



David J Jones

'For the first time in one hundred years we face the grand and difficult challenge of redesigning library services.'

As you may have noticed, I have been enthusiastic about the international edition of *World Book*, in which the contribution of the local editorial team, under the indefatigable Brian Kennedy, and the guidance of an Australian advisory committee, could be clearly discerned. This hard-working team, together with a group of Australian teachers and school librarians, is also responsible for a very useful research guide designed to complement *World Book*.

Finders keepers

Entitled *The World Book pathfinder: a guide to information resources*, this 366-page work is sturdily bound to stand up to the intensive use it will experience from students and others seeking guidance on around 600 topics 'commonly looked up for school project work,' and probably all-too-familiar to reference librarians.

It is by no means a key to its encyclopaedic sibling. Rather it unlocks a number of doors to further information. It guides the browser to the Dewey numbers related to the subject in question, and in simple terms explains the scope of the relevant numbers. It tells you which headings you might look under in the library catalogue—using the headings recommended by the Schools Catalogue Information Service and found in most school library catalogues.

It suggests further reading, elementary or advanced, selecting recent or standard works from the mass of 'generally available' material in school and other libraries in Australia and New Zealand. Audiovisual materials are also listed where appropriate.

There are some addresses for relevant organisations—often providers of project material. And of course there are 'see' and 'see also' references galore, in lieu of an index. A valuable introduction on 'developing information skills' is provided by Niki Kallenberger, giving sound and sensible advice on organising your research, using library resources, taking notes, getting organised, presenting and reviewing your work.

The *World Book pathfinder* is a remarkably useful publication, without doubt a launching pad for a generation of inquisitive students, and a starting-point for many other people entering unfamiliar subject areas. Further information on the *Pathfinder* and, for those who have not yet sampled the advances made in the international edition, on the encyclopaedia itself, is available from World Book, Level 1, 154 Pacific Highway, St Leonards, NSW 2065, phone (02) 439 3400 fax (02) 439 4289. (ISBN 0 909281 30 0)

Judaica in brief

A 600-page dictionary of Jewish history, civilisation and religion makes a use-

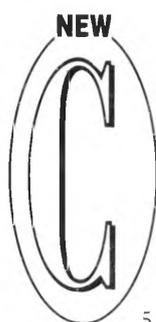
ful addition to the reference collection, particularly when it also contains information on a range of contemporary issues and individuals, and is international in scope. Dan Cohn-Sherbok's *The Blackwell dictionary of Judaica*, published in January 1993, does just that. It is a good quick source of information on Yiddish words, prominent Jews, religious terms and places with Jewish associations. It is distributed in Australia by Allen and Unwin and costs \$49.95 (paperback). (ISBN 0 631 16615 7; ISBN 0 631 18728 6 (pbk)).

Focus on disabilities

Two valuable publications on library services for people with disabilities were published by the National Library of Australia in 1992. Their appearance is opportune, with the coming into force of the *Disability Discrimination Act* and the trend towards mainstreaming the provision of services to people with disabilities. The first publication focuses on the training of library staff to serve people with disabilities, presenting an annotated bibliography of relevant English-language resources. Janet R Murray's *Equity and excellence* is intentionally highly selective, identifying 83 tried and tested books, kits, videos and tapes out of the welter of material in this area which has appeared since the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1980.

Don't forget!

ALIA's Annual General Meeting will be held at ALIA House on Friday, 16 July at 6.00 pm



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► Murray has helpfully narrowed her scope also to cover resources which are readily obtainable from suppliers or on interlibrary loan. She finally suggests some programs for specific areas of interest, for example using a video to set the background, working with a kit, and calling on relevant organisations for speakers.

Janet R Murray's *Equity and excellence: a select bibliography on resources for the training of library staff in serving people with disabilities*, was published by the NLA in 1992 and costs \$10.00. (ISBN 0 642 10585 5)

The second publication is entitled, appropriately, *Into the mainstream*, and tackles the ways in which public libraries can serve people with visual disabilities. In this handbook Jennifer Berryman begins with descriptions of the variety of visual impairments, and then deals with all the other parts of the equation: access to resources, equipment, the special needs of different age or ethnic groups, staff and the promotion of services. The amount of detail is impressive, but not overwhelming, and the whole is written clearly and concisely. A valuable part of the work is the directory section, listing relevant State and national committees, organisations providing rehabilitation to people with visual disabilities and some suppliers of resources.

