



David J Jones

All corners of the globe

Where do you buy Celtic materials? Which dealers specialise in military history? How do you get hold of books in Urdu? Where do people buy their horror books? So that you don't take pot luck, there is a new edition of the very useful *Directory of library suppliers used by Australian libraries*, published earlier this year by Auslib Press.

This third edition provides details of 300 Australian and 218 overseas suppliers which are known to be used by Australian libraries. There are generalists, school library specialists, AV and CD-ROM suppliers, serials agencies, second hand and antiquarian suppliers, and the services provided by each are outlined, together with any specialties of the house.

Entries are arranged alphabetically, and there is a subject index. A geographic index might help some users. Terms of trade are not listed, because these will vary from transaction to transaction, nor are users' comments, which would be just as volatile, and occasionally probably actionable. Still, it is a comfort, before you send off your letter to the wide blue yonder, to know that all the firms listed have been used by at least one of the Australian libraries questioned.

The third edition of *Directory of library suppliers used by Australian libraries*, edited by Judith Bundy, was published by Auslib Press in 1993 and costs \$38.00, plus \$4.00 postage. (ISBN 1 875145 21 4)

Right on, sport

Leisure and sport, enforced or otherwise, are growth industries worldwide, and so is the relevant literature, including of course some excellent local products. Nancy L Herron's *The leisure literature*,

however, provides a guide to sources in leisure studies, fitness, sports and travel from a North American perspective. It deals with some 283 reference sources, all English-language, including microform, video, software and online services, with excellent introductions to the nature of the various strands of the literature. Appendixes list relevant degree programs, 'important' publishers and associations in the United States and Canada. Nancy L Herron's *The leisure literature* was published in 1992 by Libraries Unlimited. It costs US\$28.50. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services.

The languages of Australia

Bridging the gap between simple accounts of Australian aboriginal languages and the more inaccessible works of specialists is the challenge which Michael Walsh and Colin Yallop take up in *Language and culture in Aboriginal Australia*. This is a tightly-knit collection of essays on a myriad aspects of the subject, written for the interested lay-person, but also with messages for the doctor of philology. What are the languages like? To what family of world languages do they belong? Are the Aboriginal languages all related to each other? What impact has white settlement had on the languages?

There is a fascinating essay on the making of dictionaries of aboriginal languages, which will confirm the warnings which you received when you were at library school that books of aboriginal place-names and the like are not all that they seem, popular though they may have been for householders seeking euphonious names for their homes. New to many will be the concept of a unique Australian Creole, known as Kriol, spoken by

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over 20 000 people, for over half of whom it is their mother tongue. Bilingual education programs, which have been operating in a number of communities in Central Australia, are outlined in another essay.

The fifteen essays provide an accessible and stimulating introduction to a vast subject. Michael Walsh and Colin Yallop's *Language and culture in Aboriginal Australia* was published in 1993 by the Aboriginal Studies Press and costs \$24.95. (ISBN 0 85575 241 6)

Easy to read, hard to forget

Sweden has led the world in easy to read writing and publishing for more than two decades, with the name Benkt-Erik Hedin prominent in promoting and in creating 'high interest-low vocabulary' books. Hedin shares some of his experiences and his creations with us in a little work which has been translated and recently published by the National Library of Australia: *The simple and the difficult*. As he expresses it: 'Even the person who has difficulty reading or speaking can enjoy light and air, can dream of freedom and happiness and can be captivated by a picture, a song or a poem that gives shape to that light and longing.' This is an inspiring introduction to the theory and practice of easy to read materials for librarians and others.

A companion volume is a collection of twenty-one of Hedin's own poems, *Poems together*, an eloquent expression, in beautifully simple words, of Hedin's message. *Poems together* is available as a book or as a kit which also includes a cassette recording of the poems read by a professional narrator.

The simple and the difficult (ISBN 0 642 10569 3) and *Poems together* (ISBN 0 642 10591 X) by Benkt-Erik Hedin were both published by the National Library of Australia in 1993. ▶

- Each costs \$12.50. The book and tape kit of *Poems together* costs \$16.50.

