

# The Source



David J Jones

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**W**ITH LITTLE fanfare, a third edition of Ralph and Amy Reid's *Into History* was published in February this year. This is a very full guide to 'historical, genealogical, family history and heritage societies, groups and organisations in Australia.' It has almost double the number of entries of the first edition in 1988, and now includes a number of freelance researchers with specialties as varied as industrial archaeology and heir tracing. There is a select list of libraries with local studies collections and a list of oral history projects. As well as societies and clubs covering specific localities and even families, there are astonishing numbers of specialist associations, covering subjects as diverse as agricultural machinery, early wireless, police insignia and historic telephones.

The very full entries are arranged by State, and there is a classified index. It's a very useful work, but one whinge: the thermal binding isn't up to much for such an important reference work.

*Into History* by Ralph and Amy Reid, third edition, was published by the compilers and is available from them at 1 Jan Street, North Ryde, NSW 2113 for \$32.00 post free. (ISBN 0 6460 7340 0)

### Help for poor authors

*Australian literary awards and fellowships*, published by D W Thorpe in 1991, is a very useful guide to the surprisingly numerous sources of assistance or reward for serious Australian scribblers. It provides information on eligibility, deadlines, prize money and contacts, and, to show you what you are up against, also lists winners of major Australian and overseas awards. *Australian literary awards and fellowships* was published by Thorpe in 1991 and costs \$19.95.

(ISBN 0 909532 84 2;

ISSN 1036-1669)

### A Haworth trio

The legalities of acquisitions, administration and automation and the 'good' serials department are the subjects of a trio of works from that prolific publisher, Haworth Press. In *Legal and ethical issues in acquisitions*, edited by Katina Strauch and Bruce Strauch, (ISBN 1 56024 007 5; US\$22.95; also published as *The Acquisitions Librarian*, no. 3, 1990) the contributors tackle such topics as non-cash charitable contributions,

claiming periodicals, obscenity and juveniles, and discard practices.

*Personnel administration in an automated environment*, edited by Phillip E Leinbach, (ISBN 1 56024 032 6; US\$29.95; also published as the *Journal of Library Administration* vol 13 nos 1/2) covers past, present and future issues in this dynamic area, including the challenge of educating for automation, the relations between libraries and campus computing centres, job satisfaction and performance appraisal.

In this potpourri, something may hit the spot.

*The Good Serials Department*, edited by Peter Gellatly, (ISBN 0 86656 962 6; US\$29.95; also published as *The Serials Librarian* vol 19 nos 1/2) is a 'casebook of studies of a number of serials departments' in libraries, all of which the editor is prepared to describe as 'good'. Most of the libraries involved are American, but there are two exotic accounts: the periodicals department of the Shanghai Library and one of the libraries at Leeds University.

### Not just a new edition

I guess by now everyone knows that there is something special about the 1992 edition of *World Book*. Labelled an 'international' edition, it is aimed at the English-speaking market outside North America. Australian users will be gladdened to see the kind of entry previously consigned to (and frequently overlooked in) the supplementary Australasian volumes, now firmly ensconced in the encyclopaedia proper, and indexed accordingly. Careful pruning of articles of primarily North American interest—like those exhaustive articles on each American State—has made room for increased coverage, not only of Australia and New Zealand, but also of such countries as India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

But the revision and internationalisation goes far beyond expanding and updating specific articles, and shuffling entries from supplementary volumes into the main corpus, and far beyond the (welcome) adoption of English spelling. Even beyond the 12,000 pages, 27,000 illustrations, 1,900 maps, 100,000-entry index—every bit of it revised and re-edited. There really has been a 'world view' taken

in the editorial process of this edition, and the American slant which inevitably crept into its predecessors has vanished.

I must confess I have always had a soft spot for *World Book* for its accessibility, clarity, coverage and good illustrations. To these qualities the new edition adds international balance, as far as Anglophones are concerned. For Australian librarians, students and other users the Special International Edition of *World Book* is very good news indeed.

