



What'sits, thingummies, gizmos and the simple um

It happens to everyone, once in a while; we know what we mean, but the word refuses to emerge from our own internal online thesaurus. In speech we resort to 'ums' and 'ahs', or attempt to describe the concept we have in mind: 'You know, that Russian beetroot soup, that German word which means a

double, those two dots over a vowel, being delighted by other people's misfortunes, using a word incorrectly, muddling up the first letters of words and sounding funny, you know . . .' When we are writing, we can try out an ordinary dictionary (often not a lot of help, worse if our spelling is vague), a Roget (often not quite De Bono-ish enough to help us speedily, but great for synonyms, of course), or we can head for a reverse dictionary.

An excellent example of this genus is the *Reader's Digest reverse dictionary*, published in 1989 by Reader's Digest (Australia). The seeker goes from concepts, or 'cue' words, as the editors dub them, which are arranged in alphabetical order, and is led by brief definitions to 'target' words associated with the concept. Sometimes it is simply a case of relating synonyms, but usually — and this is where a reverse dictionary shows its mettle — a fragment of information will produce the words at the tip of your tongue. So 'bell' for example, will lead to the Lutine Bell rung at Lloyd's to announce maritime disasters, along with campanology, curfew, knell, tolling, angelus, belfry, carillon, campanile, and parts of the bell and its apparatus.

There are eighty coloured illustrations and diagrams — such as parts of a castle, brickwork bonds, types of bread,

harness terms — concepts where visual cues are particularly helpful. There are also 150 word tables, such as the ingredients of sauces and the name of the sauce, menu terms, herbs and spices, cheeses, cakes and biscuits, phobias and medicines. Be warned: habitual browsers will find this book irresistible.

Reader's Digest reverse dictionary was edited and designed by the Reader's Digest Association in the UK, but has travelled reasonably well: it is nice to find our dear old drongo, a favourite touchstone, perched in its pages — there is a short table of Aussie terms. But you'll have to settle for international cuts of beef, lamb and pork — you can find the dinky-di ones in the *Macquarie dictionary*, and probably on a butcher's wall chart as well.

Part of the *Reader's Digest reverse dictionary* is devoted to a 10 000-word lexicon of 'tricky or reasonably difficult terms that speakers or writers are most likely to look up for confirmation'. It enhances the usefulness of the rest of the work by expanding definitions and providing pronunciations.

Reader's Digest reverse dictionary is highly recommended. It was published in September 1989 and costs \$45.00. (ISBN 0 86438 078 X)

David J. Jones

WEAPONS SYSTEMS RESEARCH LABORATORY, one of the five major laboratories of the Defence Science & Technology Organisation, helps the Australian Defence Force take best advantage of modern technology. WSRL, with over 200 professional scientists and engineers and an annual budget of some \$30M, is the primary centre of R&D expertise in the fields of weaponry, guided missiles, tactical combat systems and underwater detection and surveillance in Australia. WSRL has four Divisions, located in Adelaide and Sydney.

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Maritime Systems Division, WSRL, requires a qualified Librarian to catalogue, maintain and develop their report collection; provide reader services including on-line search services; supervise the inter-library loans service and current awareness services; and to participate in user education.

FURTHER INFORMATION is available from Ms. M. Linnane on (02) 692 1509.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES and requests for selection documentation may be made to the Personnel Officer on (02) 692 1502.

APPLICATIONS providing a daytime contact telephone number, and quoting the relevant position number, should be forwarded by 28 December 1989, to:

THE WSRL RECRUITMENT TEAM
PO BOX 1700, SALISBURY, SA 5108
AB1/AA6019

985056

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10	June 4	June 8	July 16
11	June 18	June 22	July 30
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13	July 23	July 27	Aug. 27
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STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

Head of Conservation

Conservator, Class CR-5. Salary: \$46,385–\$49,611

Position No. 08/20/0182/1

Applications are invited for the position of Chief Conservator at the State Library of Victoria.

DUTIES: Develop, implement and manage conservation policies, strategies and guidelines that will ensure that Library collections are properly preserved and maintained; contribute to organisation-wide strategies and systems to support the integration of conservation with broader organisational goals and functions; develop and manage the Conservation Department; participate in the Library's Senior Management Committee and provide advice to the Corporate Management Group; direct a conservation and restoration program; contribute to the design of existing and new library accommodation; direct the conduct of research into techniques and new technology in the conservation field; monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation programs.

QUALIFICATIONS:

High Desirable: An appropriate tertiary qualification or equivalent professional training in conservation.

Desirable: Demonstrated management ability. The capacity to develop and implement policies, strategies and tactics to ensure that Library collections are properly preserved and maintained. Extensive experience in the field of library or related conservation programs. Extensive knowledge of the techniques used in the conservation of library materials. High level communication skills. Ability to supervise staff.

For a copy of a position and person specification, contact Leonie Nott on 669 9833.

For further information, contact Mrs Jane La Scala, State Librarian, on 669 9910.

Written applications quoting the position number above should state personal particulars, qualifications and experience and be sent to: **The Personnel Manager, State Library of Victoria, 238 Swanson Street, MELBOURNE 3000**, by close of business, Wednesday 20 December 1989.

THE STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN SYDNEY
Nepean
Library

ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN

COLLECTION
SERVICES
& SYSTEMS
(DIVISIONAL
LIBRARIAN, GRADE 1)

Position No: 249/89

This position will involve undertaking the management of the Library's Collection Services section. Specific duties include management and integration of the acquisitions, cataloguing and serials areas, planning and implementation of Library systems, and participation in the Library's senior management team. The successful applicant will also deputise for the Chief Librarian on a rotating basis.

