



New edition of the 'bible'

At difficult stages of the State Library of New South Wales building project I often reached for the bible. Not for inspiration, exactly, but for information. There was the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The OT was Keyes Metcalf's *Planning of academic and research library buildings*, then getting a bit long in the tooth, and unmetrified to boot, but an unfailing source of information. The NT was Godfrey Thompson's *Planning and design of library buildings*, then already in its second edition, and metrified. It was a marvellous book, comprehensive and, remarkably, comprehensible by architects as well as by librarians. Its very acceptability underlined its underlying thesis: that to work together successfully, librarian and architect must understand each other.

Now there is a new edition of Thompson, very much in the same vein as its predecessors, and just as essential for anyone involved in library building activities large and small. With a major project, for example, you can work through Thompson, following the program he described, from initial concepts to the fine details of volumes per square metre and the recommended height of readers' tables. Or you can dip into the work for guidance if you are simply reorganising your reference desk or rearranging your browsing area. Thompson's third edition gives you 224 pages of readable, clearly-explained and well-illustrated guidance for libraries buildings of all kinds, tolerably well-indexed. Only 'tolerably', because I did notice some glitches: the reference to floor loading, for example, is two pages out.

The illustrations — line drawings, photographs and reproductions of floor plans — are well selected, as in the previous edition. These include some of our very own Alexander Library Building in Perth (although somewhere in the text its gender has changed). Some readers will wish that more attention had been given to online public access catalogues (OPACs), local area networks, and the importance of ergonomics in work areas, to take some obvious examples. But at least the reader is generally alerted to issues such as these. With 244 pages at his disposal, Thompson can't be exhaustive, but he is

highly recommended. Godfrey Thompson's *Planning and design of library buildings*, third edition, was published in September 1989 by Butterworth Architecture and costs \$207. My review copy was supplied by Butterworths Pty Ltd. (ISBN 0 4408 50024 7)

Not to be missed

Published a while ago but still highly relevant to students and researchers in the field is Les Reed and Ed Parr's *The keeping place*, a 157-page annotated bibliography and guide to the study of the Aborigines and Aboriginal culture in north-east New South Wales and south-east Queensland. This very thorough work lists and describes materials which the compilers have sighted in institutions in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra as well as within the region covered by the bibliography. The 1440 entries include newspaper and journal articles, monographs, photographs, machine-readable databases and manuscripts, arranged by author or title, in the case of anonymity.

Appendixes list journals where relevant articles may appear from time to time, local newspapers, variant spellings of tribes and languages and other sources of information. The subject index is good in parts: good for checking individual languages, for example, and with reasonable references. It is less helpful when you are trying to track down subjects of biographical articles (there are 187 entries listed simply under 'biographical information'), or items relating to specific localities within the region. But even so, the subject index, like the bibliography as a whole, is a valuable resource. It is to be hoped that there will be a follow-up to *The keeping place* in due course, and that many other regional bibliographies of Aboriginal history and culture will see the light of day. *The keeping place*, by Les Reed and Ed Parr was published in 1987 by the North Coast Institute for Aboriginal Community Education, PO Box 149, Lismore, NSW 2480. It costs \$35. (ISBN 0 909210 34 9)

Galleries galore

Where on earth is the National Fibre Collection? Where would you find Dame Nellie Melba's Stage Wardrobe? Or where, for that matter, would you be able to survey the Split Enz Costume Collection? These are a few of the hundreds of special collections lurking in art museums and public galleries around Australia, and brought to light in *Australian art museums and public galleries directory*.

Published in 1990 by the Art Museums Association of Australia (AMAA) in association with the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, this 49-page directory lists members of the AMAA, arranged by State, showing full addresses and contact numbers, senior personnel, opening hours, admission fees (if any) and a brief outline of the gallery's collection strengths. There is also a list of Australian visual arts organisations. This is a very useful publication, and available at \$12

plus \$3 postage from the National Centre for Research and Development in Australian Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168. (ISBN 0 7326 0131 3 or ISBN 0 959532 4 X)

Born of frustration

Tracking down language tapes in other libraries proved a frustrating experience for Messrs Fitzgerald and Flegg of the City of Moorabbin Library. 'Most libraries knew their own holdings' (!) but they generally had little or no information about the language learning resources of other public libraries. So a questionnaire was sent out to public libraries in Victoria, and a 29-page printed directory of holdings has now materialised. The language tape holdings reported by the 39 responding libraries include rarities like Esperanto, Latin and Gaelic.

Directory of language-learning audio cassettes in Victorian public libraries 1989, compiled by Brendan Fitzgerald and David Flegg, was published in 1989 by the City of Moorabbin Library, 161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh, Vic 3201, and costs \$10. (ISBN 0 9593332 2 3)

How about a test drive?

