

# The Source

## Every picture tells a story

Have you ever needed to find a picture book to accompany a lesson on, say, ants, or banks, or bureaucracy. Or kites, knees or koalas. Or laziness, librarians or lions? Not easy, even with the best subject catalogue. To help out, especially with books for young people available in Australian libraries, Sue Cox has produced her useful *Picture books subject index*, which was published in 1988. This modest 26-page, comb-bound work was initially designed to meet the needs of student teachers in incorporating children's literature into thematic teaching units.

The 1200 or so entries are arranged under specific subject headings, including abstract concepts, such as anger, chauvinism and meanness. Only the title and author of the picture book are given.

This work should prove helpful not just for Dip.Ed. students but also for librarians looking, for example, for picture books on particular themes for storytelling. *Picture books subject index*, compiled by Sue Cox, is available from the Library, MacKillop Campus, Catholic College of Education, PO Box 968, North Sydney, NSW 2060. It costs \$10.00 including postage. (ISBN 0 942233 01 3)

## The bare essentials

One Big Directory of Australian libraries is still a fair way off, and in the meantime there is an impressive, if not always convenient array of directories of special, regional, subject, public and academic libraries. If all you need is a phone, fax or electronic mail number, or a street address, Alan and Judith Bundy's *Australian libraries: the essential directory*, first published in 1988, is worth a closer look. As well as covering libraries, with information based on other Bundy directories, questionnaires and other sources, *ALED* also lists a large number of associations, consortia, consultants, library suppliers, information brokers, library publishers and many more.

*Australian libraries: the essential directory* was published in 1988 by Auslib Press, PO Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051. It costs

\$16.00 plus \$3.00 postage and packing. The next edition of *ALED* is promised for 1990. (ISSN 1031-5187)

## Outback — but not out of print

In these days of spiralling book prices, a remarkable bargain awaits those who have not yet acquired a full set of a remarkable bibliography. Carol Mills' *A bibliography of the Northern Territory* was published between 1977 and 1983 by Canberra CAE Library. In its four volumes in five, it covers monographs on sciences, primary industry, recreation, Aborigines, history, social sciences, religion and travels, with a consolidated index. Originally it costs \$40.00 plus postage. Carol is now offering a small number of complete sets for a measly \$12.50 each (the cost of postage and packing only). Send your money to Carol Mills, 13 James Street, Koorringal, NSW 2650.

## Short and sweet

*Australian resource atlas*, edited by John E. Roberts, aimed at secondary students and their teachers, contains 43 maps, each 240 mm by 300 mm, showing in

Continued opposite

## LETTERS

### ... continued from page 11.

It is encouraging that Mr Lumbers believes 'that CSIRO should accept a responsibility for co-operating widely in developing the concept of a distributed national collection'. However in then asserting that 'what is lacking is a mechanism to link adequately the major research libraries in Australia' he underestimates the role of the Australian Bibliographic Network and the major contribution which CSIRO librarians have made to it and to union catalogues in the past by ensuring that CSIRO holdings were fully recorded. If these holdings, some of which form an essential part of the national collection, are now in process of being dispersed and curtailed, there is no assurance that the new locations for those materials which survive will be recorded by the new owners. The variety of bodies mentioned by Mr Lumbers (Questions 9 and 10), including the ACLIS Sub-committee on Resources (Victoria), the NLA, CAUL and ALCAE cannot of themselves guarantee that this will occur.

I do not see how Mr Lumbers can substantiate his assertion (Question 2) 'that CSIRO is not downgrading either its research collections or access to them'. He admits that 'the central collection has already fallen some weeks behind in meeting ILL requests'. Along with this reduction in service there have been drastic cuts in the exchange of journals and other publications and substantial

losses and reductions of library staff. There seems to be little recognition of the reciprocal and cooperative nature of the Australian ILL network which already operates in a distributed mode. External requests on CSIRO libraries for ILL are regarded as 'an embarrassment given competition for staff resources' (Question 8).

