

The Source



David J Jones

Is a swimming pool an educational establishment? Would you have consented to having your jaw broken in a friendly soccer game?

IN JULY 1990 a happy band of Australians involved in library and information systems attended what must have been a mind-blowing four-day workshop at the University of California Los Angeles. The subject: imaging systems and the future of academic and research libraries. The delegates have now produced a very informative 130-page report, sharing some of their experiences of leading edge technology and applications, and exploring the implications of imaging for libraries, information centres, education, training, industry and for government policy. Imaging embraces a host of processes, equipment and materials, and thankfully the authors start with a lucid introduction to the topic. For appetites whetted by the report, there is a very helpful annotated bibliography on the storage and retrieval of graphical information. *Image-based information and the future of academic and research libraries*, edited by Carmel Maguire, Connie Wilson and William Hood, was published in 1991 by the School of Librarianship (now the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies), University of New South Wales. It costs \$30.00 post free. (ISBN 0 7334 0208 9)

In and out of the Ministry

Who was the shortest-serving Federal Treasurer? (Would you believe Gough Whitlam?) Why did Leslie Bury spit the dummy, twice? Such fascinating trivia, and much which is not trivia, can be gleaned from the new edition of *That's it - I'm leaving and other Kirribilli tales*, rather more prosaically summed up in its subtitle *Ministerial resignations and dismissals 1901-1991*. This provides the relevant names, dates and circumstances of ministerial exits, dignified, self-inflicted and otherwise. Coverage has been extended not only

chronologically, but also to all instances of premature withdrawal from the ministry since 1990, whether due to retirement, reshuffling or political hullabaloo. Margaret Healy's *That's it - I'm leaving* was published in 1992 by the Department of the Parliamentary Library in Canberra and costs \$10.00. (ISBN 0 644 24846 7)

Sports, courts and allsorts

Hot footing it from the National Sport Information Centre are two modestly-produced but useful publications on aspects of our sporting life. The first is their annual *Guide to sports libraries and museums in Australia*, listing thirty-eight of the former and twenty-four of the latter, with a sport (really a subject) index. As well as the usual addresses, hours of opening and so on, there are brief notes on significant and sometimes unexpected objects or collections: a report on an Australian Rules grand final held at Changi in 1942, for example. Significant collection weaknesses are also indicated. The 1992 edition of *Guide to sports libraries and museums in Australia* is published by the National Sport Information Centre and the Museums Association of Australia and costs \$20.00 (\$25.00 overseas) post free. (ISSN 1038-2011)

Is a swimming pool an educational establishment? Would you have consented to having your jaw broken in a friendly soccer game? Sport and the law are inextricably entwined, like the honeysuckle and the bindweed, and Hayden Opie, president of the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association, has produced an index to this increasingly sticky wicket. *Australian sport and law annotated index 1990* covers journal articles, law reports, legislation, monographs and book reviews—124 items arranged by broad subject

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▶ headings which correspond with those used in the SPORT database under the major heading Law and Legislation. The index, which will be published annually by the National Sport Information Centre, costs \$25.00 post free. The Centre is a program of the Australian Sports Commission, PO Box 176, Belconnen, ACT 2616. (ISSN 1038-4987)

Haworth hits the spot

The indefatigable Bill Cohen of Haworth Press has sent me inaugural issues of two journals from his stable which more than touch upon one of our growth industries: tourism. The *Journal of travel and tourism marketing* and its sibling, the *Journal of hospitality and leisure marketing* both appeared for the first time this year. The articles range from the use of online searching to 'panel survey assessment of elapsed time response error in travel spending measurement' (which I think means forgetting how much you put on your Mastercard in Hong Kong). Trends in the hotel industry, conference reports, identifying market segments, terrorism, the growth of Korea's outbound tourism: these are some of the topics addressed. *Journal of travel and tourism marketing* (ISSN 1054-8408) and *Journal of hospitality and leisure marketing* (ISSN 1050-7051) are both published by Haworth Press, who would be delighted to send you a sample copies.

