

The Source



David J Jones

TRYING TO track down an illustration of an Australian painting has often been a frustrating task, but, thanks to Ray Choate, it is getting easier. In his *Illustration index to Australian art*, which was published by La Trobe University Library in 1990, Choate provides references to thousands of reproductions in art monographs and exhibition catalogues. Entries are arranged by artist, with names and dates confirmed, where possible, in the *Artists' working names authority list* compiled at the Australian National Gallery. Choate has chomped his way through some 300 monographs and catalogues, including 'most of the major ones published up to about 1985', and the resulting index is very impressive. Published in 1990 by La Trobe University Library as Library Publication No 35, Ray Choate's *Illustration index to Australian art* costs \$25.00. (ISBN 0 85816 718 2)

The right to read

Publishing for people with reading disabilities was the subject of a seminar sponsored by the National Library of Australia in May 1990 as part of the International Literacy Year. There was much food for thought for the participants and now, with the publication of *The right to read*, for other interested readers. Part of the seminar was devoted to expositions of the effect of specific disabilities on language and literacy skills, including deafness, intellectual disability and learning difficulties, with another paper dealing with reading after brain injury. The need for 'high interest/low vocabulary' texts for people from a non-English speaking background was also highlighted. One expert dealt with criteria for producing suitable materials for people with reading disabilities. Another discussed the range and suitability of existing resources. A Dutch expert described 10 years experience in easy-to-read books in her country, a consumer provided a view from the receiving end, and a publisher explained why a limited demand is so difficult to satisfy. *The right to read* was published in 1991 by the National Library of Australia and costs \$13.50. (ISBN 0 642 10508 1)

Publish and flourish

A neat little publication from Charles Sturt University (CSU) gives some tips for academics on self-publishing. Intended primarily for staff at CSU-Riverina, this booklet runs through the basics of organising a printer, pricing, the structure of the book, desirable paper quality, library

deposit, marketing and distribution. The proof-reader seems to have nodded off over Sydney, Melbourne, Bosnon and Canberra in the seven-page bibliography, but never mind. Elsewhere the proofing has been impeccable and there is a lot of good sense in *Small-scale publishing for the academic community*, published by the William Merrylees Library, CSU-R, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650. Copies are gratis until stock run out. (ISBN 0 947330 46 1)

What's on? Check with the CIA!

When is World No-Tobacco Day? When will the Sydney Harbour Tunnel be opened? When is May Gibbs Week? Now you can check these out with the CIA—the Community Information Association of New South Wales, that is. The CIA has taken over the task of preparing the *Calendar of special events in New South Wales* from, if my memory serves me correctly, the NSW Department of Tourism. The 1992 issue, compiled by Lynn Bearegard, is arranged, of course, by date, with names and contact numbers for the events listed. Some international events (did you know 1992 is the International Year of Space?) and national goings-on ('Maintain the rage day') are also included, together with the dates of NSW public school holidays and religious festivals. There is a reasonable index to pinpoint the appointed day, or week, although it would benefit from a few more entries: it would be helpful to have an entry for GPS Head of River under 'Head of River' and 'Rowing', for example. I'm sure such refinements will grace later editions. In the meantime, if you want to ensure your holidays coincide with goanna pulling at Wooli, or goat racing at Lightning Ridge, as well as answer thousands of less exotic questions about what's on in NSW, you can get your hands on *Calendar of special events in New South Wales 1992* from the CIA, PO Box 61, Carlingford, NSW 2118, for \$12.00 post free. (ISSN 1037-7182)

Hear all about it

The range of materials in alternative formats for people with a print disability has shown something of an increase in the past few years, if you compare the size of *Magazines and newspapers: audio, Braille, large print and easy-to-read* with its predecessor. In 1985 *Magazines for print handicapped readers* listed 112 titles: the 1991 work, expanded to cover newspapers, covers 161 titles. Entries specify the format of the publication, its frequency, ▶

The proof-reader seems to have nodded off over Sydney, Melbourne, Bosnon and Canberra...

