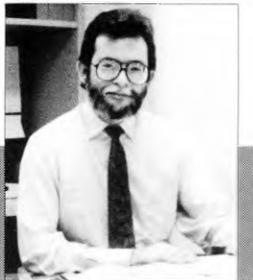# The Source

David J Jones

Marginal notes

The great deeds of heroic women, by Maurice Saxby, is a worthy companion to his *The great deeds of super-heroes.* The Greek myths, the Bible, folk-tales of many nations, Saints and holy women: familiar figures rub shoulders with the neglected in these 25 tales, beautifully illustrated by Robert Ingpen. Published by Millennium Books in 1990 at $26.95. (ISBN 0 85574 983 0)

The decisive factor: air power doctrine by H N Wrigley is an edited and annotated collection of essays and notes by 'one of Australia's greatest airmen' who was also our first authoritative commentator on air power. Fascinating insights into military theory and practice from 1915 to about 1928, including some items in Wrigley's own meticulous hand. Published by AGPS Press in 1990, at $24.95. (ISBN 0 644 12770 8)

Two way Aboriginal schooling by Stephen Harris explores the concept of 'bicultural schooling' in Aboriginal communities, in which Aboriginal language and culture are taught as legitimate ends in themselves, not merely as a means to more effective learning of English. Published in 1990 by Aboriginal Studies Press, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, PO Box 553, Canberra, ACT 2601, at $19.95. (ISBN 0 85575 218 1)

Guide to specification writing by Bryan Kalms tells you how to make sure you get what you want right from the start, defining functional and performance requirements. Prepared by the Department of Administrative Services Purchasing Reform Group, this is set to become the standard specification manual for Australia. Full of good practice, helpful hints (like archiving specifications in a library, and avoiding acronyms), crisply written and well-indexed. Published by AGPS Press in 1990 at $19.95. (ISBN 0 644 12013 4)

Parish registers in Australia by Nick Vine Hall is already in a second edition, after only 1 year. A remarkable 107 per cent larger than its predecessor, the 1990 edition is a tribute to Vine Hall and his small army of contacts around the country. Copies are available from the compiler at 25 Mills Street, Middle Park, Vic 3206, for $16.95 plus $3 postage within Australia, (ISBN 0 9597208 4 7)

New books from Indonesia is published every two months by the Library of the Australian National University. Titles, imprints, prices and synopses of commercial Indonesian publications received by the Library. Useful selection or ILL tool. $20 per annum, from the Library (Asia and Pacific Division), Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601. (No ISSN)

An annotated bibliography of Australian rural social research, volume 1, 1988, has been compiled 'to aid those who require background reading in existing studies, general information about rural society and for those who wish to undertake their own research' in this generally under-researched area. Good abstracts, keyword index. Published by the Centre for Rural Welfare Research at what is now Charles Sturt University, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650. (ISBN 0 947330 04 6; ISBN 0 947330 05 4 (set))

Australian Aboriginal culture, third edition, prepared by Australian inFo International, is a 42-page booklet looking at present-day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life, and also at the last 200 years 'in the light of historical re-evaluation'. Published by AGPS Press in 1989. (ISBN 0 644 09814 7; AGPS cat no 89 0543 9)

Issues index is 'an annotated index for 1988 of the 10 most popular current affairs periodicals in Australian libraries, focusing on issues of contemporary importance'. Emphasis on contentious social issues, as dealt with in the likes of *Australian foreign affairs record* and *Time Australia.* Published in 1989 by Absalom and Achitophel, 87 Edinburgh Street, Richmond, Vic 3121, at $14.95 post free ($18 if invoiced). (No ISSN)

The business and management catalogue lists 135 films and videos available from Film Australia for business development and management training. Safety issues, EEO, new technologies, motivation, fitness, energy management and stress are but a few of the subjects dealt with. The catalogue is available free from Film Australia, Freepost 25, Lindfield, NSW 2070, phone (02) 413 8777.

