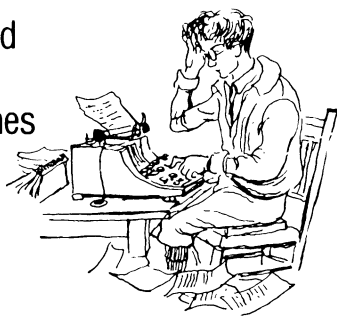


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Yet more sounds

The range of educational cassettes available from Sound Information seems to have undergone a considerable increase, judging by their 1982 catalogue.

Available from this firm are audio cassettes and AV kits published by UNESCO (from its radio service), 2SER-FM and 5UV radio stations and many other specialist producers.

There are cassettes on careers, football technique, consumer education, law, women's studies and an array of other topics. Copies of the catalogue can be obtained from Sound Information, 420 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, phone (02) 698 8243.

Can't wait for '88

To celebrate the Bicentennial of white settlement in Australia our historians, as you probably know, are producing a nine-volume history of Australia.

The approach adopted will be to present 'slices' of history, rather than one large multi-tiered cake. So there will be separate volumes for Australia up to 1788, Australia in 1838, 1888, 1938 and 1939-1988.

Companion volumes will contain a historical atlas, a historical bibliography and a compilation of historical statistics. Whilst still largely in the planning stage, the project is already producing a number of useful by-products: the 'Historical bibliography monograph' series, for example, will be particu-

larly valuable for librarians.

Further information on the progress of the project can be gleaned from *Australia 1788-1988: a bicentennial history: newsletter*, which can be obtained from the School of History, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033. (ISSN 0159-0685).

UNESCO statements

If you need to get hold of the text of the convention on the international exchange of publications, or recommendations on the international standardization of library statistics, or in fact any UNESCO convention, declaration or recommendation, you could do worse than look in the recently-published *UNESCO's standard-setting instruments*.

This 960-page compilation begins with the complete text of the UNESCO Constitution and then reproduces the UNESCO documents on education, natural and social sciences, culture, communications, libraries and archives, copyright and statistics. Each convention is accompanied by a table indicating the present status of ratifications, acceptances and accessions. *UNESCO's standard-setting instruments* costs 250FF. (ISBN 92 3 101838 8.)

Signs of the times

Deciding not to purchase items and cancelling serial and standing orders has become a common and depressing routine in most Australian libraries. Serial cancellations are particularly prickly: two or more libraries may be cancelling the same title at the same time, each assuming that the other will maintain its subscription.

This problem has led in some areas to the production of co-operative lists of serial cancellations. In Queensland, for example, Griffith University Library, under the auspices of the AACOBS Queensland Regional Committee, is co-ordinating the production of a bi-monthly *List of serial cancellations in S.E. Queensland*.

About 50 libraries, including all of the major Brisbane libraries, are co-operating in the project. The list, which is produced in microfiche format, includes information not only on the dates on which subscriptions end but also details of what, if anything, is to happen to the backset of the cancelled titles.

The first issue of the list contains about 700-800 records. The list is available at a subscription price of \$9.00 per annum for the six issues from Dr Malcolm Campbell, Science Librarian, The Library, Griffith University, Nathan, Qld 4111.

Not recommended

Showing unlimited ingenuity in launching reference books in previously relatively well-charted waters, Libraries Unlimited has produced a by-product of *American reference books annual*. *ARBA*, which has been published since 1960, provides comprehensive coverage of all reference books published in the United States each year.

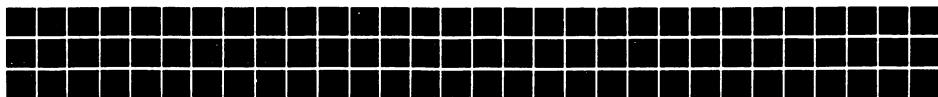
The new publication, *Recommended reference books for small and medium-sized libraries and media centers*, is an 'abridged' version of *ARBA* 'especially designed for smaller libraries of all types' and includes reviews for 504 titles arranged in 37 subject groupings.

The strength of this work derives from the quality and variety of the reviewers (220 'subject specialists') whose efforts are reproduced here. The weakness is the absence of an overall yardstick. Why are these works 'recommended'? Has the editor himself examined the items? or just the reviews?

One cannot help wishing for some general commentary on each subject area, outlining why a particular item is to be preferred to other items, whether or not they are included in this work. Largely unrelated reviews, however critical and however well-prepared, are problematical as a selection aid - and nowadays librarians need to be more selective than ever.

Australian librarians can do without *Recommended reference books*, whether or not they get *ARBA*. Small libraries needing a basic reference books guide for collection-building would do better to use Walford (including *Walford's concise guide*), Sheehy and even Christine Gehrt Wynar's *Guide to reference books for school media centers* if they do not mind its North American emphasis.

For the record, *Recommended reference books for small and medium-sized libraries and media centers*, edited by Bohdan S. Wynar, was published by Libraries Unlimited last year and costs US\$19.50. It is available locally from the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 0 87287 271 8; ISSN 0277-5948.)



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