians and students of librarianship'. Articles came from periodicals as diverse as *Science*, *Dissent* and *New Yorker*.

With *Library lit 18: the best of 1987*, Katz's editorship draws to a close, and a fine swan song it is, with some marvellous stuff: CD-ROMs, the history of young adult services, the ethics of book reviewing, the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), networks, management - matters of contemporary concern or simply darned interesting. Like Margaret Cribbs' article on the 'invisible drip' of computer data that is actively or passively destroyed.

This is vintage Editor Katz, an excellent antidote to Rip van Winkleism, a good read, and good value at US\$28.50. *Library Lit 18* was published in 1988 by Scarecrow, and the review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8108 2163 X)

David J. Jones

## INCITE DEADLINES

Have you an Events, Feedback or In the News item? Perhaps you'd like to advertise! Don't miss the *InCite* deadlines:

DEADLINE	<i>InCite</i> No.	COVER DATE
3 Nov	19	27 Nov
10 Nov	20	11 Dec
22 Jan	1	19 Feb
5 Feb	2	5 Mar