Casting a wide net

What is the Telelibrary? What can ISDN do that the POTN (plain old telephone network) can't? Where is ILANET going? What will be the impact of AARNet? The healthy growth of networks in Australia, and their implications for library and information workers, makes the publication of a concise overview of the games and the players most welcome.

In a span of 178 pages, the eighteen contributors to *Networking and libraries in Australia* deal in a very readable fashion with every imaginable network of current relevance to practitioners. How the network evolved. How it operates. Where it is going. How it interfaces with other networks. Plus some further reading. There is a simple outline of CD-ROM networking. The future of regional networks is addressed. And sprinkled through the text are some real-life case studies: the use of AARNet in a public library, for example, and the development of AAP-News Review.

It is a very helpful publication, from the valuable overview of networks by Kerry Webb, through to the very full index and list of acronyms with which the field of networks inevitably abounds. *Networking and libraries in Australia*, edited by Christine Goodacre, is the first in the Technology in the Library series from ALIA Thorpe. It's an excellent start to what promises to be a tremendous series. At \$30.00. (ISBN 1 875589 25 2)

In brief...

No time for despair, by G E Gorman and B A Cornish, is a study of

the library and information work force in Hong Kong over the years leading up to 1997. It concludes, inter alia, that demand for professional and clerical staff will remain strong, and that consequent demand for professional training will continue at a high level, but also points to significant 'wastage.' Published as CIS Research Reports N° 2 by the Centre for Information Studies at Charles Sturt University - Riverina, Locked Bag 660, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678. (ISSN 1038-5355; ISBN 0 949060 24 0)

Parents and computers is a quarterly magazine which aims to keep parents up to speed with what their offspring are up to in the computer lab at school. Each issue of around 12 pages, published to coincide with school terms, gives useful background on some of the simpler things which do not find their way into the inch-thick computer magazines. How do you select software? Which printer type is best for your needs? Which is the best typing tutor for children? What do you look for in a second hand computer? How much does it cost? \$20.00 per year from Perth Technical Writers, PO Box 797, Subiaco, WA 6008. (ISSN 1039-477X)

Sci-Tech libraries of the future is a collection of essays in which specialists make a number of very inspired guesses about the shape of things to come. Management, the role of libraries and information services, buildings (are they white elephants?), the impact of interdisciplinary developments. Thought-provoking stuff. Edited by Cynthia Steinke, and published by Haworth Press in 1992. Also published as *Science and technology libraries*, vol. 12 N° 4 and vol. 13 N° 1.

US\$29.95 hardback (ISBN 1 56024 447 X)

Collingwood: An annotated bibliography deals primarily with the place, and not the football team, and provides 635 very full entries on everything from a bridge across Merri Creek to a profile on that marvellous institution, the Victorian State Historian. Items listed are all held within the Carringbush Regional Library. It is nicely-produced, and well-indexed, and is a companion volume to *Richmond: An annotated bibliography*, which appeared in 1990 and which will soon reappear in a new edition. Compiled by David Tuck, published by Carringbush Regional Library, 415 Church Street, Richmond, VIC 3121, it costs \$24.95 plus \$5.00 postage. (ISBN 0 9588 133 1 0)


Guide to Asianists in Australia was published by the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) in 1992, and contains the names and contact numbers of literally hundreds of specialists in various aspects of Asia who are 'willing to share their expertise with colleagues, students and persons working in the media.' What are their research interests? What have they published? What are their academic qualifications? What languages do they have? Further information is available from the ASAA, Division of Asian and International Studies, Griffith, QLD 4111, fax (07) 875 7956.

The long and short of it

If readers will forgive a personal intrusion, the harmless drudge who prepares the *Source* is in another incarnation the only begetter of the *Australian dictionary of acronyms and abbreviations*, published a while ago by ALIA. He is beginning to psych himself up for another Sisyphean assault on the endless stream of new or elusive Australian acronyms and initialisms, and welcomes comments and suggestions (including individual terms—and their meanings!) from users of the current, third edition. ■

Items for review in The Source should be sent to:

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