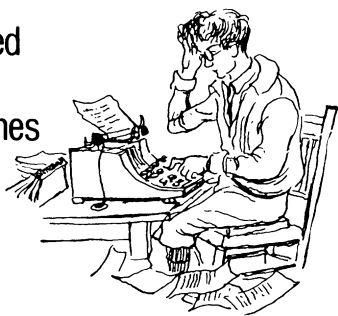


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Check this out

Now in its fourth edition, *Reference sources for small and medium-sized libraries* is worth another squiz. Most un-camel-like but compiled, I am assured, by an ad-hoc committee of the American Library Association, this work, like its predecessors, is a detailed annotated yet select guide to the most useful ref. books. Its antecedents appeared in 1968, 1973 and 1979 under the title *Reference books for small and medium-sized libraries*.

It is geared not just to American public libraries, but also to college and large secondary school libraries. For the first time with this edition deliberate efforts have been made to cover (and to tag) reference materials for children and young adults. 1788 items are listed and described under 22 headings and an array of subheadings. The emphasis is clearly upon works published or distributed in the United States, and foreign-language materials have been generally excluded.

Australian librarians will find this work useful in a number of ways: as a checklist when evaluating their reference collections, as a selection tool and as a guide to basic reference sources. In all these applications the present work will rub shoulders in the American and British markets at least with a goodly number of other guides. It roundly deserves a place on all our shelves, and is excellent value at US\$20.00.

Reference sources for small and medium-sized libraries, fourth edition, was published by the American Library Association last year. My review copy was supplied by the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 0 8389 3293 2).

Impeccable references

Any publication which can bring together Walford on encyclopaedias, Whatmore on newspapers as sources of information, Harold Nichols on maps, Ollé on government publications and K.G.B. Bakewell on indexing, plus other contributors of similar stature, is obviously getting off to a good start.

Nineteen distinguished librarians congregated in the pages of the second edition of *Printed reference material*, edited by Gavin L. Higgins and published by the Library Association last year. This work is in the 'Handbooks on library practice' series, and in its twenty-two chapters introduces various facets of reference work under broad categories, such as reports and theses, dictionaries, statistics, local studies, bibliographies variously classified and so on. The approach adopted is generally introductory — although there is inevitable and acceptable variation between contributors — with descriptions of forms of material and some historical background, notes on how to evaluate reference works in various categories, and detailed descriptions of a number of key works.

For exhaustive treatment, the reader is referred to other standard guides to reference works, but *Printed reference material* does include a goodly number of references and descriptions of more specialised or peripheral works, illustrating the range of materials available. So whilst this is a good format for the student or beginning librarian, it is also an excellent guide for those seeking a refresher. And it is eminently readable. Those who have used the first edition, which was published in 1980, will know something of its worth, which has certainly been augmented by new chapters on printed visual sources (where to start looking for a picture of Buckingham Palace before the 1913 alterations, and other curly ones), indexes and videotex (to supplement Bernard Houghton's very useful chapter on online information retrieval services). The two chapters contributed by the editor himself, on what reference work and reference materials are all about, are sensible, informative, full and well-written.

As you may have deduced, I can warmly recommend *Printed reference material*, second edition, edited by Gavin L. Higgins, and published in 1984 by the Library Association. At £12.50 for the paper edition, it's excellent value for money. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. (ISBN 0 85365 776 9 (paper); ISBN 0 85365 995 8 (cased)).

In a nutshell

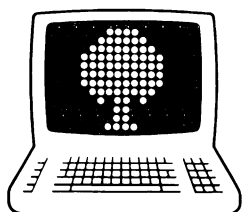
Policies of audiovisual producers and distributors: a handbook for acquisition personnel (ISBN 0 8108 1704 7) by J. Michael Pemberton. Will Icarus Films let you preview their products before you take the plunge? Will the Daughters of St Paul 'rush'? Such are the questions which this useful guide to American sources will answer. What are producers' policies on returns? Do they lease or rent? What is their attitude to copying? What are their terms? This is a helpful supplement to *Audiovisual marketplace*, especially for American producers who are not represented locally. Published in 1984 by Scarecrow Press. Review copy supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. US\$27.50.

The handbook of training and development courses 1984 (ISSN 0810-2996; ISBN 0 908273 00 2), intended to be annual, attempts to obtain 'the widest possible range and number of relevant courses from training organisations around Australia'. It focuses on short management courses, from accident prevention to supervision and quality control. There is some New Zealand coverage. Entries are compiled from paid insertions by organisations offering courses. It doesn't claim to be exhaustive. Prepublication price for the 1984 edition was \$65.00. Further information is available from Amalgamated Publications Pty Ltd, Suite 2, 600 Burke Road, Camberwell, Vic 3124 (PO Box 388, Camberwell, Vic 3124), or phone (03) 82 5868.

Referenda in Tasmania (no ISBN) by Terry Newman covers the three State referenda (liquor, casinos and power), and (briefly) Federation referenda and the various yesses and noes in federal referenda over the years. An interesting compilation from various sources. Published by the Parliamentary Library, Hobart 7000. Gratis to libraries.

Executive responsibility for the administration of Commonwealth statutes (ISBN 0 9591359 1 X) edited by Colin Fong. A great time-saver. After all, who does look after the Derby Jetty Agreement Act 1962 and the Boy Scouts' Association Act 1974? Published last year by the Australian Law Librarians' Group, PO Box 78, St Paul's 2031. \$5.00 (cash with order), \$7.00 (invoiced), \$8.00 (overseas), including surface mail.

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