### **Water, water everywhere—but is it fit to drink?**

Water quality—whether for drinking or swimming in—is dear to the heart of the Sydney Water Board, and, with the Inner City Education Centre, it has issued two resource books for teachers on some of the issues involved. *Water*, by Susan Israel (ISBN 0 908274 10 6) is for Kindergarten to Year 6, and *Water*, by Karen Plummer (ISBN 0 908274 02 5) is intended for Years 7-12. Both outline critical issues for their audience, with case studies, and for the younger students, activity sheets. Each has excursion and contact lists (covering only New South Wales). Both books are succinct, lively and nicely designed.

The Water Board has apparently provided copies to New South Wales schools, but additional copies can be obtained from the Inner City Education Centre, 37 Cavendish Street, Stanmore 2048 (or phone (02) 516 3550 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays only).

### **Well up to standard**

Statements in standards often need explanation (and frequently translation), and this is exactly what you get with the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) *Facilities standards for art libraries and visual resources centres*. This substantial 216-page work includes both quantitative and qualitative standards, with an excellent commentary on each of the topics covered. There are innumerable references to other key documents and to relevant literature, making these standards an important source book for anyone planning new facilities or making sure old ones make the grade. There are examples of building briefs and other planning documents, summaries of responses to an ARLIS/NA facilities survey

and an excellent select bibliography.

This will be a valuable book for specialist art libraries and other institutions with significant collections of visual resources. *Facilities standards for art libraries and visual resources centres*, edited by Betty Jo Irvine, was published in 1991 by Libraries Unlimited and costs US\$32.50. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 87287 929 1)

### **In Brief**

*Library staff development*, edited by Jane Hiscock, contains the proceedings of the first national seminar on this topic, held in Adelaide in 1990. Fifty participants heard addresses from fifteen speakers, mainly from an academic environment, sharing their experiences of specific projects or dealing with the theory and practice of staff development in the general library environment. Available from Library Publications, University of South Australia, Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032, at \$25.00 post free. (ISBN 0 86803 036 8)

*Born of the Conquerors* is a collection of Judith Wright's eloquent essays on Aboriginal issues, such as the Bicentenary, land rights, the fate of the Aboriginal Treaty Committee and the impact of mining and the pastoral industry. Published in 1991 by Aboriginal Studies Press at \$22.95. (ISBN 0 85575 217 3)

*Danger! Artists at work* by Monona Rossol and Ben Bartlett is a guide to the nasty things which lurk in studios, workshops and classrooms, and what precautions to take. Dangerous solvents, the hazards of dyeing, the perils of pigments, safe glass-working practices, dealing with high-risk individuals, problems with plastics: all tackled thoroughly from an occupational health and safety perspective. A valuable resource, commissioned by the Australia Council and published in 1991 by D W Thorpe. (ISBN 0 909532 98 2)

### **The music goes round**

Microfilm was one of the media Gordon Anderson used to overcome his distance from European centres of musical resources. A leading scholar in the field of thirteenth and fourteenth century vocal music, Anderson gathered together in his lifetime a major working collection in his field which his widow donated to the Dixon Library at the

University of New England.

Alison Dare and Richard Maddox have now compiled a substantial guide to the collection, comprising a handlist of microform manuscripts, a classified list of printed resources, a contents list of collected journal articles, together with a microfiche supplement providing more detailed entries for some of the materials. *The Gordon Athol Anderson Music Collection Catalogue*, compiled by Alison Dare and Richard Maddox, was published by the Dixon Library at UNE in 1991. (ISBN 0 85834 953 1)

### **Worth another look**

Published to coincide with the ALIA Conference in Perth (can it really be almost two years ago?), *Western perspectives* was more than a will-o'-the-wisp account of libraries and librarianship in that State. This 300-page work contains valuable chapters on the development and shape of libraries of all kinds in Western Australia. The chapters, from the pens of many individuals, cover institutions and topics as varied as the Benedictine community at New Norcia, toy libraries, the book trade and library services for remote communities. There are accounts of Battye, Sharr and Sharman, valuable for library historians, and glimpses of many pioneers, including that neglected figure, Malvina Wood, the first University Librarian, appointed in 1927. *Western perspectives: library and information services in Western Australia*, edited by Robert C Sharman and Laurel A Clyde, was published by the ALIA WA Branch in 1990. Believe me, it was well worth the \$23.00 (\$20.00 to ALIA members) you spent on it. (ISBN 086804 452 0) □

*(Items for review in The Source should be sent to: David J Jones  
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