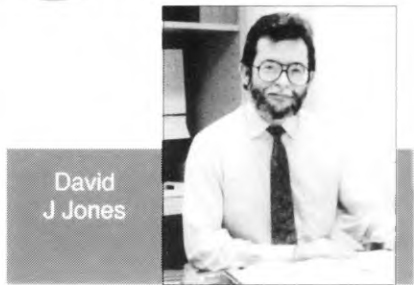


The Source



Index to journal articles on Australian history for 1983 appeared in 1990. In his introduction, voluntary indexer Victor Crittenden explains how this valuable index has fallen behind schedule because of lack of funds and looks forward to happier times: the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash hopes to produce a cumulated 1788-1988 index. Meantime get this for the usual excellent coverage of 723 historical articles and 488 book reviews published during 1983. Available from Australian Reference Publications, PO Box 9, North Balwyn, Vic 3104, at \$22.50 plus \$3.25 postage. (ISBN 0 9587876 3 8)

Monash University theses on Southeast Asia 1961-1987, edited by Vivien Nash and compiled by Rosemary McGinnes and Helen Soemardjo. 121 theses on Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Author, title, degree, subject headings, call numbers, plus departmental and subject indexes. Published in 1988 and available for \$10 from the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168. (ISBN 0 86746 854 8; ISSN 0816-5424 (Occasional Publication 4, Monash University Library)

Heather M Edwards' *University library building planning* is a different kettle of fish. Based on a 1985 MA dissertation at the University of Witwatersrand, this work shows its theoretical origins, competent though it is. It provides a useful summary of thinking and writing on academic library building (one admires the boldness of one attempting to find a niche in a field which Metcalf has for years dominated), showing a good understanding of the theories and practices of such luminaries as the Cohens and Harry Faulkner-Brown, and summarising extant university library standards (as indeed Thompson does, together with public and other libraries). A substantial portion of the work is devoted to case studies of some American, British and South African library buildings: Edinburgh (Sir Basil Spence), Nottingham and Loughborough (Faulkner-Brown), Northern Iowa (Thorson-Brom-Broschar-

Snyder), Denver (Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum), Stellenbosch (Interplan) and Orange Free State (Van der Walt and Fourie). Some of these buildings have not had significant coverage in the literature, and it is interesting to read a recent (c 1985 at least) assessment. There are many lessons to be learned from the successes and mistakes of others, just as you and others will learn from your own experiences.

Chapters on the smouldering issue of decentralisation of university library facilities, the eternal flame of new technology for library buildings and the infernal question of planning for audiovisual developments, together with a brief (I think too brief) chapter on space management round off this interesting, but not essential work. It is too wide-eyed and innocent: 'The space requirements for the console will vary depending on the size of the system. Main-frames are large; microcomputers are much smaller and do not generally occupy more than 12 sq. m' is an example of the simplistic approach sometimes adopted. The chapter on new technology doesn't mention local area networks, fibre-optics or uninterruptible power supplies, or paper dust generated by high-speed printers. 'Glare may be a problem, and staff should face away from windows' is, I'm sorry to say, often as wrong as it is right. Low-brightness luminaires are not specifically mentioned; they are, of course, not a cure-all, but they are worth considering. Tentative souls planning a university library building might benefit from a quick dip into Edwards' work, before plunging, perforce, into Thompson, Fraley, Holt and the mesmerising Metcalf. Then again, they might be better off ringing a consultant!

Heather M. Edwards' *University library building planning* was published by Scarecrow in 1990, and costs US\$29.50. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8108 2225 3)

Ruth A Fraley and Carol Lee Anderson's *Library space planning*, second edition, was published by Neal-Schuman in 1990 and costs US\$39.50. My review copy was provided by the publisher. (ISBN 1 55570 040 3)

The best things in life

'Sick of the kids constant demands to buy things? Now they can be occupied for hours...days at little or no expense and can be educated at the same time.' Sounds too good to be true? The compiler of *Free stuff for kids* provides the names and addresses of over 200 free and almost free things to send for by mail, on subjects as diverse as birds and bees, fruit and nuts, Parliament House and pests. This is the seventh edition of Scott Riddle's compilation, and includes a section on free places to visit. It's highly selective: only six free places to visit in New South Wales? Hmm... Scott

Riddle's *Free stuff for kids* was published by Periscope Press in 1990 and costs \$5.95. (ISBN 0 949714 05 4)

Clayton's index

For nigh-on 10 years there has been no bibliographic tool which 'does for book reviews published in Australia what *Book review index* and *Book review digest* do for reviewing sources published in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom'. Since the demise of *Index to Australian book reviews*, that is. In November last year the National Centre for Australian Studies (NCAS) at Monash initiated a study to test the feasibility of an *Index to Australian book reviews* (IRAB), and a pilot index and a research report on the project have now come to hand. The pilot index, covering reviews in selected newspapers and periodicals appearing between December 1989 and February 1990, was a good test of the methodology, and a work for the reference librarian to gaze at longingly, wishing it might go on forever. Elizabeth Morrison, Kate McDowell and Margaret Spier show how fine a product *IRAB* might be, given the right financial support and in due course the right subscriber support. They conclude their thorough report by recommending that seed funding of \$38 000 be sought to produce the index for a year. Copies of *Index to reviews of Australian books (IRAB): Pilot index (December 1989 — February 1990) and Project Report* are available from the NCAS at Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168 for \$10 post-free. (ISBN 0 7326 0194 0)

Bard disks?

Shakespeare knew, of course. That one of his plays would 'fit comfortably onto a single standard size floppy disk'. So that his text could be manipulated ad infinitum to produce acting copies, painless quotations at the touch of a key. By the Great Harry, you could even check the old bard's spelling, clarify it with your own spelling-checker and improve on his choice of words with your online thesaurus. The *Shakespeare on Disk* project has been initiated by some enterprising Blue Mountains dwellers, and can provide many of the Swan of Avon's works in many different formats (soon including, inevitably, *Macbeth* in MacWrite). Selling their wares in sets of ten copies of the same play, the producers are gradually working their way through Shakespeare (Bless thee, Bottom! bless thee! Thou art translated). They have the ultimate aim of providing a 'complete set of English Literature on computer-readable media' — I think they mean the relevant parts of some syllabus or other, unless they have discovered the elixir of life. It's an interesting project, with some promising applications. Further information on it is available from Jonathan Jermy, Blue Mountains Desktop, PO Box 8, Hazelbrook, NSW 2779 (phone (047) 58 6731).