Jennifer Berryman's *Into the mainstream* was published in 1992 by the NLA and costs \$12.50. (ISBN 0 642 10526 X)

Discovering AUSTROM

Originally conceived to give external students of Monash University Gippsland Campus some introductory training on AUSTROM and AUSTGUIDE at home, without eating into their scarce on-campus time, ALPAC is a straightforward disk-based tutorial, convincingly simulating a couple of searches on APAIS.

ALPAC (the AUSTROM Learning Package) takes you through the basic search techniques of a database using the KAwareF software, and with its on-screen explanations guides you to your destination, step-by-step (but not backwards—if you want to refer back, you need to finish or exit and start again). Admittedly the whole process doesn't take long anyway, and practice will make perfect. In that respect a few more examples might be welcome. The ap-

proach, of course, is to keep things simple, for the absolute beginner, and the more ambitious are directed to the AUSTROM literature.

Copies of the program, for IBM-compatibles, on 3.5" or 5.25" disks, are available from Gary Weston, RMB 1430 Old Jumbuk Road, Yinnar, Vic 3869. A single-user licence is \$30.00, multi-user licences on one site cost \$100.00, and network licences are by arrangement.

The Source, by the way, is pleased to examine Australian reference materials irrespective of format. In the case of computer-based products *The Source* can just about handle the 3.5" DOS format. Producers and readers should not expect a grand-prix test drive approach in any resulting notice—in the computing world *The Source* is very much a Sunday driver. [Contact the Editor of *inCite* if your computer-based product is in any other format than indicated above.]

A Melbourne classic

Rubbing shoulders (or is it chafing covers?) with the great British quarterlies and reviews on the sideboard of the well-informed Australian in the nineteenth century was the *Melbourne review: a quarterly publication devoted to philosophy, theology, science, art, politics and belles-lettres*. First published in 1876, but foundering in 1885, the *Melbourne review* was a major forum for ideas, with a range of subjects marching its subtitle. Henry Parkes on Federation; Catherine Helen Spence on George Eliot, land tenure, Balzac and parliamentary government; Robert Stout asking 'Is there a remedy for Victorian crises?'

Now there is an index to unlock some of the treasures of this splendid resource. Compiled by Carol Mills and June Dietrich, *Melbourne review index* was published by the Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University—Riverina in 1992, and costs \$25.00. (ISBN 0 949060 21 6; ISSN 1038-5878)

Back to laws

In times such as ours which, we are constantly reminded, are dynamic in the extreme, dispassionate assessments of where librarianship stands, and in which directions it is moving, are all the more welcome. Michael Buckland's *Redesigning library services*, subtitled challengingly 'A manifesto', is one such.

In this recent work Buckland traces the evolution of the paper library, the emergence of the automated library, and the promise of the electronic library, with service to users as the not-to-be-forgotten foundation. He invites us to step aside and examine critically where we are, where we are going, how we are getting there. Missions, roles and means of providing services may be ripe for re-evaluation, Buckland concludes: 'For the first time in one hundred years we face the grand and difficult challenge of redesigning library services.'

Short and stimulating, Buckland's *Redesigning library services* was published in 1992 by the American Library Association and costs US\$18.00. It is printed on permanent paper. My review copy was provided by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 0590 0)

In brief

Libraries and local government (No ISBN; \$12.00) is a collection of papers from the second biennial conference of the Western Australian Local Government Librarians' Association. The myriad challenges facing public librarians, not just in Western Australia, is reflected, together with some exposition of local solutions. Community information, mobile library services, serving the business community, regionalisation, multiculturalism, joint use libraries. Available from WALGLA c/o Kalamunda Public Library, Railway Road, Kalamunda, WA 6076.

So where's your research profile? (ISBN 0 646 13357 8; where's the price?) edited by Kate Beattie, is a useful response to the growing 'research or perish' syndrome. A number of experienced academics and librarians provide their helpful hints, to how to find time to undertake research, from how to find the money without buying a balaclava and a starting pistol, to how to get published—including a case study with the curious heading: 'Writing book reviews: a painless part of creating a research profile.' Hmm. Where's the Panadol? Available from the Union of Australian College Academics, PO Box 1325, City Road, South Melbourne, Vic 3205. ■

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

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