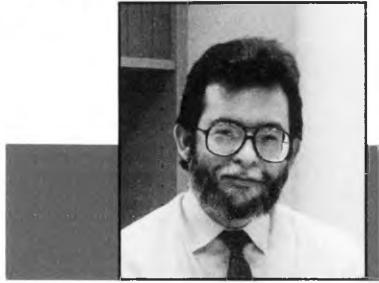


The Source



David J Jones

One reports how academic branch chemistry libraries which issue keys to non-library personnel tend to have higher loss rates than those which don't (funny that!)...

EVERY IMAGINABLE denomination seems to be included in Coralie Jenkin's excellent *Collections of religion and theology in Australia and New Zealand (CORTIANZ)*, which was published by Auslib Press earlier this year. Over three hundred libraries and other institutions are listed in this directory, the first attempt to cover this ground since Paul Drakeford's 1971 *Australian and New Zealand theological directory*. Jenkin has elicited responses from state, public, academic and national libraries. The Audiovisual Sub-Committee of ACLIS in both countries, together with 'bodies which define themselves as religions' or are described as such in standard surveys of faiths and denominations. Entries are arranged alphabetically, and there are copious see references, faith, place, subject and special collection indexes. Coralie E. J. Jenkin's *CORTIANZ* was published by Auslib Press in 1992 and costs \$28.00 plus \$4.00 postage and packing. (ISBN 1 875145 11 7)

Brief lives

Olga Masters: a lot of living, by Julie Lewis, is a sensitive portrait of this late-flowering author, and is now in paperback. It describes, very readably, and with timely extracts from Master's semi-autobiographical works, her 'hearty, happy and often tough experiences' and her 'sadly brief literary career'. Paperback edition published in 1992 by the University of Queensland Press at \$16.95. (ISBN 0 7022 2445 6)

General Vasey's War, by David Horner, is a fascinating portrait of 'Bloody George', who served in the First World War, was a major for the next twenty years, and went on to command in Greece, Crete and to direct the Australian advance from Kokoda in the Second, dying in a plane crash in March 1945. Horner delves not only into the military man, but by interpolating extracts from Vasey's letters home to his wife, helps us see what made Vasey tick. Published by Melbourne University Press in 1992 at \$39.95. (ISBN 0 522 84462 6)

Colonel William Light: founder of a city, by Geoffrey Dutton and David Elder, is a revised edition of the 1960 biography of the Adelaide pioneer. A good deal of new material has emerged in the interim to expand and explain this story of an escapee from a French prison camp, cavalryman, Mediterranean yachtsman, captain in the navy of Mohammed Ali, and then Surveyor-General of South Australia. Rivetting stuff. Published by Melbourne University Press in 1992 at \$49.95. (ISBN 0 522 84452 9)

Biographies of scientists for sci-tech

libraries: adding faces to the facts, edited by Tony Stankus, is a series of essays on scientific biography, ranging from a bibliographical guide to pioneers in computing, to thumb-nail sketches of some Nobel prizewinners. The biographies were 'selected for their humor and human insights' perhaps to inspire future scientists. Published simultaneously as *Science and Technology Libraries*, vol 11 N° 4, by Haworth Press. It costs US\$29.95. (ISBN 1 56024 214 0)

Keeping tabs on Australian writers

5200 extant Australian writers between two covers is no mean feat, and it is pleasing to see that the first edition of Thorpe's *Who's who of Australian writers* has been such a resounding success. 1370 novelists, 420 playwrights, 600 poets, 191 legal writers and more sports writers than you could poke a hockey stick at. To qualify for inclusion, authors, playwrights, poets, screen and scriptwriters must have had at least one work professionally published or performed.

Australians resident in Australia and overseas are included, and 'those born in Australia but long resident overseas have been taken as Australian where their formative years were spent in Australia.' Data collection has been thorough, based on mailings to recipients of Public Lending Right, membership of writers' societies, and advertisements in newspapers and literary journals. This was supplemented by lists of significant authors in specific subject areas prepared by an editorial board. The resulting questionnaires have been through a verification process, although of course many of the writers represented here don't figure in any other reference books, and much information has to be taken on trust. I couldn't spot any phantom or implausible entries, the bane of any reference book compiler.

