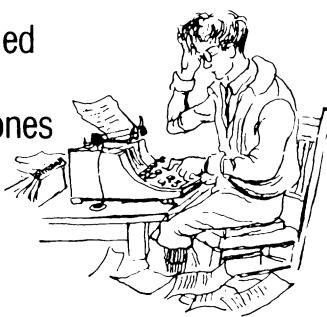


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Uncle Sam in the Old Dart

Arguably the richest collections for the study of the United States outside the former colony itself are held in British libraries. Relevant manuscript holdings in British and Irish libraries have already been largely recorded by John W. Raimo in his *A guide to manuscripts relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland* (London: Mansell, 1980).

The vast printed, microform and audio-visual resources were surveyed in the space of a year by Peter Snow, by questionnaire and by visits to over 130 libraries. In *The United States: a guide to library holdings in the United Kingdom*, Snow covers more than 350 libraries, limiting his survey to 'accessible' libraries and generally deliberately omitting private libraries and commercial services. Manuscripts are 'only mentioned in general terms and usually only in those cases where manuscript and printed holdings are closely related'.

Snow also provides a detailed account of conditions of access, facilities and services in the libraries reported on. The very full index covers many specific items mentioned in the text, as well as subjects. But as in many compilations deriving largely from widely broadcast questionnaires, the riches of some of the larger libraries remain often unexposed. It is interesting to note, for example, that 130 plates of American birds by Audubon are in the V&A, but nowhere in the index does it mention locations of copies of the work for which Audubon is best known.

To be fair, however, Snow does comment on his sparing coverage of vast collections such as that of the British Library. As an ex-

tremely useful adjunct to the survey, Snow includes locations for over 1700 microform collections or multi-volume works, which will save Americanists a considerable amount of time and effort. This section is exhaustively indexed.

Peter Snow's *The United States: a guide to library holdings in the United Kingdom* was published last year by the British Library Lending Division in association with SCONUL (Standing Conference of National and University Libraries). It costs £14.00. (ISBN 085350 183 1).

Sequel Husbanded

'The "long read" is back' proclaims Janet Husband in *Sequels: an annotated guide to novels in series*, which was published last year by the American Library Association. Television has repopularised Galsworthy, Trollope, Winston Graham and others and has broadened the range of library users who want to follow through the extended story of particular families, or characters, or settings.

To help provide guidance for newcomers to this category, as well as to assist long-standing sequel followers, Husband has produced an excellent select listing. She has sought to 'balance considerations of artistic quality with those of popularity', and obscure, esoteric or ephemeral novels will not be found here.

Items listed are all in English, although many are translations, and there is an encouragingly large number of non-American authors represented, testifying to the eclecticism of American readers. Entries are arranged by author, with a full title index. As a guide to 'the best' in sequels, it's pretty good.

Reference librarians needing more comprehensive coverage of sequels in non-fiction and children's books, as well as in general fiction, irrespective of perceived literary quality or popularity, will still have to use F.M. Gardner's *Sequels*.

Priced at US\$22.50, Janet Husband's *Sequel*s was published last year by the ALA. (ISBN 0 8389 0368 1.)

Not just for specials

The Aslib *Handbook of special librarianship and information work*, first published in 1955 and now in its fifth edition, has enjoyed a well-deserved reputation for sensible and detailed discussion of all aspects of a varied professional field. The changing times are re-

flected in the latest edition by new chapters on computer-based housekeeping and online information retrieval systems. Audiovisual materials now merit a chapter to themselves.

The flourishing interdependence of special libraries is reflected in a separate chapter devoted to networks. Management, collection building, database or file creation all receive adequate attention also. For those who are familiar with earlier editions, this will provide much of the same, but with new contributors bringing fresh and often stimulating viewpoints to their allotted subjects. The fifth edition of *Handbook of special librarianship and information work*, edited by L. J. Anthony, deserves a wide readership, not just in special libraries.

It was published last year by Aslib and costs £23.00 in hardback (ISBN 0 85142 160 1) or £14.50 in paper (ISBN 0 85142 161 X). Concessional prices are available to Aslib members.

ABIX guide

The *Australian business index* now comprises, in toto, over 120,000 citations and is growing at a rate of 6000 citations per month. It provides unparalleled in-depth coverage of around 18 major Australian dailies, weeklies and business journals, with the emphasis, of course, on business news. Its coverage of business information is particularly good, with very full indexing of company names.

The index is mounted as a database on AUSINET, and a very helpful user guide to this database, known as ABIX, was published last year. *ABIX: an AUSINET user's guide* introduces the database, gives detailed guidance on searching and explains how particular topics and names are indexed. Appendixes list some major 'topic headings' used in ABIX, together with the names of major companies in each industry, and other headings with an indication of the extent of indexing in that subject. Another useful feature is a table showing APAIS descriptors and the equivalent ABIX headings.

Copies of *ABIX: an AUSINET user's guide* can be obtained from the Australian Business Index, 1 Leslie Street, Hawthorn, Vic 3122, phone (03) 819 4672. (No ISBN.) Annual subscriptions to the printed *Australian business index* – 11 monthly issues and an annual cumulation – cost \$175.

Information Management

WATER RESOURCES on AUSINET

Of all continents, only Antarctica is drier than Australia. Plunge in to **WATR** – AUSINET's newest database. **WATR** contains published and unpublished material relating to all aspects of water and wastewater.

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