



David J Jones

## By popular request

It's always pleasant to see second editions of useful works which some stalwart author and some brave publisher have pioneered, and which have found receptive audiences. Several such works have recently emerged from the Thorpe stable, showing the eclecticism of this library/archives/book trade publisher.

The second edition of *Keeping archives*, edited by Judith Ellis, and published by Thorpe in 1993 in association with the Australian Society of Archivists is one such (ISBN 1 875589 15 5; \$40.00). First published in 1987, this well-used and respected manual of practice, and textbook for budding archivists, has now been extensively reorganised and updated.

New weapons in the archivist's arsenal, such as document imaging, come in for attention, as do the challenges of managing archives in non-traditional formats. There are new chapters on preservation, and legal responsibilities (self-preservation, perhaps). It's substantial (500 pages) and thorough, lucidly-written by its well-qualified contributors, tightly edited and well-indexed.

*Australian opinion polls 1941-1990: an index* also published in 1993 (ISBN 1 875589 13 9 (set); \$115.00), is a two-volume update of a 1978 Hale and Iremonger publication which covered the years 1941 to 1977. This is a remarkable access point to the thousands of questions which have been asked of segments of the Australian population over the last fifty years, on everything from apathy to zoos.

For those not familiar with the 1978 work, entries are arranged under broad subject headings, and fairly specific sub-headings (e.g. Alcohol—Army camps, wet canteens in), and references are given to

where the results of the poll were published or in some cases stored. Where to find the results is actually the tricky bit, and this is where *Australian opinion polls* comes into its own. A lengthy chapter outlines library holdings, newspaper clippings files, and data archives—where are the punched cards for the Morgan Gallup Poll for 1943, for example? This is a welcome addition to the reference library shelf.

*Australian literary awards and fellowships* is also now in its second edition (ISBN 0 909532 88 5; ISSN 1036-1669; \$30.00), greatly enlarged and updated, naturally, to cover 1992 winners of awards. Currently available awards are described in the first section, including contact names, addresses, phone and fax numbers, terms and conditions, deadlines and, of course, prize money. A second section records past winners of Australian and major international literary awards. It's essential for any literary reference shelf.

Attesting to the publisher's stamina, and that of the redoubtable John Simkin, is the second edition of *Subject guide to Australian children's books in print* (ISBN 0 909532 87 7; ISSN 1036-286X; \$30.00). Since the 1991 edition, the database on which this edition is based has swollen from 3 400 to 6 200 titles. Titles listed were all in print as of March 1993, and are 'Australian' to the extent of having an Australian publisher and being listed in *Australian books in print*. Details provided include the school grade of the target audience. Again I ask school and children's librarians: 'How did you manage without it?'

*Ozarts: a guide to arts organisations in Australia* passed its second edition milestone years ago, and is now into its sixth (ISBN 1 875589 05 8; ISSN

...is a remarkable story of hard work, perseverance and good organisation, providing support services for a motley collection of institutes scattered around a sparsely-populated state, with an equally motley crew of 'librarians.'

0157-9169; \$45.00). Also published by Thorpe in 1993, in association with the Australia Council, this is like its predecessors an essential guide to organisations of all kinds which operate in the fertile field of the arts in Australia. Over 1500 organisations are listed—400 more than in the previous edition—including bodies which conduct or sponsor academic research, Aboriginal arts groups, circuses, festivals, orchestras, galleries. Another valuable resource in this year's bumper crop from Thorpe.

## Not all beer and skittles

Since the Munn-Pitt Report was released in 1935, the libraries of schools of arts and institutes have had a generally poor press. Munn's colourful phrase—'cemeteries of old and forgotten books'—became one of the best-known statements in Australian library history, and something of a battle-cry for the movement for free libraries.

In South Australia, however, the situation was somewhat different: the institutes survived the Munn-Pitt Report, the Grenfell Price Report, the McColvin Report and the Mander-Jones Report. The last institute didn't bite the dust until 1989. Why was this so? Why was South Australia so different from, for example New South Wales and Victoria? Why were there no municipal libraries in South Australia until 1957? What was the nature of these longeval institutes and what manner of people ran them, and belonged to them?