The extensive literature of road safety has been the special interest of the Library of the (Commonwealth) Department of Transport and Communications for many years. LASORS (Literature Analysis System on Road Safety), an online bibliographic database, began in 1978, covering monographs, conference proceedings, journal articles, research reports and these on all aspects of road safety. References to overseas and Australian material are included in the database, which is available on AUSINET. The compilers have now issued *LASORS Bibliography 1989*, consisting of all the records entered into the database during 1989, arranged by entry number, but with author, title and subject indexes. It is useful for providing an overview of the literature of the period to people who don't have ready access to the database. Copies of this bibliography are available free of charge from Irene Van Saane, LASORS Librarian, Department of transport and Communications, GPO Box 594, Canberra, ACT 2601. (ISBN 0 642 51355 4)

Curiosity corner

Forms used in Australian nursing, compiled by Irene Bowen and Stephen Krassay, reproduces all kinds of forms used in hospitals, ranging from admission to discharge, including the reassuring forms they use to make sure they haven't left any hardware or software inside you. Amazing variety. An unusual work published by the South Australian college of Advanced Education Library in 1989 at \$32, including postage. (ISBN 0 86803 029 5)

An architectural Apex by Michael Page is a company history with a difference, telling the interwoven story of a firm of Melbourne architects and the foundation and development

of Apex. Published in 1990 by Buchan Laird International, 11 Fairlie Court, South Yarra, Vic 3141, and priced at \$35. (ISBN 0 7316 8227 0)

A bibliography of holdings on Prahran and bordering municipalities, compiled by John E Marsh, and revised and expanded by Sarah Chapman, is an 8-page listing of relevant works in the venerable Prahran Mechanics' Institute and Circulating Library, established 1954 and still going strong, to borrow a phrase. A handy checklist if you are into Prahran, East Melbourne, Hawthorn, Malvern, Richmond or St Kilda. \$1.60 post free from Prahran Institute, PO Box 1080, Windsor, Vic 3181. (No ISBN)

Visual impacts: contemporary Australian photography, edited by Max Pam, a beautifully-designed book, reproduces some of the startlingly contrasting work of five photographers and many images selected by Aboriginal communities in the After Two Hundred Years project. Captivating. Published in 1989 by AGPS Press at \$34.95. (ISBN 0 644 10597 6; AGPS catalogue number 89 1398 0)

Fire across the desert: Woomera and the Anglo-Australian Joint Project 1946-1980 by Peter Morton. Almost everything you wanted to know about Woomera but wouldn't have been told at the time. Five hundred and seventy-five pages of solid history, with copious illustrations and diagrams. Published by AGPS Press in 1989. (ISBN 0 644 06068 9)

Author and subject index to A history of Australian sport by Reet and Maxwell Howell.

The original history was published in 1987 as part of a 'reference series' and (aargh!) without an index. Frustrated owners of the work can now obtain, gratis, a subject and name index from Dr R Howell, Human Movement Studies, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld 4067.

From Yalata to the mount, by Ros Paterson, is a very useful listing of local histories of South Australia, arranged by county, and showing author, title, year of publication, availability and where appropriate, price. Appended is a directory of local history collection strengths in South Australian public libraries. Available from the Public Libraries Branch, Department of Local Government, 8 Milner Street, Hindmarsh, SA 5007, at \$10 (\$12.50 posted). (ISBN 0 7243 8704 8)

Personal action guide for the earth from the Commission for the Future. Are you environment-friendly? What can you do to help? Would you know an heirloom variety of seed if you fell over it? Do you mulch regularly? Lots of handy hints. Printed on 100 per cent recycled Australian paper donated by APPM. Published in 1989 by AGPS Press at \$3.50. (ISBN 0 642 14655 1; AGPS cat. no. 89 31807)

A citation analysis of Australian road technology by M G Lay, concludes, inter ALIA, that citation analysis is a powerful tool for examining technology. Published in 1989 by the Australian Road Research Board as Research Report ARR 156 at \$16. (ISBN 0 86910 357 1; ISSN 0518-0728)



LETTERS continued from 10...

Margaret Simpson of Ballan, Victoria has written a long letter questioning career opportunities for newly qualified librarians.

Her main points are:

- very many libraries that she knows in Victoria are headed by ASO 3s (or lower) with no library qualifications;
- there seems to be minimal promotion possibilities within the librarian range, and few Lib1 or Lib2 positions are filled from within the Public Service;
- it is very difficult, even when qualified, to break out of the ASO into the Librarian range — first you need experience, but how do you get it?
- should ALIA have a Public Sector special interest group to look at such issues?

Tom McKeon comments:

'I have forwarded to Margaret a copy of the *Librarian — Position Classification Standards for the Australian Public Service (APS)*. These standards are used in classifying librarian positions by providing a framework of work levels. It specifies how libraries are organised and the duties that are expected to be done by librarians.

'Anyone faced with libraries being managed by non-professionals in the APS

should contact me and obtain a copy of these standards. These should be referred to a Professional Officers Association representative along with the duty statements of the position in question.

'With respect to the question of gaining employment as a librarian, the standards indicate that class 1 positions are expected to be filled by librarians with little or no library work experience. However, employers will select whoever they think is the best person available.'

What do other 'starting-out' readers think about Margaret's questions?

How to get your letter published!

- Keep it under 250 words.
- Make it legible. If handwritten, make it double spaced.
- Give a contact address and telephone number.
- Send it to: The Editor, *inCite*, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600.

Letters may be edited for space unless marked for publication in full or not at all.

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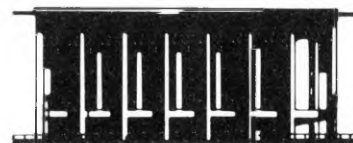
Contact:

ALIA (06) 285 1877

or

(008) 02 0071

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA



BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The National Library of Australia is currently undergoing major renovations, due for completion by December 1991, to improve public access and facilities and to upgrade fire prevention infrastructure.

Every effort is being made to minimise disruption during this period but some inconvenience cannot be avoided.

A 24-hour recorded message service has been established to provide day-to-day information about opening hours and location of services: (06) 262 1159

More detailed information may be obtained from the Readers Advisers on (06) 262 1266 or (06) 262 1434

