

educational profile negotiated with the Commonwealth Government'. Libraries are obviously to have an interesting time in priority setting and negotiating!

The ALIA is not listed as having made a submission to the review.

AMALGAMATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A special task force on amalgamations in higher education was set up in February 1989. The task force's report was tabled in April so that decisions could be made on resource allocations for 1990 and 1991. It was assumed that the number of universities and colleges would fall from 65 to about 40.

Included among the benefits of amalgamation is 'concentration of research and development effort with more efficient use of expensive facilities...' and 'improved access for staff and students to central library and computing services'. We could assume that libraries may come under the heading of the more efficient use of expensive resources?

One per cent of the total operating grants of institutions has been retained for a National Priority (Reserve) Fund to assist with one-off costs associated with mergers, (one of the costs being seen as 'integration of library systems').

The report notes that a number of individual institutions included bids which had a major upgrading element which did not arise solely from the mergers although the timing may have been influenced by the merger process (libraries?). Institutions are

reminded that they should have made specific provisions for replacement of outmoded equipment or systems and will be responsible for their own upgrading proposals. Twenty-one million dollars has been allocated to this fund for 1990 and 1991 but the amount for libraries is not specifically detailed.

For capital expenditure, some \$9 million was recommended for library buildings if present amalgamation plans were to proceed.

HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH POLICY

A committee to review higher education research policy, was set up last October. The report, referred to as the *Smith report*, was presented in April.

Such a review is important to libraries because of the importance of library support for research, and the scale of research collections in our higher education libraries which are an important part of the national collection. The Government approach is to make research funding more competitive and to have a greater focus in the national research effort.

Libraries are hardly mentioned in the report, except in passing as part of the research infrastructure which is now agreed to be in need of additional support. A specific reference is to the



report of the Williams Committee on engineering education which emphasised the depletion of library facilities and technical support.

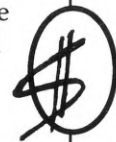
One possible problem referred to in some of the submissions is in maintaining central facilities, (libraries being specifically mentioned) if funding for these is on a user pays/project basis, as

general funds will be withdrawn from the institutions and reallocated to specific projects.

The ALIA is not listed as having made a submission to the enquiry.

AUSTRALIA'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAPACITY

The core capacity of Australian science and technology report, by the Australian Science and Technology Council was presented to the Prime Minister in April. It does not mention libraries or library facilities although a page is devoted to facilities and equipment. It supports the greater specialisation of research activities, which could have an impact on library collections.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN AUSTRALIA

This ministerial statement was issued in May to consolidate Government policy following a number of reports and public debate on the funding of science and technology. As reported, some \$390 million in additional funding is to be provided over the next 5 years. New funding of \$197.5 million will be given to higher education over the next five 5 years to develop their capacity to support high quality research.

CSIRO now has a target that 30 per cent of its income should be from external sources, but to assist in this, CSIRO can now retain all external income without reductions in its budget appropriations.

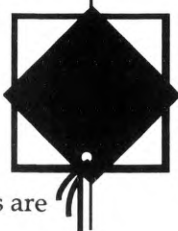
A chief scientist is to be appointed and a Prime Minister's Science Council set up which will bring together senior officers from all departments with an interest in science and technology.

Although libraries or library facilities are not specifically mentioned, there may be opportunities to bid for funds, if only by reference to essential support for research.

AGPS MATTERS

In early May the Commonwealth Government issued a statement of intent in response to the *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Publications 9th special report*.

The Government intends to review AGPS operations again before the end of 1990 and some of the recommendations will form part of



that review. These deal with Parliament doing some in-house printing, camera-ready copy being provided by Parliament, electronic transfer of copy and a 3-shift printing operation. As well as loosening departmental ties with AGPS for smaller printing jobs.

From 1 July, Commonwealth Departments and non-exempt statutory bodies will not be tied to AGPS for their non-core 'general printing' work to a value of \$20 000.

TELETEXT SERVICES

Under the Transport and Communications Legislation Amendment Bill which had its second reading on 7 April, Remote Commercial Television Service licences will be able to seek limited licences to broadcast teletext services to remote areas.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

The report on Government expenditure on overseas membership of international organisations and cultural activities, was tabled in the Senate on 4 April and makes interesting reading. In 1987-88 almost \$44 million was spent on membership of international organisations with the bulk going to the United Nations. Almost \$4 million was budgeted for overseas cultural activities.



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THE SOURCE

Pity about the index, but

A 'carefully-researched almanac' which is 'intended to be used by students as a reference for research and study at home' would no doubt be welcomed by most parents and teachers. Beverley Weynton's *The Australian book of facts* is thus described and, being priced at under \$10.00, looks like a reasonable investment.

The almanac includes worldwide facts and figures (highest volcanoes, greatest tides and the like), basic information on countries of the world (with outline maps) and the United Nations and the Commonwealth, world currencies, 11 pages on science, 2 pages on maths, 5 pages on word study, 5 pages of 'odds and ends' (including Greek and Roman gods, star signs and so on).

