

# The Source



David J Jones

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## For L-plate lecturers

**A**ND PERHAPS P-plate professors? Kate Beattie's succinct and helpful *So now you are an academic!* is now in its second edition. This 28-page booklet is a checklist for new academics, with many thoughtful dos and don'ts from one who dished it out as a lecturer for fourteen years, and is now to a certain extent, I guess, on the receiving end as a PhD student. Tips on lecture technique, hints on counselling, notes on marking and assessment — there is a lot of sound advice and common sense, as well as salutary warnings — like 'Don't stack papers you still require close to the rubbish bin. It all looks the same to [the] cleaner.' Librarians will hope that readers will take passages relating to set texts to heart, as well as the notes on bibliographic style. The first edition of Kate Beattie's *So now you are an academic!* sold extremely well, and the expanded second edition deserves the same fate. Copies are available for \$5.00 from the Union of Australian College Academics, PO Box 316, North Melbourne, Vic 3051. (ISBN 0 646 10538 8)

### And nothing but the TAFE

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) is by far Australia's largest provider of post-secondary education. Did you know that each year over a million people attend TAFE courses? How do you find out more about the colleges, their specialties and their staff — Australia wide? Well now you can refer to the first edition of what promises to be a very useful *Australian TAFE directory*, which has been compiled and edited by Di Booker. Arranged by the name of the institution, this directory lists senior

personnel, including schools and their heads, campus addresses, and courses offered, and gives an indication of library resources. There is an alphabetical index to track down anything from abrasive blast cleaning—a useful skill—to zookeeping. There is a companion index to courses arranged under broad headings, and a similar index to senior personnel. It's a good production, all 300-odd pages of it. *Australian TAFE Directory*, first edition, was published in 1992 by Auslib Press and costs \$40.00 plus \$5.00 postage. (ISBN 1 875145 18 4)

### Children's writers speak

At the grand old age of 46, the Children's Book Council of Australia has held its first national conference. And judging by its stimulating range of addresses and papers, it certainly oughtn't to be the last. The proceedings, recently published by Thorpe under the title *At least they're reading!*, contain the pearls of some of the gems of children's writing and illustration, including Pat Hutchins, Libby Gleeson, Gillian Rubinstein, Robert Cormier and John Marsden. Educationists, publishers and specialist booksellers too get in their two bob's worth, and the proceedings are rounded off with four views of that deceptively simple question: what makes a good book? Censorship, quality, reader reaction, commercial realities, curriculum: the conference covered a broad canvas, and the proceedings are of correspondingly wide appeal. *At least they're reading!* was published in 1992 by Thorpe. It costs \$35.00. (ISBN 1 875589 14 7)

### Lines on maps

It may come as a surprise to many of us that at the time of Federation, there was 'very little accurate knowledge of the position, shape and height' of Australia's topography. This was in stark

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▶ contrast, John Lines points out in his mammoth *Australia on paper: the story of Australian mapping*, to the coast. Flinders, King and the like had seen very thoroughly to that. Lines traces the tentative beginnings of systematic topographic mapping, stimulated by concerns about defence, the early use of aerial photography, the critical decisions about scale and rationalisation, and casts a measured glance into the future of cartography in Australia. There are valuable explanations of the Australian map grid, which has foxed many a casual map user, and of the standardisation of symbols. The test of legibility of early military maps, which Lines describes, would be an object lesson for some modern directory publishers: could you read it 'in a wartime dugout by the light of a single candle'? John D Lines's *Australia on paper: the story of Australian mapping* is a valuable sourcebook on Australian topographic mapping from 1788 to the present. It was published in 1992 by Fortune Publications, PO Box 1220, Box Hill, Vic 3128 and costs \$33.00 plus \$7.00 postage. (ISBN 0 646 09769 5)