The Library is rapidly expanding and currently operates on two campuses. Collection services is centralised at Kingswood and currently has a staff of 12, with a resource budget for 1989 in excess of \$481,000.

SALARY: Negotiable within the range \$37,305-\$39,989 per annum according to qualifications and experience.

ENQUIRIES: Kaye Welsh, Chief Librarian (047) 360 340

CLOSING DATE:
18th December, 1989.

APPLICATIONS:
Application forms, duty statements and details of the essential and desirable criteria for appointment to positions are available from the Administration Office, Westmead Campus (02) 685 9222, or the Human Resources Division, Kingswood Campus (047) 36 0408.

Applications marked "Confidential" should include copies of academic transcripts and must reach the Recruitment Officer, University of Western Sydney, Nepean, PO Box 10, Kingswood, NSW 2750, by the advertised closing date.

Nepean conducts operations on a number of campuses, and applicants may be required to work at and travel between any of these locations.

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SENIOR LIBRARIAN – GRADE II

Rare Books and Special Collections University of Sydney Library

The Rare Books and Special Collections Library of over 100,000 volumes is one of the most significant collections of rare books in Australia. The Collection is particularly rich in 17th and 18th century European and English Literature and history and there are also significant collections in Australiana, music, science fiction and fantasy and detective fiction. The Collection includes about 100 incunabula and more than 30 medieval manuscripts.

We are seeking an experienced librarian to, under the general direction of the Associate Librarian (Reader Services), manage and develop this significant collection and its services. The Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian is responsible for managing expenditure of several endowment funds, the capital of which exceeds \$500,000. As part of the senior management group in the Reader Services Division the successful applicant will be required to play a major role in the development of services and policies.

Applicants must be eligible for professional membership of ALIA including possession of a degree from a recognised University, C.A.E. or equivalent plus appropriate experience/specialised skills. Extensive experience with the management and research use of rare book collections is essential along with strong organisational, management and communication skills.

Further information from Ms Kate Sexton (02) 692 2991.

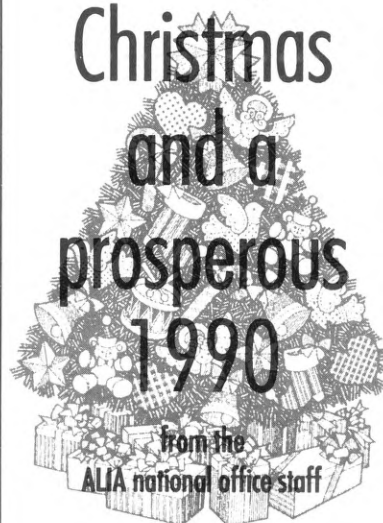
Salary: \$37,303-\$39,987 per annum.

Applications, quoting Ref. no. 45/09 including employment history, qualifications, phone no.s, and the names and addresses of two referees, to the University Librarian, (Attention: Administrative Officer, Fisher Library), University of Sydney, NSW 2006 by 11 January 1990.

No smoking in the workplace is University policy.

45092

Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1990



Australian Library
and Information Association
40 Brisbane Avenue, Barton
PO Box E441

Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600

**Please note the office will be closed
from midday 22 December
to 9am 2 January**



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PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIAN

LIBRARIAN

Class 4
\$41,109–\$44,434

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory is seeking a suitably qualified Librarian to fill the position of Parliamentary Librarian.

The principal objectives of the Library are to assist Members, their staff and parliamentary staff in the performance of their duties by making available a full range of information resources, including provision of reference, research and current information services.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated communication skills of a high order and a record of effective leadership and management performance. Extensive experience in special libraries is essential, experience in Parliamentary Libraries desirable.

Qualifications: Successful completion of a course of integrated study in librarianship at an Australian University or College of Advanced Education, and eligibility for professional membership of the Australian Library and Information Association.

Northern Territory Public Service conditions of service apply.

Contact Officer is Mr Ian McNeill, telephone (089) 46 1411.

Applications should be forwarded to: The Recruitment Officer, Department of the Legislative Assembly, GPO Box 3721, DARWIN NT 0801

by close of business 26 December 1989.

INC 20/11

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INC 20/13

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Written applications are sought from highly motivated suitably qualified persons for the position of Children's Services Librarian at the Nevil Shute Memorial Library, Alice Springs.

Duties: The successful applicant will have the opportunity to lead the Children's Service into its planned relocation in an extension of the existing library. The Children's Services Librarian's duties encompass both management and promotion of programmes and activities for the children and young adults of the Alice Springs community.

Qualifications and experience: Salary and conditions are in accordance with the Municipal Officers' Association (NT) Award, Librarian Grade 4–6 (salary range \$26,772–\$31,077 dependent upon qualifications), plus district allowance.

Preference will be given to applicants who are, or who are prepared to become, members of the Municipal Officers' Association.

Assistance with removal expenses may be available.

Applications: Applications for the position close at 12 noon on 22 December 1989.

A detailed Job Specification and further information on Alice Springs, may be obtained by contacting Deirdre Levett on (089) 52 2733.

Applications should set out full personal details and information relating to qualifications and experience and should be addressed to:

Roy Mitchell, Chief Executive/Town Clerk,
PO Box 1071, Alice Springs, NT 5750.

INC 20/17

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