Selling fast

Who's who of Australian children's writers, which Thorpe published earlier this year, is enjoying deservedly healthy sales. Covering over 1000 living Australian writers, this *Who's who* provides the standard biographical information plus full details of the writer's output, including monographs, magazine contributions, radio and television assignments and in many cases works in progress. Awards won, pseudonyms, contact addresses and family connections are also listed. For 90% of the authors listed, 'this book is the only published source of information,' and reliance is therefore placed on the accuracy of biographies—although an active editorial process has been at work checking and cross-checking the data. The result is a most valuable Australian reference work, essential for major reference collections and for all those dealing in more than a cursory manner with children's and young adult literature. *Who's who of Australian children's writers* was

published in 1992 by Thorpe in association with the National Centre for Australian Studies. It costs \$35.00. (ISBN 0 909532 99 0)

Technicalities without tears

Have you ever experienced the exquisite agony of a poorly-written technical report or manual? Not problems of the Gerard Hoffnung type, but tricky topics made utterly obscure by bad writing? If you have, the writer in question had probably not come across Charles H Sides's very lucid *How to write and present technical information*, the second edition of which was published in 1991 by Oryx Press. Widening his brief somewhat (the first edition was entitled *How to write papers and reports about computer technology*, in which documents I would hazard the most grievous atrocities are occurring at this very moment), Sides stresses the need to identify one's audience and to have a clear view of the purpose of the document you are creating. He provides an excellent step by step approach to the necessary processes, liberally sprinkling examples and exploring such matters as the dreaded writer's block, Gunning's fog index and Flesch's readability scale. He rounds off with advice on how to make professional presentations and how to use (and misuse) visuals. Excellently presented and as one would expect, eminently readable. Charles H Sides's *How to write and present technical information* was published in 1991 by Oryx and costs US\$39.95. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 89774 627 9)

A gentleman and a scholar

The valuable contribution of the curators of major collections to historical research and to our cultural life generally is often overlooked, although one sees indications of it in acknowledgments and sometimes in dedications. 'Unsung scholars,' Christopher Koch calls these sometimes shadowy heroes and heroines. From time to time there is redress, however, with honours and awards, or perhaps a festschrift, like the splendidly-produced one which honours Geoffrey Stilwell and his stewardship of the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts in the State Library of Tasmania and his earlier work with Tasmania. In *Tasmanian insights* fifteen friends or former colleagues present essays based on research in which Geoffrey Stilwell has materially assisted them. Even the warm biographical memoir which

John Morris prepared needed a touch of Stilwell to get it going. The essays reflect the breadth and richness of the collections with which Stilwell worked and which, with assurance and sound judgement, according to the commentators, he augmented and made available and accessible to scholars. The scope, like the collections, is broad—Tasmanian specialist publishers, architecture, maritime exploration, links with the South Pole, pictorial collections and early colonial art, Tasmanian jewellery, the Tasmanian Public Library and the interior of Government House are some of the subjects of the present essays, together with a previously unpublished paper by Stilwell himself. This deals with the Castra scheme, an early nineteenth century attempt to stimulate settlement in Tasmania by ex-officers from India. This work contains valuable contributions to Tasmanian historical studies, a thriving body of literature in which Geoffrey Stilwell has played no small part. The medium is worthy of the message: an appropriate choice of type-face, sound gimmick-free design, a fine index, and another good printing job from Griffin. *Tasmanian insights: essays in honour of Geoffrey Thomas Stilwell*, edited by Gillian Winter, was published by the State Library of Tasmania in 1992. It is a limited edition of 1000 copies and costs \$75.00. A special full leather edition of 25 signed copies, bound by the State Library bindery, is priced at \$150.00. Copies are available from Blubber Head Press, PO Box 475, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005. (ISBN 0 7246 3892 X) ■

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