Issues such as these come under expert scrutiny in Michael Talbot's *A chance to read: a history of the institutes movement in South Australia*, published in 1992 by the Libraries Board of South Australia. Talbot takes us through the long, sometimes tangled and thorny his-

► tory of the movement, setting the scene, tracing the origins and overseas models, and describing the many activities in which the institutes indulged in their hey-day. Lending libraries were, of course, an important part of the contribution of the South Australian institutes, but there were also entertainments and other educational and cultural activities: arts and crafts exhibitions, concerts, series of lectures, lantern slides and later films, roller-skating, quadrille parties and masked balls, rifle matches and the inevitable billiard-tables.

The golden years of the institutes, however, and their most lasting legacy, probably began with the formation of the Institutes Association of South Australia in 1899, and the appointment of a secretary who for over thirty years organised, promoted, rescued, cajoled, inspired and assisted the institutes in his fold: F E Meleng, Librarian of the Port Adelaide Institute.

As Talbot describes it, Meleng's is a remarkable story of hard work, perseverance and good organisation, providing support services for a motley collection of institutes scattered around a sparsely-populated state, with an equally motley crew of 'librarians.' We get a good picture of Meleng and other key figures in the movement, and of their effective lobbying and broad base of local support. We also get a clear picture of the early parting of philosophical ways with the Association's neighbours on North Terrace, the 'professional' librarians of the Public Library, and of the strong personalities which ensured that there would be nothing symbiotic about their relationship for many years.

Most importantly, I think, we get some idea of the extent to which the essentially private subscription libraries were used in their localities. In some ways this redresses the received image of unredeemed decay, and reinforces some of the comments of New South Wales institutes users in Martyn Lyons and Lucy Taksa's *Australian readers remember*.

Michael Talbot's *A chance to read* is an important addition to the cultural history of Australia, a well-written, fact- and face-filled 270 pages, stylishly printed, and impec-

cably indexed by Ray Olding. Copies are available for \$35.00, plus \$6.00 interstate postage, from the State Library of South Australia, GPO Box 419, Adelaide, SA 5001. (ISBN 0 7243 0160 7)

### The shape of things to come

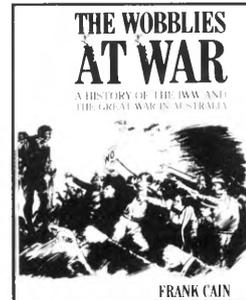
Planning library buildings poses some exquisite challenges for architect and client alike, so dynamic is the environment in which we operate. Sharing the knowledge and experiences of others who have been through the mill can be comforting as well as instructive. So it is pleasing that papers from a 1991 Library Administration and Management Association pre-conference have now been gathered and published as *Libraries for the future: planing buildings that work*. How do you select an architect for a public library? Who else belongs in the design team? What can a library building consultant do for you? How do you project your space requirements? How do you develop a brief (which the Americans call a program)?

There is not as much in this collection on the impact of new and emerging information technologies as the title might suggest. Nonetheless there are enough wise saws and modern instances in this work to make it a valuable adjunct to the major texts on library building design.

*Libraries for the future*, edited by Ron G Martin, was published by the American Library Association in 1992 and costs US\$25.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. This book, incidentally, like most if not all ALA publications, may outlast your building—it meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Science—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984. (ISBN 0 8389 0597 8) ■

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

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### THE WOBBLES AT WAR A History of the IWW and the Great War in Australia by Frank Cain

The 'Industrial Workers of the World' was established in the United States in 1905. Dr Cain's carefully researched work shows how the IWW rose and fell in Australia from 1907 until its elimination in 1917.

Dr Frank Cain is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of NSW in Canberra.

Launch date 25 June

Spectrum Publications P/L  
PO Box 75 Richmond Victoria  
Ph:(03)429 1404; Fax:(03)428 9407  
RRP \$19.95, ISBN 0 86786 339 0

### Australian Library and Information Association

### Study Grant Award for 1994

The Australian Library and Information Association is making funds available each year to support practising librarians wishing to undertake a study project. The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received. The Association's intention in offering study grants is to provide an opportunity for librarians to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

Application forms and details of the terms and conditions of the Award are available from ALIA National Office and applications for an award should reach the Division Support Officer, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600, telephone (06) 285 1877 by 1 Sept. 1993.