The standard kind of *Who's who* information is provided, with a natural emphasis on writings, and in some cases an indication of work in progress. Jack Beasley's study of Katherine Susannah Pritchard, for example, and his daughter's history of the Miscellaneous Workers Union—not that such information is accessible, except to the browser. There is a broad subject approach to the entries - their names are listed under 150-odd subject categories—for the patient searcher. There is an impeccable list of acronyms and abbreviations appended. *Who's who of Australian writers* is essential for all Australian reference collections. It was published in 1991 by Thorpe in association with the very lively National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash ▶

► University, and costs \$75.00. (ISBN 0 909532 81 8)

Curiosity corner

The manual of underwater photography, by Heinz-Gert de Couet and Andrew Green, two Australian marine biologists, I believe, appeared on my doorstep recently, and seems a well-researched and thorough treatment of the subject (from the little I know of it). The closest I got to underwater photography was dropping a box brownie in a puddle at a christening. This manual is well-illustrated and readable, and was published in 1989 by Verlag Christa Hemmen in Wiesbaden, and is available from Ocean Image, PO Box 41, Hackett, ACT 2602 at \$69.50 post paid. (ISBN 3 925919 02 3)

Changing course: a global business perspective on development and the environment by Stephen Schmidheiny has been published to coincide with the June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. This is 'the first unified statement by leaders of major business corporations on the vital issues facing our society now and in the future,' from the Business Council for Sustainable Development (a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-sponsored group). This volume delves into the theory and the practicalities of sustainable development, with case studies to prove that it can be done, from designing a low-pollution dyestuff plant, to car recycling. This is a valuable document which should be available to our business leaders, politicians and other decision makers, as well as to a well-informed public. Published by the MIT Press in 1992 and available from Astam Books, 162-168 Parramatta Road, Stanmore, NSW 2048, for A\$58.95 hardback and \$28.95 paperback. The hardback edition includes an executive summary. (ISBN 0 262 19318 3 (hb); ISBN 0 262 69153 1 (pbk))

Something old, something new

Trade literature, or manufacturers' catalogues, may be the poor relation in the library: hard to acquire on a regular basis, inconvenient to organise and access, hard to remember to use. But they are worth the effort in a large research library, or a small specialist collection. As Ellis Mount explains in *The role of trade literature in sci-tech libraries*, trade catalogues often provide information not found in the conventional literature, they are useful for purchasing agents, designers and, if they are in collections of long standing, they can be useful for historical research.

The six papers in this publication which focus upon this literature deal with some of the early collections—the Los Angeles Public Library, for example,

started a trade catalogues collection in 1914 (the Public Library of New South Wales was only five years behind)—the value of such collections for historical research, and ways of acquiring regularly and controlling these difficult materials. Microform and CD-ROM are doing much to improve the situation, as we have seen locally, with the success of companies like ACEL in recording and marketing trade information.

If you buy this book hoping, in a span of 135 pages, to receive an exhaustive treatment of the subject, you'll be disappointed: Trade literature dips out after 44 pages, and the remainder of the book betrays its origin as an issue of the Haworth publication, *Science and technology libraries* (vol 10 no 4, Summer 1990): a bibliometric analysis on AIDS, an article on conservation biology, new reference works in sci-tech and other brief notes. Keep your US\$19.95 and save it up to get the second edition of John Mills' *Information resources and services in Australia* (Wagga Wagga: Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, 1992). For the record, *The role of trade literature in sci-tech libraries*, edited by Ellis Mount, was published by Haworth in 1990. (ISBN 1 56024 038 5)

Rather more of *Electronic information systems in sci-tech libraries* is devoted to the subject suggested in its title. Papers deal with campus-wide networks, using the Internet to access CARL (Colorado Alliance for Research Libraries), using micros to improve access to library collections, the benefits of InfoTrax, how Texas Instruments delivers, and how the AT&T library operates. The balance of the volume includes a couple of intriguing papers, as well as the regular columns.

One reports how academic branch chemistry libraries which issue keys to non-library personnel tend to have higher loss rates than those which don't (funny that!). Another is a meatier article about specialized databases for

information on nucleic acid and protein sequence. This book was first published as *Science and technology libraries*, vol 11 No 1, Fall 1990. *Electronic information systems in sci-tech libraries*, edited by Cynthia A Steinke, was published by Haworth Press in 1990. (ISBN 1 56024 067 9). Another US\$22.95 you can put towards the second edition of John Mills' *Information resources and services in Australia*.

Living with a disability

Simple things like pouring tea from a teapot, turning off a tap, emptying a washing machine, or drying between your toes can be well-nigh impossible for some people. Fortunately human ingenuity can help alleviate some of the irritating little problems, as illustrated in two very useful manuals published by the East Gippsland Municipalities Human Services Committee. *Practical answers: a guide to independence for people with disabilities, volume 1: the kitchen and laundry* and *volume 2: the bathroom and toilet*, prepared by Andrew Gagalowitz and Chris Walker, are well-illustrated, crisply written, and very easy to follow. There are large index dividers to facilitate use, and each is spiral bound so that the pages stay open without difficulty.

Gadgets to help, guidelines for product selection, supplier information and the addresses of Independent Living Centres are thoughtfully provided. These are valuable publications for people with a disability, their carers, and for people who are planning or adapting facilities for their use. Each volume of *Practical answers* costs \$8.00 plus \$3.00 postage. Copies are available from the Community Services Department, City of Sale, PO Box 506, Sale, Vic 3850. (ISBN 0 646 06825 3 (vol 1); ISBN 0 646 06825 4 (vol 2); ISBN 0 646 06824 5 (set))

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