

The Source



David
J Jones

Aussie and proud of it

Nationalism has often been perceived as a potent force in the art of selling to Australians, at least with some products. Aborigines, flora and fauna and the seemingly omnipresent outline map of our country have adorned our packaging and points of sale for years. In 1980 Mimmo Cozzolino and G Fysh Rutherford brought out their *Symbols of Australia*, a delightful compendium of advertising and packaging symbols as diverse as Eau de Queensland, the Early Kooka, Dr Boxwell's Silent Pill for Females, Bunnycide (you guessed it) rabbit poison and (ugh) Prickly Pear Soap. A second edition was published in 1987, with a new 16-page colour section, and in 1990 a sort of third edition was published — it has not been revised. I guess if you're on to a good thing you stick to it. It's printed mainly on recycled brown kraft wrapping paper, with a real recto and verso feel and look about it: a nice touch, as many of the symbols did find their way onto wrapping paper. Eminently browsable, and with a useful index, even if some of the brands are not separately [sic] indexed. Well worth adding to your collection — the earlier editions must have worn out by now. 'The search continues' promise the authors, who are now working on a second volume. Mimmo Cozzolino and G Fysh Rutherford's *Symbols of Australia* was published in 1990 by CIS Educational at \$44.95. (ISBN 0 949919 75 6)

Worth preserving

How long will your optical disc last? How do you diagnose deathwatch beetle? Which sprinkler system should you prefer? How should you plan for (or should it be against) disaster? How cool should your stack be? These are a few of the questions which Ross Harvey's marvellous *Preservation in Australian and New Zealand libraries* will help you answer, as well as providing a very full introduction to the theory and practice of preservation of library materials in our difficult climate. Harvey provides a highly detailed yet readable account of why materials

deteriorate — biological agents, atmospheric pollutants, light, temperature and relative humidity, and of course humans — and appropriate responses. These range from user education, with examples of successful programs, through disaster preparedness to repairs, protective enclosures and binding. There are substantial chapters on reformatting, technological and cooperative strategies, and on developing a library preservation programme. There is also a very useful selection of readings from the relatively slender Australasian preservation literature and a good bibliography. Harvey's book sets an excellent example as a textbook for the student and a handbook for the practitioner — and it's printed on permanent paper too! Ross Harvey's *Preservation in Australian and New Zealand libraries* is highly recommended. It was published in 1990 in the promising Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies series by the Centre for Information Studies at Charles Sturt University — Riverina, and costs \$50. (ISBN 0 949060 11 9; ISSN 1030-5009)

The language of librarianship

The library, information and documentation profession has a specialised patois, and there are of course several glossaries which cast light on it. A new work from the American Library Association neatly complements such dictionaries by serving up a methodical explanation of terms, arranged thematically. Explanation rather than definition is what the compilers of *The librarian's thesaurus* have firmly in mind, as they progress from basic library concepts such as 'information', a concept which they understandably side-step. 'With terms of such richness,' they write, 'no single meaning can be stipulated for general use. It is the writer's responsibility to clearly state the intended meaning when using these terms.' They can be a lot more specific about public libraries, diffuse authorship, bibliographic standards, cellular telephones, sound detectors, Newark, performance measurement and peek-a-boo cards. All are explained in context, in chapters or segments which read very well. Reading from cover to cover you get a sobering view of the length, breadth and depth of library and information work. Mary Ellen Soper, Larry N Osborne and Douglas L Zweizig's *The librarian's thesaurus* was published by the American Library Association in 1990. It costs US\$16.95. My review copy was provided by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 0530 7)

What's new in Dewey 12?

A substantial manual is a new feature of the Abridged Dewey, now in its twelfth edition. The manual describes the policies and practices of the Decimal Classification Division of the Library of Congress, explaining the distinctions between candidate

classification numbers and a multitude of borderline cases and tricky problems and their solution. What do you do with a nonfiction novel? When does dentistry stray into regional surgery? Another notable feature is the complete revision of 780 Music: most numbers have been reused with new meanings. Many less dramatic changes to tables, schedules and relative index are also outlined. The 12th edition of *Abridged Dewey decimal classification and relative index* was published by Forest Press in 1990 and is available locally from DA Books and Journals at A\$93.50. (ISBN 0 910608 42 3)

Acronymophobia

I had hoped that Ermintrude Bentwhistle's paean (AustLibJ, February 1991) was the last, and mercifully brief word on acronyms for this year. But here is a fourth edition, no less, of Alan C Montgomery's *Acronyms and abbreviations in library and information work*, containing over 7000 terms which you may encounter in the 'general English language literature of librarianship and information work'. There is good coverage of non-British terms, of course, with the Commonwealth well-represented, although ACLIS has curiously slipped through Alan's net! Alan C Montgomery's very useful *Acronyms and abbreviations in library and information work*, fourth edition, was published in 1990 by the Library Association and costs \$15. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 85365 989 3)

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