Communicating in writing by Barbara Walsh is aimed at the Australian Public Service (APS) writer, but has guidance and hints for all of us. Planning your writing, correct APS form, job applications, speech writing, how to be a dictator, the pitfalls of wordiness, using the right word, discrimination, and what to do with your dangling participles. Second edition published by AGPS Press in 1989. (ISBN 0 644 09537 7; AGPS cat no 89 0230 0)

The book of the century

Chronicle of the 20th Century, the brainchild of German sports journalist and publisher Bodo Harenberg, has been a publishing phenomenon, with over 5 million copies sold in Germany, France, the United States, Britain and other countries. The chronicle concept presents information on events in newspaper style: a catchy headline, eye-catching photographs, succinct articles, accompanied by chronological summaries. It helps you pinpoint events, thanks to the very necessary index, as well as to gain a flavour of the times, by juxtaposing social, economic, cultural, political and natural occurrences. The result, if it is well done, is an outstanding educational and informational resource — and it's also downright entertaining. Now there is an Australasian edition of *Chronicle* — not just a rehash of the overseas work with a smidgin of local events, but an entirely new work. The policy of its creators is to produce a work which will be totally relevant to its local audience, while of course being alive to the events which were helping to shape the outside world.

The result is stunning — the best Australian reference work I have seen for years: outstandingly-illustrated, well-written (in a lively, journalistic style), and with an excellent appreciation of key events and contemporary colour. At least a page is devoted to each month of this century, with a calendar and summary of events, including notable births and deaths, and the good news and the bad news. 1900 kicks off with articles on plague in Sydney, a flu epidemic in England, Nellie Melba being toasted in Vienna, Premiers meeting amid Federation fever, and the Boer War 'attracting more interest than the cricket'. And on it goes, for the next 90 years, telling of everyone who was anyone, every milestone in human progress and every step backwards, all the medal winners at the Olympics, the big hits on stages, screens and hit parades around the world, and the photographs, many of which are etched on the memory.

It is one of those infuriatingly seductive books: writing this notice took me hours. When you look up a fact, prepare to linger

and savour the events of the time. Open it at random, and I defy you not to be glued to the pages, all 1392 of them. There is too, thank goodness, a very good index, with (for the statistically-minded consumer) 36 000 entries. Altogether, the publishers tell us with justifiable pride, there are 1.5 million words, 40 000 entries, 3500 colour and black and white illustrations, drawings and maps, and it weighs in at 4.3 kg. It may be hard to pick up, but it's impossible to put down. The Australasian edition of *Chronicle of the 20th Century* is a marvellous achievement, and excellent value at $79.50. It was published in August 1990 by Chronicle Australasia, a joint venture of Chronicle Communications in London and Penguin Books Australia, who supplied my review copy. (ISBN 1 872031 80 3)

Multifarious micros

DIALOG searching with a Macintosh. Working with down-loaded Medline results. Computerising a local history survey. Organising a library tour using HyperCard. Automating the book budget. These are examples of the varied projects described in Patrick R. Dewey's *101 microcomputer projects to do in your library: putting your micro to work*, which was published by the American Library Association in 1990. This neat little work focuses upon *applications*, rather than hardware and software, providing accounts of projects involving online catalogues, bulletin board systems, desktop publishing, collection analysis, staff training and much more. Dewey kicks off with a useful chapter on managing a computer project, presenting the basic steps, describing the some of dos and don'ts: a must for those dipping their toes in the shallow end of this stygian pool. Then he moves into the projects themselves, which are arranged under broad headings, such as acquisitions, bulletin boards, public access microcomputers and so on. Listed for each project are its name and the library where it was initiated (all are in North America), the name of a contact person, a brief profile of the institution and its clientele, the hardware and software used and a description of the project. Significant problems are highlighted, and each library rates the success of its project. Many of the applications described are of quite long standing, growing up with each new release of the software used, or migrating to more attractive software. This work will be useful in demonstrating the range of applications, and giving some indication of the versatility of some of the software. Australian librarians may find it a bit frustrating (insomniacs with ISD aside), for one of the values of such a compilation lies in being able to ring up the guinea pigs and pick their brains, not just to read about it. A very useful appendix presents a persuasive sample proposal for a grant to

