

The Source

What a friend we have in the Tax Commissioner

I guess most people have heard about the Australian Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme (TIAS), which provides taxation rewards for people who donate eligible materials to art galleries, libraries, museums and archives. Perhaps your library has been a happy recipient of items under the scheme. I suspect that few people would realise that over \$40 million worth of donations have been made during the first ten years of the scheme, over half of it to art galleries, and around 18% each to museums and galleries.

These are some of the background figures which emerged from an extremely interesting forum on the scheme which was held in Canberra in July 1988. Most of the papers presented, some in summary, have now been published in *The Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme: who benefits?*, a fascinating series of insights into the scheme from the viewpoints of its Chairman, interested librarians, gallery administrators, library trustees, valuers and tax people.

Moira Newman's contribution is the one with the revealing statistics, showing how the TIAS pie has grown and carved itself up, State by State, by type of institution, and further subdivided by type of library.

There is naturally a certain unevenness in the contributions, although the focus of the forum was obviously pretty tight, and contributors contradict each other and correct each other with admirable frankness. Some of the historical allusions—Dixon, Mitchell, Turnbull—have a nice ring about them, although some of the details are astray: Mr Justice Wise's collection was presented, not to the Australian Subscription Library, but to the Government of New South Wales, and I always thought that Thomas Fisher bequeathed money, not books, to the University of Sydney. Alfred Lee too, is in a different category: his collection was bought lock, stock and barrel by David Scott Mitchell, and it was through Mitchell's bequest, not Lee's munificence, that the collection came into a public collection. But other parallels are well-drawn, and it is interesting to compare the incentives of the past—immortality in bibliothecal form, pure philanthropy or more mysterious and as yet unexplained motives—with the stimulus of tax minimisation in a worthy cause.

TIAS deserves a higher profile in libraries, as Newman's pie charts clearly reveal, and this forum and this interesting publication are two good steps in that direction. *The Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme: who benefits?*, edited by Alex Byrne, was published in 1988 by the ACT Group of the University and College Libraries Section of the LAA. Copies are available for \$14.00 from the Section, c/- Australian Defence Force Academy Library, Northcott Drive, Canberra, ACT 2600. (ISBN 0 7316 4587 1)

Family pack

Grit your teeth for another change of title. At least it is logical and rational. What used to be known as the FAMILY database is now *Australian family and society abstracts*, reflecting the range of broad societal issues covered, as well as the focus upon the family. Compiled by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), and available online on AUSTRALIS, this thorough abstracting service has now issued, with the 1988 volume, its fifth annual cumulation. The 1566 entries in this volume are fully indexed by name and subject, and there is a helpful acronym guide appended. Volume 5 of *Australian family and society abstracts* was edited by Deborah Whithear and is available from AIFS at \$60.00. (ISSN 1032-4003).

Family matters, the AIFS newsletter,

contains a range of news items and articles on family law, education, working parents, domestic violence and Institute activities. If you are interested in being on the mailing list, contact the AIFS Distribution Officer at 300 Queen Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000. (ISSN 1030-2646)

The fun of franchising

'Adult adventure war games where participants meet in bushlands [sic] armed with paint-firing rifles. The gamesmaster [again, sic] sets the scenarios and games can last from five minutes to five hours.' No, it's not the Army Reserve after the implementation of Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. It's just one of the wackier franchises described in *The directory of Australian franchise opportunities*, issued in 1988 by Verdant Publications. If landscape painting doesn't appeal, you could try the Pedi-Cab, a bicycle made for two, plus pedal-pusher, which is invading some of our flatter cities, or franchise a Bad Habits Therapy Centre, or fingerprint children in shopping centres. Contact addresses and background information on each franchise are provided in this publication, together with a 70-odd page introduction to the whole concept. Franchising has come a long way since 'Governor Macquarie granted some businessmen the franchise to import rum in exchange for

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W.H. IFOULD UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

David J. Jones has just begun a part-time PhD in the School of Librarianship at the University of New South Wales. As may be expected from his previous writings and interests, his topic is historical.

He will be researching 'W.H. Ifould and the development of library services in New South Wales, 1912-1942'. Ifould was Principal Librarian of the Public (now State) Library of New South Wales during these years, and was a widely respected member of the profession. He has not so far been the subject of any intensive study, and his part in developments during a critical period in Australian library history will be assessed in David's thesis.

Some of the changes in Australian librarianship which occurred during Ifould's career, apart from developments within his own library, were the creation (and demise) of a number of professional associations, the Munn-Pitt report, the activities of the Free Library Movement, the challenges of library service during two world wars, the Great Depression, and various moves in the field of education for librarianship.

David would like to hear from anyone who may have or know the whereabouts



W.H. Ifould c. 1912

of any documents relating to Ifould which, for one reason or another, he might not trace through normal library catalogues and archive listings. He can be contacted at 31 Ward St., Willoughby NSW 2068, or (02) 230 1414 (b) and (02) 958 5105 (h).

constructing a hospital,' not to mention the boom in fast food chains in the late 1960s. For further information contact Verdant Publications, 29 Bertram Street, Gardenvale, Vic 3185. (ISBN 0 7316 3388 1)

Anyone for Dennis?

An astounding amount of the creative writing of C.J. Dennis lies virtually unknown and unread since shortly after it was written, in the Melbourne *Herald*. True it has come under the intense bibliographical microscope of Ian McLaren, but some of the gems deserve fuller exposure, and it is to this end that Garrie Hutchinson has assembled *The C.J. Dennis collection*: from his 'forgotten' writings.

