

The Source



David J Jones

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1993 IS THE International Year of Indigenous Peoples, and *The Source* looks forward to seeing a flow of reference publications which will help celebrate and commemorate the year, and be of lasting information value thereafter.

Celebrating IYIP

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders gets the ball rolling, as far as this column is concerned, with *Black Women's Calendar 1993*. The calendar provides a portrait of twelve outstanding black Australians in words and pictures, women who have made lasting contributions to fields such as social service, the public service, land rights, education, medicine, music, theatre, and welfare.

Black Women's Calendar 1993 is published by the Aboriginal Studies Press, ALATSIS, PO Box 553, Canberra, ACT 2601.

The Source will publish mini-reviews of International Year of Indigenous Peoples reference materials which come to its attention during the coming year.

Something special

A useful guide to Government special libraries in New South Wales has been prepared by Lorraine Gibbs, librarian of the Office of State Revenue. Predictably entitled *Government special libraries in New South Wales directory 1992*, it lists around 100 libraries of that ilk, outlining missions, clientele, collection strengths, addresses and contact numbers, access and charging policies, computer software and hardware used and hours of opening. There is a subject index, based on the reported strengths.

This utilitarian directory is available for \$25.00 (\$20.00 to participating libraries) from Lorraine Gibbs, Librarian, Office of State Revenue, 132 Marsden Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150. (No ISSN or ISBN)

A century of film

Well, almost. Since the 1900 production of 'Soldiers of the Cross' Australian film has had its ups and downs. Some golden years of Aussiehood, then the long drought, with the occasional shower of imported stars, crews and screenplays, the rebirth of the industry and its nurturing, another fallow period and the current fragile revival. Australian film has generated a fair number of critical and reference works in recent years, but few will be as welcome to the film nut, buff or fancier than *Australian film index*, published in 1992 by Thorpe.

In a span of 258 pages this work lists by title all the Australian films the compiler has been able to run to earth (or to vault), providing details of running time, year of production or release, producer, director, cinematographer, editor, composer, art director and cast. This is valuable raw material, made more valuable by a series of indexes: actors, directors, producers, editors, composers, scriptwriters and so on. An appendix lists Australian Film Institute award winners from 1976 to 1992.

For the purposes of this book, 'Australian' means produced in Australia, or the work of Australian directors in other countries (so 'The Dead Poets Society' squeaks in, for example, along with other Weir-ed movies). Only narrative films have been included, by the way. *Australian film index* was published by Thorpe in 1992 and costs \$45.00. (ISBN 1 875589 12 0)

Bundy clocks up another directory

There is now a fifth edition of Auslib Press's *Directory of Australian academic and research libraries*, with over 300 pages of information on university, TAFE, state, parliamentary, national and theological libraries around Australia. ►

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- This edition naturally reflects the large number of amalgamations since *DAARI* hit the shelves in 1989. Entries are in the familiar format, and an index of subject and named collections is also included—handy if you're looking for Thomistica or perhaps upholstery. You can also track down institutional affiliations through the senior personnel index.

Edited by Alan and Judith Bundy, *Directory of Australian academic and research libraries*, fifth edition, was published in 1992 by Auslib Press, PO Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051. It costs \$38.00 plus \$4.00 postage. (ISBN 1 875145 14 1; ISSN 1032-9994)

Book reviews revisited

Those of us who regretted the passing of *Index to Australian book reviews* and the *Australian book review index* look hopefully towards a new venture which will provide access to the many hundreds of book reviews which flower briefly in Australian newspaper and magazine columns and then disappear forever.

Iain Brown has embarked upon an ambitious project to record the annual outpourings of book reviewers, and has recently produced *ABRC: Australian book review citations 1990*. Covering over 80 journals and newspapers, Brown includes references to reviews of works published in Australia, or overseas by Australian authors, and/or with Australian content. He has deliberately excluded reviews published in Australian literary journals (which are covered in AUSTLIT). I'd guess there are citations of reviews of over 2000 works in this useful publication, together with an author and reviewer index. I hope it gets the support it needs to keep going. The 1991 edition, which promises several enhancements, is now in preparation.

