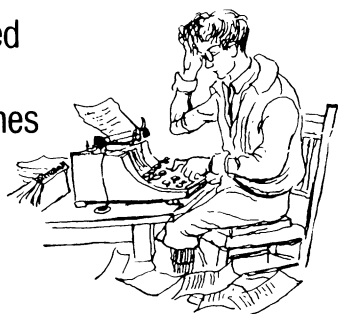


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Dry reading

The drought is still, alas, a very topical subject across large tracts of this continent. The Mildura Regional Library Service devoted a significant part of the August-September 1982 issue (volume 2 number 4) of *Murray River monitor* to this inevitable topic. This publication focuses upon references to the mighty Murray and its tributaries, as well as to related topics such as irrigation and salinity, in a wide range of local and some overseas newspapers and periodicals. Original abstracts are provided. Some items of particular significance are reprinted in full, and there are book reviews to round off the issue. This is a most enterprising effort and it is pleasing to see it flourish.

A year's subscription to *Murray River monitor* will cost you \$8.50, including postage. Write to the Subscriptions Officer, Mildura Regional Library Service, PO Box 105, Mildura, Vic 3500. (ISSN 0728-7529.)

150,000 reviews

Those who have used *Children's book review index* since it was first published in 1975 will have their views on its coverage and general usefulness. If you have found it helpful, you will probably find *Children's book review index: master cumulation 1969-1981* even more so. It covers an additional 6 years, as well as cumulating all the entries from the seven annual volumes.

The publications indexed include specialised children's book review periodicals (e.g. *Horn book magazine*) as well as general periodicals (e.g. *Times literary supplement* and *Saturday review*) from which review of

children's books are cited. Since reviews cited in *CBRIMC* are also cited in *Book review index*, libraries possessing the latter should perform a cost-benefit analysis before ordering the former, attractively packaged though it is.

The new cumulation is in four volumes, the fourth of which is a title index. *Children's book review index: master cumulation 1969-1981* was published last year by Gale Research and costs US\$200.00 the set. (ISSN 0147-5681; ISBN 0 8103 2045 2 the set.)

Caught short?

That acronyms and abbreviations constitute one of my hobby-horses may not have escaped the notice of Source readers. Some may regard this particular horse as a *bête noire*. All can draw comfort from the growing band of compilers, in Australia and elsewhere, dedicated to exposing the full meanings of even the most recalcitrant short forms.

One such, in a modest way, is Ralph MacLean, Education Research Assistant of the Australian Union of Students. In issue no 6 of *Ed Notes*, 2 June 1982, Ralph's *G.E.T. I.T.* saw the first light of day. This is a select 'glossary of education terms, initials and titles' which aims to include most acronyms encountered in Australian education, particularly by students. The introduction outlines the deliberate limitations placed on its coverage – it does not attempt to be a historical glossary, for example, so searchers for CUC, CACAE, earlier ACAE and similar bitter or sweet memories will have to search elsewhere. But for general, current terms this little list is excellent.

Some time this year Ralph hopes to produce a second, more comprehensive edition. In the meantime you can get *G.E.T. I.T.* for \$1.00 from the Education Research Unit, AUS, 207 Lygon Street, Carlton, Vic 3053. (ISSN 0726-2639 for *Ed Notes*.)

Establishment epitomised

The *Dictionary of national biography*, which immortalises the achievements of a select group of deceased British (one reviewer called it the 'Temple of British Worthies') needs no introduction. It is the epitome of the Establishment – much more so in fact than our *ADB*, which has a deliberate policy of including a sprinkling of individuals from all

walks of life to impart the flavour of the times to the printed page – and its epitomes reveal the bare bones, often pungently, always informatively, of the past Great. Last year Oxford University Press published *The Concise dictionary of national biography: part 2: 1901-1970*, which will indeed serve, as the dust-jacket says, as a 'useful Who was Who in Great Britain from the death of Queen Victoria to the death of Churchill'. Our late lamented Queen encompasses five pages even here, but most entries are a really concise 10-20 lines.

On a parochial note, several currency lads can be found in this volume, drawn from those who had achieved some celebrity in the Old Dart (Lindrum, Curtin, Chifley, Childe, Kingsford-Smith *inter alia*). *The Concise DNB* for 1901-1970 will replace its 1901-1950 predecessor on your shelves and is of course an essential acquisition for any self-respecting reference library. It costs \$53.00 locally. (ISBN 0 19 865303 4.)

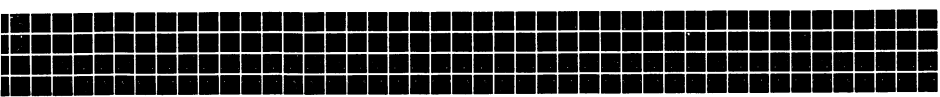
REEF in brief

As part of an ambitious project to capture the literature relating to the Great Barrier Reef online, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is issuing *REEF current awareness bulletin*. The latest issue which I have seen (October 1982) contains references to 31 articles, ranging from scholarly articles on marine research to popular articles on local holiday resorts.

Coverage of source materials is wide – including the *Soviet journal of marine biology* and other overseas material. The GBRMPA is producing the bulletin from the REEF database which it has developed in conjunction with the CSIRO. The database is mounted on the CSIRO's information network CSIRONET. The database will in due course become available for online searching.

Readers can gain a useful insight into the rationale behind the development of the database from H.E. Penridge's *Great Barrier Reef Bibliographic Database: final report to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority*, which was published by the Library of James Cook University of North Queensland in February 1982.

Anyone interested in this report or in the *REEF current awareness bulletin* should contact Jean Dartnall, Librarian, GBRMPA, PO Box 1379, Townsville, Qld 4810.



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