

# The Source

## VGP revamped

*Victorian Government publications (VGP)*, that useful monthly, cumulating annually, from the State Library of Victoria has improved its appearance enormously of late. Government Publications Librarian Penny Scott and her staff now produce a nicely typeset publication, and continue to provide the widest coverage of Victorian State and local government publications—even ministerial statements and shire by-laws reprinted in the *Gazette*. The births and deaths of government departments are also dutifully recorded: a great boon for fellow government publications librarians. Entries also indicate where copies can be obtained, with special notes if items are not available from the Victorian Government Printing Office.

Monthly issues of *VGP* cost \$32.00 per year. The annual cumulation (1987 was published in late 1988) costs \$26.00 per issue. The full *VGP* service is \$53.00 per year. Subscriptions should be sent to the Accountant, Library Council of Victoria, 304-328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000. (ISSN 0313-2463)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Re: almost anything

Everything from explosives incidents in penitentiaries to typical electricity bills in the United States is covered by one or other of the 583 serial reference works from the world's most eclectic publisher listed in LeRoy C. Schwarzkopf's *Government reference serials*.

The present title is a companion to *Government reference books*, which will continue to list some non-US Government Printing Office serials and items which appear less frequently than biennially. Entries are arranged in broad subject groupings, and are annotated. There are also title, SuDocs number and subject indexes.

*Government reference serials* was published by Libraries Unlimited in 1988 at US\$45.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 87287 451 6)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Potted Oz

Did you know that Western Australia is three and a half times as big as Texas? Did you know that Rolf Harris was born in 1981 [sic] and began his career in

television in 1960? Would you believe that Coca Cola was first made in Australia in 1938 (but was it a Sesquicentennial project?) These gems, and thousands of others, are in a pretty little book, the third edition of which was published in 1988.

Margaret Nicholson's *The little Aussie fact book 1988* is aimed unashamedly at the little Aussie tourist market, and contains bite-size chunks of history, geography, politics and government, economics, State and Territory profiles, biographies, animals, recipes and colourful phrases which will enable the boondocker from Buffalo to take to the lingo like a rat up a drainpipe. It will be helpful fare for readers who are intimidated by encyclopaedias, and just want to soak up a few facts (Rolf Harris notwithstanding). This little book will of course find its place in the excess baggage of many homeward-bound tourists and really isn't too bad to dip into. An index would have helped. Now where was it that bit about Texas?

Margaret Nicholson's *The little Aussie fact book 1988* is published by Pitman and costs \$12.95. (ISBN 0 7299 0053 3)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Researching religion

Religion in Australia is increasingly the subject of postgraduate research but, as a recent publication of the National Catholic Research Council (NCRC) points out, relatively little is actually published.

To provide access to some of the wealth of dissertations lurking in libraries here and overseas, Peter Bentley has compiled *Australian religious studies: a bibliography of post-graduate theses 1922-1986*. Six hundred and sixty-one such theses are listed and briefly annotated, and fringe as well as

mainstream topics are covered: church architecture, for example, throws up examples such as a history of stonemasonry, and health a postal survey of South Australia Flying Doctor medicine chest holders.

*Australian religious studies* is available from the NCRC, PO Box Leichhardt, NSW 2040. (ISBN 0 949347 02 7)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Red hot issues

A remarkable variety of concerns and issues emerged at the 1988 LAA Conference. You can refresh your memory, or taste for the first time, just how many in *Living together: people, persuasion, power*, the proceedings of the 25th LAA conference, which was edited by Janet Robinson. Technology, that hardy perennial at biennials, was well represented, along with issues relating to management, unionism, the role of the Association, library history, Australian literature, budgeting, library promotion, stress management, and a myriad other burning issues. There is enough real meat here to chew over until at least the next biennial conference.

*Living together* was published by the LAA in late 1988 and costs \$70.00 (\$45.00 to ALIA members). (ISBN 0 86804 069 X)

David J. Jones



## MANNINGS LIBRARY SERVICES

4/175 GIBBES STREET  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067  
AUSTRALIA

Tel (02) 406 6111  
Toll Free. (008) 22 6701  
Telex AA73742

Through MANNINGS you have access to:

- A full range of services for the procurement of Australian and Overseas Publications
- Priority Order Service
- Standing Order Service for Annuals and Irregular Series
- Competitive Pricing
- Authoritative Reporting
- Personal Service from Expert Staff who care.