Published by Iain Brown, 20 Jarrah Street, O'Connor, ACT 2601, *ABRC: Australian book review citations 1990* costs \$65.00 plus postage. (ISSN 1038-393X)

Buried treasure

The relative inaccessibility of much of the information contained in some major collections of research material in microform has long been a concern. Some of the collections, like the Goldsmiths'—Kress collection, remained a happy hunting ground for informed researchers—with the emphasis on hunting.

Beth Stone's *Guide to microform research collections in the National Library of Australia*, recently published by the NLA, is therefore

most welcome. Arranged by Dewey class numbers, this publication helps unlock some of the rich resources available at the NLA, ranging from transcripts of the secret communications of Japanese diplomats between 1938 and 1945, to the records of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The anarchist press in Britain, genealogical kits, law reports, Central Intelligence Agency reports, papers from the German Foreign Ministry—the range of source materials is enormous. There is a combined author, title, editor and subject index.

Guide to microform research collections in the National Library of Australia was published in 1992 by the NLA and costs \$20.00. (ISBN 0 642 10518 9)

Fishing for antecedents

A range of British post office directories, an oft fruitful field for the genealogist, is now available on microfiche. Copublished by the English genealogist, Gwen Hall, and Australia's Nick Vine-Hall, the directories for various counties will enable many family historians to track down ancestors in an alphabetical sequence, thereby facilitating access to census records (which may be arranged by street address). The directories which have been fished so far—almost 50 of them, from Hampshire to Perth, if not Land's End to John o'Groats—cover the Census years from 1841 to 1891 or thereabouts.

Directories are available separately, with prices ranging from \$10.00 to \$75.00 per directory, depending on size. Further information on the series is available from Nick Vine Hall, 386 Ferrars Street, Albert Park, Vic 3206, phone (03) 699 9548 fax (03) 696 2382.

New light on old friends

Some of my best friends are featured in a charming and seductive work published earlier this year by Oryx Press. I call them friends, although they are but inanimate objects—reference works which have helped, reassured, amused and informed me, and in turn my enquirers and readers, over many years. 31 works are portrayed in *Distinguished classics of reference publishing*, edited by James Rettig. Here are told, in readable essays, the stories of Baedeker, Bartlett, Brewer, Britannica, Fowler, Guinness, Roget, Pollard and Redgrave, Reader's Guide, the OED, NUC, DNB, Granger and other

standard works.

Who first conceived the idea of the work, how it was created, how it was received, how it developed, what strengths and weaknesses it may have had, what prospects it has. There is a detailed list of editions, and a bibliography for each item. Life is brought to the authors of many of the works: we can picture Emily Post besieged by manufacturers of ginger ale asking for an endorsement of their product, Fowler plunging through the ice for his regular mid-winter swim. Indeed, familiar friends become even more familiar, our knowledge of their background is enlarged, and our perception of their usefulness and limitations enhanced.

Distinguished classics of reference publishing, edited by James Rettig, was published in 1992 by Oryx Press and costs US\$55.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Science—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984) (ISBN 0 89774 640 6)

Information on AIDS

A third edition of *AIDS information sourcebook* was published by Oryx Press in 1991. Like its predecessors, this edition is a guide to educational resources about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome which are accessible to the general public. The work consists of a chronology, a directory of organisations, statistical tables, a 40-page bibliography and a glossary of terms.

The directory, which forms the bulk of this work, covers all kinds of organisations relating to AIDS, but only in the United States, so its usefulness to Australians will be somewhat limited. The bibliography will be of more relevance, listing electronic and audiovisual resources as well as print ones—entries are arranged by format, but there is a good subject index.

Edited by H Robert Malinowsky and Gerald J Perry, *AIDS information sourcebook*, third edition 1991-92, was published in 1991 by Oryx Press. It costs US\$39.95 and is available locally from James Bennett Library Services. (The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Science—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984) (ISBN 0 89774 598 1; ISSN 1044-2138) ■