The criterion of zero requests during one year which Mr Lumbers advances (Question 8) as a basis for cancellation of exchange journals would appear to be an inadequate and risky one for a great national collection. Application of such a criterion would have substantially reduced the strength of major scholarly storage libraries like British Library Document Supply Centre, Boston Spa, and Center for Research Libraries, Chicago. Unfortunately, in spite of classic work of Bradford, Fussler and Simon, Morse, Buckland, Trueswell and others there are no simple formulae as guides for relegation and disposal.

Research collections almost by definition will contain highly specialised and low-use material. It is for this very reason that the maintenance of low cost, storage libraries at strategic locations around the world as libraries of last resort is so important. Any 'last resort' role for the CSIRO of the type recommended by IFLA, Maurice Line and others, seems to have gone by the board although Mr Lumbers concedes (Question 6) that 'the central store will continue to be developed to accommodate less used titles from the Divisions'.

It is unfortunate that the changes within the CSIRO library network, necessary as some of them may be, are taking place in a climate dominated by economic rationalism and short-term economic and social targets in which funds 'may or may not provide for indirect research costs, such as library and information services'. If such a climate were to persist, the prospects for a continuing national role for the CSIRO library network would be bleak indeed. There are signs, however, that the climate is changing and that there is now wider recognition that the five successive years of federal budget cuts for CSIRO must be halted.

It is timely for librarians everywhere to add their voices to the support for CSIRO and to ask for the unresolved questions of respective responsibilities in science and technology library services of CSIRO and the National Library of Australia to be addressed. Australian academic and research librarians have had to proceed in a policy vacuum for nearly 20 years since the STISEC Report failed to resolve these questions of responsibilities and commensurate resources. Surely it is now time, post-Summit, to address these long-standing problems. For these and other reasons Mr Lumbers' invitation to dialogue and comment should be welcomed.

Eion Wilkinson  
Macquarie University Library

Mr Lumbers is preparing a response to this letter. It will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

simplified form Australia's rivers, national parks, vegetation, soils, geology, climate, agriculture, mineral resources, white exploration, communications and major Aboriginal lands, with explanatory notes. \$14.95 from Ashton Scholastic. (ISBN 0 86896 408 5)

*Off to secondary school* by Sue Genner and Jan Levett 'offers straightforward, practical advice to help the concerned parent' pilot new students through the secondary school shoals, from choosing a school (if there is a choice) to discussing the transition from primary to secondary. My family found the information useful and the advice sensible. 10/10 and a gold star. Published by Ashton Scholastic at \$6.95. (ISBN 0 86896 394 1)

*Jobs, careers and further studies* is the new title of *The school leavers' yearbook*, a careers guide aimed those who want to go straight into the workforce as well as those intent on tertiary studies. It contains a wealth of information and advice, with a breakdown of occupations and employers by interest category, brief employer profiles and advertisements, outlines of occupational training, key addresses and phone numbers and a tertiary study guide. The latter is selective, judging by the number of courses in librarianship listed. But a useful starting point nonetheless. Published by Hobsons Press, 491 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 at \$9.95 plus \$3.50 postage and packing. (ISSN 1031-0886)

*Directory of United Nations serial publications*, published in May 1988, lists over 4000 titles published by 38 UN organizations. Very full entries, linking titles with previous incarnations and descendants, with organization, subject and ISSN indexes. Unlike its predecessors, the 1988 edition of *UNSER* includes non-current titles. Published by the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, at US\$30.00. (ISSN 1011-2952; ISBN 92 1 100337 7)

*101 fund raising ideas* by Jan Godwin and Avice Butcher is aimed at P & C stalwarts, charity supporters and service club members, ranging from guessing the length of a piece of string, through every species of 'athon', to slave markets. The legal implications of each activity are outlined, thank goodness! Published in 1988 by Ashton Scholastic at \$5.95. (ISBN 0 86896 231 7)