The Australian sections of *The Australian book of facts* are — as one would expect — lengthier, ranging from a list of objects brought on the First Fleet to brief biographical entries for artists and writers. It is a pity that no index is provided: even a modest one would have turned this book of facts into a true reference work. There is little guidance for further reading or research, apart from a thirty-item list of references presumably used by the compiler, and which does not, for example, include the *Australian encyclopaedia* or the *Macquarie dictionary*.

A good look at the AE might have helped avoid the howler (page 86) that Malcolm Fraser was elected on 11 November 1985, or that Frank Forde and Sir John McEwen were also 'elected' Prime Ministers. Then there's a map of oil and gas fields that doesn't show those in Bass Strait. There are four pages on bushrangers, but precious little about the Aborigines, and nothing that I could see about pre-First Fleet white visitors, including James Cook. Nineteen in Roman numerals is not 'IX' — an occasion where the otherwise-vigilant proofreader has slipped up.

I hope there are future editions of *The Australian book of facts*, because the original idea of a cheap, accurate and succinct handbook of commonly sought facts is not intrinsically bad. But any

new edition will need a good index, more detailed guidance for further research, and more information about Australia's history before 1788 for starters.

The Australian book of facts was published in 1988 by Horwitz Grahame. It costs \$9.95. (ISBN 0 7253 1053 7)

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Silent gems

Thousands of early films in the collections of members of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP) around the world are listed in Ronald S. Magliozzi's *Treasures from the film archives*, published by Scarecrow in 1988.

This is a catalogue of 9000 short (under 4000 feet) silent fiction films made between 1894 and 1948, and held by thirty-three of the current eighty FIAP members. There are pioneering films from Argentina, including a 1910 film of the national anthem, France (an 1894 treasure), Great Britain (starting with an 1895 cartoon of Kaiser Wilhelm) and very strong representation from the USA, beginning with the curiosity 'Babies in high chairs'. No Australian films are included.

The catalogue is arranged by country of origin, and gives the date, title, production company, players (if known) and the name of the holding archive. Indexing is thorough: by series, performer, director, production company and title. There is an additional title index to animated films. 'Conceived as a tool to be used in the work of film exchange and preservation', this work is actually the third — but greatly expanded — edition of an internal FIAP catalogue. It will be warmly welcomed by researchers into the early history of film.

Ronald S. Magliozzi's *Treasures from the film archives* was published by Scarecrow in 1988 and costs US\$62.50. It is available from James Bennett Library Services, who provided the review copy. (ISBN 0 8108 2180 X)

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From shrinking knickerbockers to movie moguls

Sam ('In two words: im possible') Goldwyn was a glove salesman. Adolph Zukor and Marcus Loew were furriers. William Fox made \$25 a week as a coat liner. All hit the big time, in one way or another, with Fox starting his own business, the Knickerbocker Cloth Examining and Shrinking Company. He

later expanded into Twentieth Century Fox, the subject of a very readable corporate and financial history by Aubrey Solomon, published in 1988 by Scarecrow.

Solomon tells of the economic joys and sorrows behind the box office blockbusters and flops — the stories of the celluloid and human participants in this rich drama. The appendixes, which show production costs of Fox films and their domestic rental receipts, are especially fascinating, revealing the lean years, and the remarkably fat ones, like 1977, when *Star Wars* earned \$193.5 million (including re-issues), having cost around \$9.5 million to make.

Solomon carries forward the story to 1987, 2 years after Rupert Murdoch, 'the reclusive Australian-born international newspaper magnate' bought Fox. It's a fascinating, and continuing, saga.

Twentieth Century-Fox: a corporate and financial history by Aubrey Solomon was published in 1988 by Scarecrow as No. 20 in its 'Filmmakers' series. It costs US\$29.50 and is available from James Bennett Library Services, who supplied the review copy. (ISBN 0 8108 2147 8)

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Read about it

Media information Australia has clocked up a half century. Its fifty-first issue appeared in February 1989, and consisted of a highly readable and fact-filled 160 pages. There are major articles on the portrayal of women in advertising, Australian film markets, the depiction of prostitutes on the silver screen, words of wisdom from the Minister and his shadow and much more.

The 'Media Briefs' section covered 'major issues from the print medium' for the second half of 1988, with a line or two of comment and a citation on the many issues that emerged in advertising, censorship, media ownership, publishing, radio and television.

Henry Mayer's reviews section is of continuing interest: brief, pithy, evaluative, eclectic and extensive. *MIA* is a mine of useful information or leads, and there is now an index to its first fifty issues. The *MIA* index provides access to all articles and major book reviews that appeared in the journal between July 1976 and November 1988, and costs \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Subscriptions to *MIA* itself are on a sliding scale: individuals \$32.00, organisations \$40.00, students \$25.00; overseas surface mail \$55.00, air mail \$65.00.

MIA is published by the Australian Film and Television School, PO Box 126,