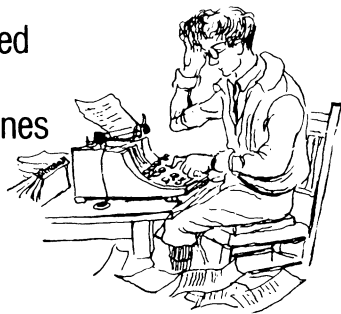


# THE SOURCE

Edited and compiled by David J. Jones



brief glossary.

The guide is not exhaustive – it doesn't mention INDICAT, for example, which is used with some distinction in the *Australian Education Index* – only packages available within the United Kingdom are included. *Software for Printed Indexes* by C. Armstrong (British Library R&D Report no5622) was published by Aslib. It costs £12.50 (£10.50 to Aslib members). (ISBN 0 85142 142 3.)

## Expanded menu

A fully revised edition of *Recipe Book Service of Online Searching* was published earlier this year. Pamela Johnstone, late of the State Library of New South Wales and now of Triad, has had a good look at it and comments:

'The *Recipe Book* gives brief instructions for accessing a widening range of online services. In addition to AUSINET, CSIRONET, MEDLINE, MIDAS, QUE, DIALOG, ORBIT AND I.P. Sharp, the new edition covers the Australian Beginning, Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) and INFOBANK. The Australian Beginning will be less familiar to many online searchers, and is a microcomputer information service giving access to electronic mail facilities, electronic shopping, mainframe storage and information services such as news, sport, weather, share prices and airline schedules.

'INFOBANK contains a variety of statistical databases, including Australian Bureau of Statistics economic time series, a NSW motor vehicle registration database and some Census data. Detailed instructions are not provided for some of the systems described – ABN, for example. Nonetheless the information provided is considered useful in eliminating some of the confusion created by the many acronyms and catch words resulting from the exponential growth of online systems and services in recent years.

'One can look forward to a corresponding growth in services described in the *Recipe Book*. One might already expect it to include a number of systems which, like DIALOG and ORBIT, are available through MIDAS. The Information Retrieval Service of the European Space Agency, for example, The Source (not this one) and Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS) among many others. The compilers will have an exquisite problem

deciding what to include or not to include.

'All in all this is a most useful book, both for the occasional user of different systems and for those seeking basic information on a range of Australian and commonly used overseas systems.'

*Recipe Book Service of Online Searching* is published by R.D. Williamson and Associates, 2 Kenny Street, North Balwyn, Vic 3104. It costs around \$50 including one year's loose-leaf updates. (ISBN 0 9595009 0 1.)

## Publish or perish

Budding authors of journal articles ranging from the popular to the ultra-scholarly may seize upon *Author's Guide to Journals in Library and Information Science* with some glee. For over 200 journals it provides information about editorial policies and practices, about their supposed audiences, preferred topics and article length, circulation, fees and publication time-lag. There is also an indication of the acceptance rate of most titles.

The would-be author can thereby increase his or her chances not only by assessing what to write to match the target journal, but also by selecting a journal with a high acceptance rate. It's a bit like using a form guide, really. There is an interesting introductory chapter with much common sense expressed on the topic of writing for publication, with particular reference to the librarian-author. This work has attempted to cover the 'major' American, Canadian, English and international professional journals using a detailed questionnaire to elicit details, sometimes in vain.

It is disappointing to see a nil response, for whatever reason, from among others *International Library Review*, *Library Association Record* (although *Journal of Librarianship* is there) and *Library Review*. The omission of *The Australian Library Journal* and *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* is disappointing, not particularly for Australian authors, but for their editors. Who knows what seminal articles might otherwise have winged their way Australia-wards from the eager users of this guide?

Norman D. Stevens, and Nora B. Stevens, *Author's Guide to Journals in Library and Information Science* was published earlier this year by Haworth Press. It costs US\$19.95. (ISBN 0 917724 13 5.)

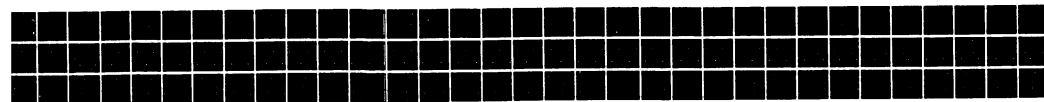
## Something special from NSW

From July 1 1982 staff in most State Government departmental libraries in New South Wales severed their direct connection with the State Library and transferred to the staff of their respective departments. This move, recommended some years ago in a report on NSW Government libraries by the late Lesley Symes, has meant adjustments on the part of the staff involved and, it seems, growing co-operation between libraries of diverse types.

A Government Special Libraries Group (GSLG) has been established to facilitate co-operation, and a publication entitled, somewhat prosaically, *News from the Government Special Libraries* is being issued. Suggestions for a new title are being sought. I would suggest an ISSN also. Further information on the GSLG can be obtained from Barbara de Rome, Department of Tourism Library, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

## Indexing without tears

Around twenty British and other computerised indexing systems are briefly outlined and illustrated in C. Armstrong's *Software for Printed Indexes: A Guide*, published last year by Aslib. For each entry there are two pages detailing the system for which the package is designed, the languages used, input and output form, costs and contact names and addresses. The samples provided for each entry will let the potential user see exactly what the outputs will look like. There is also a



# AUSINET

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## Information Retrieval