### Civil ceremonials

Civil Marriage Celebrants don't just marry people: many officiate at renewals of vows, namegivings, coming of age celebrations and at funerals. The forms of ceremony, and poems and prose fitting the occasion, are outlined in a new edition of Dally R Messenger's *Ceremonies for today*. Civil Marriage Celebrants, Messenger reminds us, came into being during the Attorney Generalship of the remarkable Lionel Murphy. Messenger provides some model ceremonies, which incorporate all the legal niceties and the opportunity for those involved to place their own stamp on the proceedings. The emphasis is very much on choice and variety: there are different versions of 'giving away', vows, readings and so on. There is also a remarkable selection of appropriate sentiments, not just from the inevitable favourites (Gibran and Tagore), but from unfamiliar but appropriate bards. The 160-page paperback is rounded off with a complete list of celebrants around Australia, including their addresses and telephone numbers. *Ceremonies for today* by Dally R Messenger, third edition, is available from DMPR

Pty Ltd, 5 Arnold Street, Noble Park, Vic 3174, or from James Bennett Library Services. It costs \$19.95 plus \$2.25 postage. (ISBN 0 646 10349 0)

### Australians all, let us rejoice

Australian studies, it is pleasing to note, is alive and well in the United States, Britain and Europe, with a sprinkling of associations active in the subject area. Who indeed would have expected Australian studies to be taught at Hungary's Eotvos Lorand University? Such institutions will welcome the appearance of *Australian studies: acquisition and collection development for libraries*, which was published in 1992 by Mansell. Edited by Gary Gorman, this is a collection of eighteen essays on Australian publishing, selecting and purchasing Australian publications, Australiana collections. Progress with Conspectus, the documentation of multicultural Australia and the Australian Joint Copying Project are the subject of three essays which round off the collection. The overall aim is to 'facilitate more efficient acquisition and use of Australiana in libraries wherever they may be located.' Don't imagine this is purely for overseas consumption: there is much here which will be new to many Australian practitioners. Wendy Lowenstein's fascinating outline of some Australian self-publishers, for example, casts welcome light on this significant group. And although covering relatively familiar ground, John Mills's essay on and enumeration of basic reference tools is a useful aide-memoire. Locals will also be fascinated by the outline of Australiana collections at the British Library, which I guess has the most extensive overseas collection of Australiana. Editing is tight, and the essays hang together remarkably well, coming as they do from such a variety of hands and perspectives. *Australian studies: acquisition and collection development for libraries* edited by G E Gorman, was published in 1992 by Mansell and is distributed in Australia by James Bennett Library Services. It costs \$40.00. (ISBN 0 7201 2134 5)

### Facing the music

The closing-down of many music libraries in Britain in the last ten years or so is the sour note struck in the new edition of *Music in British libraries*. Many specialist staff have been axed, stock has remained static

and 'in a few cases, rare manuscripts have been sold.' For the 340 surviving institutions, this directory follows the familiar format: names and addresses, staffing, hours, access conditions and collection information (including special strengths). Public, academic and even cathedral libraries are included, but only those with major music collections or significant rare items. It's in the indexes that this directory earns its keep: if you are looking for composers, types of music or a collection which you know by name but not location. Useful for our British counterparts is the appendix listing public libraries which will lend vocal sets or orchestral parts. Is there some similar listing for Australia? The fourth edition of *Music in British libraries*, compiled and edited by Barbara Penney, was published in 1992 by Library Association Publishing. It costs \$37.50 and is distributed in Australia by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 85365 739 4)

### Strictly business

5490 in-print Australian books in the fields of business, commerce and law are arrayed by subject in a useful guide which John Simkin has recently edited. Entitled, predictably but accurately, *Subject guide to Australian business, commerce and law books*, this is not simply an unadorned slice of the *Australian books in print* database. Entries have been checked against the *Australian national bibliography* and the Australian Bibliographic Network, and this has resulted in some cases in corrected information, or fuller details, such as subtitles. The subject scope is deliberately wide, with fields such as crime, corrections, economics, management of sport and tourism covered. This will be a useful selection tool for specialist collections, which will benefit from the enhanced subject approach. *Subject guide to Australian business, commerce and law books*, edited by John E Simkin, was published in 1992 by Thorpe. It costs \$65.00. (ISBN 0 909532 93 1) ■

(Items for review in *The Source* should be sent to:

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