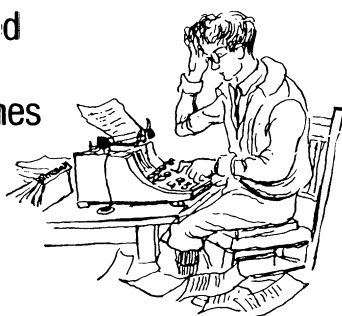# THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones

Help wanted

In the third volume of the *Australian lib-rarian's manual*, which is due for publica-tion next year, I intend to include, *inter alia*, information about named special collections (but not generally about collections of papers of individuals or bodies) and, in the case of libraries named after individuals, some infor-mation about their origins. Experience has shown me that whilst it is often relatively easy to find out where so-and-so's papers are, it is more time-consuming to trace where, for ex-ample, the Bayldon Collection or the Charles Rasp Memorial Library might be.

Sample entries for (a) a collection and (b) a library might read something like this:

(a) ALSTON COLLECTION
A collection of linguistics assembled by Dr Rubin C. Alston and now in the National Library of Australia. It consists of 1450 titles published before 1850 and 700 modern works which form a refer-ence library to the collection.
Reference: Burmester 2:7

(b) GORDON CRAIG LIBRARY
The Library of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Melbourne is named after Robert Gordon Craig (1870–1931), noted urologist and founder member of the College. His bequest was used to augment the College library, which also holds the Cowlishaw Collec-tion (q.v.).
Reference: Australian and New Zealand journal of surgery vol 47 no 2, April 1977, pages 256-257.

It would be extremely useful if staff work-ing in libraries with such names or named col-lections could arrange for one of their number to write to me giving enough information for me to create an entry for the *Manual*.

Online and off

We have all heard of ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center), I guess, and have some idea of its worth for tracing re-search reports and journal articles on all as-pects of education.

But there are also many specialised educa-tion databases, covering bilingual education, educational testing, instructional resources, Australian and British sources. Many of these are available through the National Library of Australia's Computer Search Service. To pro-vide some insight into the range of services available, the NLA has issued *Education in-formation online*.

Copies of this brochure, which is similar in format to *Disability information online*, can be obtained from the Chief Librarian, Com-puter Search Services, NLA, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Happy hunting ground

For around $3,500 you will soon be able to turn yourself into a miniature repository of NSW archives, with particular strength in genealogical records.

The Archives Office of New South Wales, in a very enterprising move, is publishing a wide range of early registers of birth, marriage and death, shipping lists, convict lists, early elec-toral rolls and other mines of information, in microform. The Archives Authority sees this programme as a way of spreading archival re-sources more widely through the community and reducing dependence on Archives Office facilities in Sydney. With 1988 a few short years away, and the interest in genealogy and Australian history generally which that year-long celebration will stimulate, this is a shrewd move.

Already the Archives Office reports that use of its facilities has increased in the past six years by about 300%. The *Genealogical research kit*, as the microform publishing pro-gramme is known, may help spread some of this exponential growth intrastate and per-haps interstate also.

Stage 1 consists of some 170 reels of 35mm microfilm, 260 microfiche and a printed vol-ume. 'Archives are seldom easy to use', writes Principal Archivist John Cross with charac-teristic candour, 'and for this reason organis-ations purchasing the kit will receive a special published guide to the use of records con-tained in it, and, as part of the package, will be able to send some of their staff to a training programme in the Archives Office'. The total costs of Stage 1, 1983/84 will be $3937.00, but subscribers to the whole kit will receive a 10% discount, bringing the price down to $3543.00. Considering the vast amount of primary source material which this represents, dating from the early colonial years of NSW, when that State comprised roughly the eastern half of the continent, this kit is outstanding value.

Further information is available from John Cross, Principal Archivist, Archives Office of New South Wales, 2 Globe Street, The Rocks, Sydney, NSW 2000.