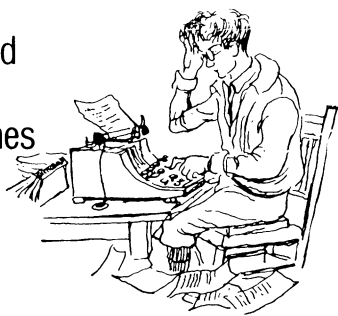


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



From Aldus to Arnotts

Rare books and biscuit wrappings may seem to have little in common. But both are printed, and may therefore be of interest to the Brandywine Press and Archives. This institution, which is run by one Jürgen P. Wegner of Beecroft, NSW, a self-styled printer, librarian and bookman, is a special collection on printing and printing history, typography, paper, book design and production.

Wegner aims to collect the 'technical ephemera' in these areas and to build up a general reference collection on the subject. As a sideline he is producing a *Directory of company histories of the book industries* in a limited edition of 100. This directory is being produced in parts, or *Lieferungen*, at a rate of about two *Lieferungen* per year. It includes references to histories of, *inter alia*, booksellers, bookbinders, printers, manufacturers of relevant materials, newspapers, papermakers, typefounders and publishers. The directory is intended to be 'read' rather than consulted, 'and therefore no apology is given for the lack of an index'. An index is, however, planned in due course.

There is certainly some unusual material listed, some of which, I guess, would not have found its way into the Wing Foundation at the Newberry Library. Variations in the style of citations and the lack of a publisher's name in most of the citations are a rather bleak feature of this work. *Directory of company histories of the book industries* is available at \$5.00 per *Lieferung*. Further information is available from Jürgen P. Wegner, 20 Murray Road, Beecroft, NSW 2119.

The best – and the rest

Since 1970, *American reference books annual* has provided reviews of a vast number of reference works published or distributed in the United States. With a few minor variations, the 1981 edition, which covers material published mainly in 1980, provides the same helpful guidance for reference librarians.

The reviews come mainly from the pens of a veritable army of reference librarians, with references also given to reviews of those works included in journals such as *Choice* and *Library journal*. Uncomplimentary reviews as well as glowing ones are included: all reference materials, with some limitations, are dealt with, not just recommended ones. For 821 pages and 1740 reviews you won't be surprised to pay US\$45.00. If it saves you from buying one atrocious reference book, it will have paid

for itself, quite apart from its role in helping you determine the best.

American reference books annual, 12th 'edition', 1981, was published last year by Libraries Unlimited. (ISSN 0065-9959; ISBN 0 87287 250 5).

Determining the best is what *Best reference books 1979-1980* is all about. This compilation, edited by Susan Holte and Bohdan S. Wynar, is a selection of 'titles of lasting value' from editions of *American reference books annual* published between 1970 and 1980. Intended for libraries of all types as a selection aid in filling gaps in collections or for starting off a reference library, *Best reference books* follows the same pattern as *ARBA*: reviews of up to a page specially written for *ARBA* plus references to other published reviews.

To keep this work to a manageable size (it deals with 920 works and spans 480 pages as it is), serial publications, travel guides and works dealing with individual literary figures have generally been excluded. As with *ARBA*, there is a combined author/title/subject index.

Best reference books 1970-1980 is an excellent adjunct to the major guides to reference material by Walford and Sheehy. It was published in 1981 by Libraries Unlimited and costs US\$36.00. (ISBN 0 87287 255 6).

Excursions and diversions

The only excursion I can remember in my school days was to a service in a local church. Nowadays school students visit an amazing variety of establishments – factories, fire stations, bakeries, TV studios are just a few examples.

A 215-page book providing lots of ideas for places to visit and things to do once you get the class there was published last year by Nelson. Cathy Hope's *Springboards: ideas for excursions* is a very sound guide, intended mainly for teachers. It places, correctly, considerable emphasis on the planning process, with very helpful checklists of things you shouldn't forget.

A wide range of excursions are discussed, with many specific addresses or locations in all states and territories being mentioned. There are copious references to relevant publications in the margins. Excellent guidance on running a school camp is provided. I wish my teachers had had this book (and the philosophy and resources to translate it into vivid learning experiences). Cathy Hope's *Springboards: ideas for excursions* was published in Melbourne by Nelson in 1981. It costs \$11.95 (ISBN 0 17 006043 8)

Massive menu

Around 70 of the growing number of Australian-produced databases are listed and described in the first edition of *The Infogrow Australian database directory* which was published in October 1981.

For each entry there is an outline of the scope, size and structure of the database, details of related publications (such as parallel printed versions or manuals), access information (including costs and names of hosts) and producer data.

There are four indexes: by producer, abbreviated name or acronym, full name or subject.

The subject index is the least satisfactory of these, being grouped under broad headings with more detailed subheadings leading to the database name and page reference.

The broad headings should really have been dispensed with: who, for example, would look for a horse-racing database under 'business'?

The information in this publication has been mounted as a database itself on AUSINET with the slightly pretentious title 'Infogrow Communications Information Exchange, and will be regularly updated. The printed version will be too, as new Australian databases are being created apace.

Some which already exist, and which Infogrow's directory does not mention are QAC-Peskem, a pesticides database created at Queensland Agricultural College, and a number of financial databases heralded in a June 1981 I. P. Sharp blurb.

There are no doubt numerous others which the existence of a directory in which to be listed free of charge will bring before an expectant audience of online searchers.

The Infogrow Australian database directory is a good start in the right direction, and is available from Infogrow Pty Ltd, 49 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. It costs \$25.00. (ISSN 0725-1572).

Budget Brisbane

Having disposed of two southern capitals, Margaret Megard and Jebby Phillips, compilers of the 'Bargain Shopper's Guide' series, now turn their attention to Brisbane.

In *The bargain shopper's guide to Brisbane* they follow the same, successful formula, describing hundreds of locations for purchasing anything from acrylics to zip-pers just that little bit cheaper.

At \$2.95 *The bargain shopper's guide to Brisbane* is itself a bargain. It was published in 1981 by Horan, Wall and Walker, PO Box 8, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. (ISSN 0706-4942).

Incidentally the 1982 editions of the Sydney and Melbourne *Bargain shopper's guide* are now available at \$3.95 each. (ISSN 0158 7358, ISSN 0159 6861 respectively).

Kuring-gai College of Advanced
Education

School of Library and
Information Studies

VIDEO TECHNOLOGY AND LIBRARIES

Friday 30 April 1982
8.45 am–5.30 pm

A one-day course from the 1982 Continuing
Education Program

The course will provide an overview of video technology developments of significance to libraries including videocassette recording, videodisc, computer games, micro computers, teletext, videotex, cable TV and the domestic satellite. Simulations and demonstrations of equipment will be featured together with summaries by specialists.

Fee: \$65.00 including lunch

Contact:

Sue Nielsen or Paul Bisnette, School of
Library and Information Studies, Eton
Road, Lindfield, PO, Box 222, Lindfield
NSW 2070.

Phone: (02) 467 9336

STOP PRESS

LAA Important Dates

In *Incite* no3 there was an error in lines 1 and 7. This should read: Executive Meeting (Canberra) 12 March. Futures Committee Meeting (Canberra) 11 March.

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