*Craft industry guide NSW: printout*, formerly known as the *Directory of craft information* and before that as the *Bumper book of craft*, is a 112-page guide to professional crafts in New South Wales. Training, business management, funding, prizes and awards, festivals, workshops and studies, craft organisations and printed and AV resources: a very useful directory. Published by the Crafts Council of New South Wales, 100 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 at \$12.95 plus \$3.00 postage. (ISSN 0814-5490)

*Australian study opportunities: a directory for overseas students 1988/89* is the third edition of an enterprising publication from the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP) and Hobsons Press. It lists courses available in public and private institutions in Australia, together with approximate fees, and includes advertisements. Available from Hobsons Press, 491 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, at \$12.50 plus \$5.00 postage. (ISSN 0819-3053)

*Pomegranates* celebrates a century of Jewish writing in Australia, with 328 pages of passionate, sometimes poignant, often polished prose, poetry and memoirs from fifty or so writers, including Morris Lurie, Nancy Keesing, Judah Waten, Fay Zwicky, Alex Skovron and Marjorie Pizer. *Pomegranates?* Oh, that's from Deut. 8.8. Compiled by Gael Hammer and published by Millennium in 1988 at \$39.95. (ISBN 0 85574 868 0)

*Grogan's case studies in reference work* are always informative and readable. Numbers 4, *Periodicals and their guides* (ISBN 0 85157 414 9; 11.50 pounds), 5, *Dictionaries and phrase books* (ISBN 0 85157 415 7; 13.75 pounds) and 6, *Biographical sources* (ISBN 0 85157 416 5; 13.75 pounds) were all published in 1987 by Bingley. Copies were supplied by Bennetts.

*Job prospects in Australia* by Rod Stinson is a brave publication which attempts to assess growth in job numbers across a broad spectrum of occupations, arranged in eight groups, with a very thorough index of occupations. Outlook for librarians: average. Library technicians: slower growth than credit and loans analysts. Worth a closer look. Published in 1988 by Hobsons Press at \$19.95, plus \$5.00 postage from 491 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. (ISSN 1031-0894)

### A bit of library lit

Fourteen years of our professional literature, or at least of most of it which was published or distributed in the United States, is represented in ARBA guide to library science literature 1970-1983, published by Libraries Unlimited in 1987.

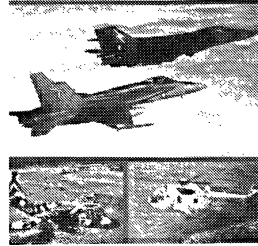
American reference books annual (ARBA) has developed a healthy reputation for good reviewing over the years, and the present collection brings together over 1700 reviews on all aspects of library services. This by-product has been reworked somewhat, with a number of notable omissions from the early years of ARBA being included, additional references to further reviews (gleaned from Book review index) being added, and publishing details being checked and updated as necessary.

This work is a handy memory-jogger, particularly for British and American titles: Australia, by the way, rates only two entries: Biskup and Goodman, and Downs brief guide to Australian and New Zealand library resources. Donald G. David and Charles D. Paterson edited

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ARBA guide to library science literature 1970-1983, and it was published in 1987 by Libraries Unlimited. It costs \$78.00. The review copy was supplied by Bennetts. (ISBN 0 87287 585 7)

### Kiwis netted

Strong growth in databases is evidenced in the new edition of the Australian Database Development Association's (ADDA) Directory, which has now been extended in scope to cover KIWINET and eleven other New Zealand databases. Eighty-one new Australian databases are included — a few have fallen by the electronic wayside — and the range of subjects covered has increased greatly, due in part to a vastly improved subject index.

This edition is much more pleasing aesthetically too: no more no frills typesetting. As with the previous edition, which appeared in 1986, this work is arranged alphabetically by the name of the database, with a list of vendors and their contact points, a list of acronyms (very useful that!) and a subject index. Introductory pages present an excellent overview of the volatile database industry in Australia and New Zealand.

Sherrey Quinn edited the Directory of Australian and New Zealand databases, which was published by ADDA in 1988. It costs \$60.00 (\$45.00 to ADDA members). (ISBN 0 9590967 5 2)

David J. Jones