set up a microcomputer project, and there is a brief glossary and annotated bibliography. If this little book of applications doesn't give you ideas for micro applications, nothing will. Patrick R Dewey's *101 microcomputer projects to do in your library: putting your micro to work* was published by the American Library Association in 1990 and costs US$22.50. My review copy was provided by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 0518 8)

A brace of books on buildings

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the bookshops… Not one, but two newly-published and substantial works focusing on library building design, and covering the general territory traversed by the new Metcalfe (Philip D Leighton and David C Weber's new edition of Keyes Metcalf's *Planning academic and research library buildings* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1986)), Raymond M Holt's *Planning library buildings and facilities: from concept to completion* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1989) and Godfrey Thompson's *Planning and design of library buildings* (London: Butterworth Architecture, 1989).

Ruth A Fraley and Carol Lee Anderson's *Library space planning* was an old friend. The first edition was immensely valuable to us when we were working on the State Library of New South Wales building project. We sought guidance from it when we planned our stack moves, and leant heavily upon it when drafting the specification for our removalist. The second edition of this work was published by Neal-Schuman in 1990 in the outstanding 'How to do it manuals for libraries' series, edited by the redoubtable Bill Katz. Developing a space plan, measuring the collection (no simple matter, actually), projecting future growth, examining alternative storage methods, assessing facilities, including the state of buildings and furniture and equipment. These are some of the initial steps which Fraley and Anderson document with great thoroughness. Then they get stuck into the practicalities: budgeting, publicity, working out timetables, the pros and cons of professional movers, how to soldier on during a move, how to celebrate the completion of the move. The exposition is lively and down to earth; the approach is detailed (necessarily so); the book is full of the best sort of common sense and practical advice from people who have experienced the trials, tribulations and triumphs of organising library collections in existing or new premises. This book, along with Godfrey Thompson's and Ray Holt's, I highly recommend. We (not the Royal we, but my long-suffering assistants Terri Garbutt and Barbara Hopkins and I) have used it in its earlier incarnation, and it works!

Serials on serials

'The coming of age of serial librarianship in this part of the world' is heralded in Andrew Osborn's guest editorial in the newly-launched *Australian and New Zealand journal of serials librarianship*. No mean feat, given our small population base. No empty promise, given the growing international interest in Australian and New Zealand studies. This new quarterly journal from Haworth Press, edited by Toby Burrows of the University of Western Australia and with a distinguished line-up of advisory editors, promises to cover developments in serials librarianship and publishing, as well as the historical, social and cultural significance of serials. The first issue gives some idea of the range of possibilities: articles on the Aussie edition of *New Scientist* by its editor, on a no frills British serial on New Zealand studies, inside information on ACPAD and the New Zealand Geological Society Paleontological Bulletins, user reactions to DataSwets and Ebsconet, overseas news on the ARL serial prices project, a review article on Ulrich's and Ebsco, some unsigned reviews and notes on new overseas journals about Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. It's a stimulating mixture in the first issue: topics to be tackled in the next promise to be equally varied.

There will certainly be some content overlap with the quarterly newsletter of the ALIA Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG) (ISSN 1030-3812). One does wonder about the viability, and advisability, of two serial publications attempting to cover very much the same ground in a rather specialised field, as far as the Australian content is concerned. But I wish both publications well nonetheless, and look forward to their future issues. I can't help feeling that in a dynamic field like serials, the future lies, not in quarterlies, but online, like Marcia Tuttle's Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues.

The *Australian and New Zealand journal of serials librarianship* is published by Haworth Press and costs US$32 (US$20 for personal subscribers) per year. (ISSN 0898-3283)