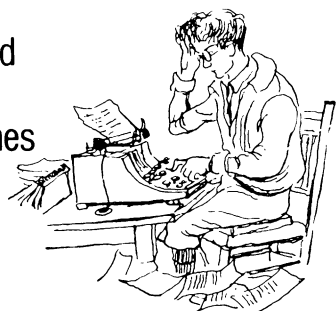


THE SOURCE

Edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Directory assistance

Most libraries and other information agencies have at some time or another compiled some form of community information file, whether in card, looseleaf or published form. It might simply be a list of a few organisations to which enquirers are frequently referred, or more elaborate booklets distributed to the local populace. Preparing a community directory for publication is a time-consuming task. Sharing the experience of others who have produced such directories is an excellent starting point, and the thorough reading of *Community directories: how to create one!* is also worth the effort.

Produced for CISS (Community Information Sharing Service) and the Local Community Services Association by a small working party with a wealth of experience in this area, this 62-page booklet takes you through the early stages of planning and preparation, typing, layout and proof-reading, publication and promotion. There is a vast amount of practical advice, permeated with the philosophy of meeting community needs, and consulting the community about its real needs too. Subject headings for a directory are suggested, based on the LOCOM Community Information System; there are ample, well-illustrated examples of directory entries and data sheets.

There are a few lapses and blemishes, which will no doubt be polished in later editions — the NSW Parliamentary Library, for example, is entitled to a 'legal deposit' copy of works first published in NSW, not the Parliamentary Library of Australia, much as they might sometimes like to be. And ISBNs (and really should) be assigned *before*

publication, so that the ISBN can be printed in the directory. ISSNs should also be mentioned, as some community directories could be published on a serial basis.

But these are details which do not detract severely from the main thrust of this booklet: how to produce a directory which is needed, which is properly conceived and carried out, distributed and updated. This booklet should be compulsory reading for any would-be directory-compiler (or in reality group of directory-compilers).

Community directories: how to create one! was edited by Lynn Beauregard and was published jointly by CISS and LCSA last year. It costs \$2.50 plus \$1 postage from the Local Communities Services Association, 34 Liverpool Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. (ISBN 0 949885 04 5.)

Aberfoyle Park to Yuleba

In the footnotes to his useful article 'Australian library directories: a second look', which appeared in the November 1982 issue of the *Australian library journal*, Alan Bundy refers to more than a score of Australian library directories. Many covering libraries in particular subject areas, or geographical areas, or kinds of libraries. Among them was a promised directory of Australian public libraries, which many of us looked forward to with some enthusiasm. The last directory purporting to cover that area was the LAA's *Directory of public and lending libraries in Australia*, published as long ago as 1961.

Now Bundy has come good, with the first edition of *Directory of Australian public libraries (DAPL)* for those who favor acronyms). This 168-page, spiral bound work is intended to include 'all known and planned local authority lending libraries, state reference libraries, the National Library and public library agencies'. No attempt has been made to include the small number of surviving subscription libraries. Data collated from responses to questionnaires and skeletal information from other listings (included when the questionnaire evoked no response) are presented in one alphabetical sequence. Entries are either under the name of the library service or under the municipality. Some cross references are provided to help you along. There is no comprehensive index to local authorities, suburbs and branches,

but this will be considered when the next edition is being planned — I would put in a strong recommendation for this.

Information given for each library includes full address, telephone numbers, senior personnel, hours of opening, branches, area and population served, percentage of registered borrowers, loan and bookstock statistics, subject strengths, publications and other services.

There is a subject index, of sorts, which lists 'subject strengths and specialisations nominated by libraries'. It therefore reflects the sometimes narrow perspective which librarians may have of their own collections, but is generally helpful. Bundy sensibly comments that large collections such as those of the state libraries should be consulted for all subjects. How true. Relying on this index alone, one would otherwise perhaps pass by the Mitchell in one's search for Australiana, on the way to Mosman. In other words, shake well and partake of this section of Bundy's work with the recommended caution.

It is disappointing to note the large number of entries for libraries which are incomplete because there has been 'no reply to correspondence'. Let us hope that those so identified will be more forthcoming for the second edition, which is projected for 1986.

The test is reasonably free from slips in proof-reading and other areas under editorial control. Some users may have difficulty in finding 'Arctic Islands' after 'Art', but a resourceful reference person will have been alerted to that possibility by the heading 'Antartica' [sic]. And Faye Lawrence might like to consider converting to the longer, more euphonious spelling for her library. But enough of this ingratitude, lest I be accused of carping or ill-informed criticism. This does represent a very worthwhile achievement, and librarians should be thankful to Bundy for doing what the Association has been unable to do in 21 years. Buy this edition. Write to him with additions, amendments and suggestions. Ensure that the 1986 edition, whoever finally publishes it, is even bigger and better.

Directory of Australian public libraries, edited by Alan Bundy, was published in 1982 by Footscray Institute of Technology. It costs \$20 and is available from the James Bennett Group. (ISSN 0729-4271).



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