In this 170-page paperback we can sample the joys of Dennis's light verse, his witty epistles, his scenes from country life in verse and prose, some of Percy Leason's delightful illustrations, and the inimitable journalistic contributions of Ben Bowyang, from whom some modern cricket commentators could take a few tips. *The C.J. Dennis collection*, edited by Garrie Hutchinson, was published in 1988 by Lothian and costs \$19.95. (ISBN 0 85091 294 6)

Legal shortcuts

A few years ago on the reference desk someone asked me where the *ALJ* was kept, and I directed him up to the 020s. A few minutes later the bemused reader returned. 'They are all library books up there,' he punned, unintentionally. 'I wanted the *Australian LAW Journal*.'

That was long before I involved myself in acronyms and abbreviations, and long before, I suspect, Colin Fong became interested in the not quite so bottomless pit of Australian legal abbreviations. In 1988 the redoubtable Fong and Alan J. Edwards' excellent *Australian and New Zealand legal abbreviations* was published, a which lists and explains a wide range of acronyms and abbreviations, especially law report citations. Not only do the authors deal with Australasian titles, but they also list citations for overseas publications which regularly cover the local legal scene.

There are two main sections, the first of abbreviations of publications, and the second of general legal abbreviations. It contains some entries which didn't find their way into the *CCH Macquarie concise dictionary of modern law*, in which Fong also played an abbreviated part, and is an essential purchase for the self-respecting Australian reference shelf. *Australian and New Zealand legal abbreviations*, by Colin Fong and Alan J. Edwards was published in 1988 by the Australian Law Librarians' Group, PO Box 78, St Pauls, NSW 2031. It costs \$16.00 (\$14.00 per copy for orders of four or more). (ISBN 0 9591359 5 2)

A brace of Borchardts

I never cease to be amazed by the energetic efforts of Dietrich Borchardt, particularly in the field of bibliography. Australian reference librarians will always be indebted to him for his pioneering checklists of Royal Commissions, his *Australian bibliography*, his work in connection with *Australians: a historical library* and countless other major and minor bibliographical gems. One such is his *Checklist of collective biographies*, compiled with the assistance of Sandra Burr, which contains references to over 450 works which contain 'essays of various lengths on Australian individuals' or 'meaningful critical data on persons who have attracted the attention of their peers'. Entries are arranged by background or field of activity (e.g. religious groups, politicians, athletes, clubs, women), with a significant group of 'national biographical sketches'. The latter include general works, such as *Who's who in Australia*, and works dealing with specific regions, such as the *Cyclopaedia of Tasmania*. Entries are helpfully annotated, and the work is exceptionally well served by a biographic, author and subject indexes. *Checklist of collective biographies*, compiled by D. H. Borchardt with the assistance of Sandra Burr, was published in 1988 as Library Publication no 34 by La Trobe University Library, Bundoora, Vic 3083. It costs \$20.00. (ISBN 0 85816 676 3)

Reference Australia is another useful publication to which Borchardt has made a significant contribution. Subtitled 'an occasional collection of essays and notes on bibliographical, geographical and statistical sources', it was first published in November 1987 as a successor to some of the bulletins of the History Project which were associated with the preparation of *Australians: a historical library*.

In the first issue of *Reference Australia* there is a fascinating collection of tables of mortality rates for Australia, 1881-1980, followed by an article on the reliability of time series data on the medical workforce, a brief essay on literature surveys by Borchardt himself, and some statistical tables recording spending on recreation from the 1920s to the 1960s. The second issue contained an equally interesting melange, and a third issue is in preparation. *Reference Australia* is available for \$9.00 per issue from Australian Reference Publications, PO Box 9, North Balwyn, Vic 3104. (ISSN 1030-4584)

David J. Jones



EDITOR

Australian Academic and
Research Libraries

A successor is required for Mr John Horacek as editor of AARL.

Mr Horacek will retire from the editorship at the end of 1989. He has maintained the respected standing of the journal as a scholarly journal of Australian librarianship achieved by its founding editor, Dietrich Borchardt.

The editor of the Australasian College Libraries, Alan Bundy, has indicated that 1989 will be its last year of publication. From 1990 therefore, AARL will become the sole journal for academic libraries at a time when the national tertiary education system itself is being re-organised along unified lines.

AARL is the official journal of ALIA's University and College Libraries Section. UCLS has established a search committee to seek a new editor for AARL from 1990.

The search committee is looking for a vigorous person of vision and ability, with a real interest in the challenge of the task, and some editing or publishing experience. We believe that AARL should continue its scholarly character and emphasis and that it represent the interests of all libraries in the tertiary education sector, as well as research libraries and librarianship.

Further information about the position may be obtained from the convener of the search committee: **Mr Michael Middleton, WACAE Library, Churchlands Campus, Pearson Street, Churchlands WA 6018, (09) 383 8483. FAX (09) 387 7095.**

If you wish to offer yourself or nominate someone for this vital role in professional communication, please contact before 30 June, the convener or one of the other members of the search committee:

Mr A Bundy, SACAE Library, Holbrooks Road, Underdale SA 5032, (08) 354 6260.

Mr John Horacek, Borchardt Library, La Trobe University, Bundoora VIC 3083, (03) 479 2919.

Ms M Broadbent, RMIT Dept of Information Services, 124 Latrobe Street, Melbourne VIC 300, (03) 660 2562.

Mr Colin Steele, Menzies Library, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601, (062) 49 2003.

Exchange position sought

Mrs Eva Teubert, a librarian with the Institute für Deutsche Sprache, Postfach 101621, 68 Mannheim, Federal Republic of Germany, is seeking an exchange position for six months in an academic library in Australia. The exchange would need to have a good working knowledge of German.