► publishing details including price, earlier titles, details of the original publication, and information about its purpose and intended audience. The range is wide, but of course never wide enough for voracious readers and listeners, covering subjects as diverse as football fixtures, cricket, radio and television programmes, law, electronics, travel, motor cars and farming. There are quite a few 'talking newspapers', including extracts from local press, and a number of items in community languages. There are indexes by format and subject, a list of publishers' addresses and a glossary of terms used. *Magazines and newspapers: audio, Braille, large print and easy-to-read* was compiled by Vera Dunn and published by the NLA in 1991. It costs \$15.00 and is available in large print. (ISBN 0 642 15420 1)
Audio (ISBN 0 642 15421 X)
Braille (ISBN 0 642 15422 8).

Roll your own references

With 'Bibliographies on disk' ALIA Press ventures into a new area: titles which might never otherwise see the light of day are sold on disk, and can be accessed on a Macintosh in Microsoft Word version 4 or 5, or on an IBM-compatible PC in Microsoft Word version 5, or as an ASCII file. Retrieval software is not included, although index and keyword terms are listed on a separate file: with these, or your own terms, you can use search functions which come with your word processing software, and as the publishers point out, there are a number of shareware and commercial programs which might be suitable. With Word 5, for example, even a technological ingenue like me can work out how to pop the body of the work in one window, and the index in the other, and juggle between the two quite comfortably.

It seems to me that this arrangement is especially suitable for bibliographies: it's easy to import entries into your own files (subject, of course, to the Copyright Act); relatively easy to do free-text searching; easy to add your own annotations.

Peter Clayton also sent me the straight ASCII files, with the specially-produced menu program to help you navigate your way through it. It's quite neat.

The series has kicked off with Kathryn Dan's *Sir Robert Helpmann: a select and annotated bibliography* (ISBN 0 86804 463 6—Macintosh; ISBN 0 86804 462 8—IBM), which I have not seen, and Toni Kemei's *The community and the mental health of Australian women, 1865-1965: a select annotated bibliography* (ISBN 0 86804 472 5—

Macintosh; ISBN 0 86804 471 7—IBM), which I have. Kemei's work covers 'the medical facts and ideas associated with women's biology and insanity (such as mental illness and puberty, pregnancy, childbirth or menstruation), other physical causes of insanity, as well as some social factors.' It's not all heavyweight medical and academic stuff either: popular articles, many of which reflect now-outmoded beliefs, deal with such matters as the dangers of psychotherapy, media images of individual 'crazy' women and the sterilization of the 'unfit'.

Entries, which are annotated, give author, title, journal name and issue (if appropriate), place and date of publication, and name of publisher, and frequently call numbers at the National Library of Australia or in the University of Canberra Library.

Anxious computer owners will be comforted to know that the disks they receive have been checked for 'known viruses' before they are dispatched.

The bibliographies are available on 3.5" or 5.25" floppy disks for the Mac or IBM-compatible, from Bibliographies on disk, Faculty of Communication, University of Canberra, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616. Each comes in a plastic folder with a printed introduction, and costs \$60.00, plus \$5.00 postage.

Off the beaten track

The monsoonal lowlands of Northern Australia, specifically from Victoria River to the Roper River, are the subject of a major monograph from Dutch publishers AA Balkema. 'The first serious attempt to provide an ecological perspective' of this area, *Monsoonal Australia* is the work of 19 specialists and covers the history of the landscape, its climate, vegetation and fauna, Aboriginal associations with the land, conservation and the future. This is 'one of the last areas where Aboriginal life and land management retains a large measure of its integrity'. An important text, and well-illustrated. *Monsoonal Australia*, edited by C D Haynes, M G Ridpath and M A J Williams, was published by A A Balkema in Rotterdam in 1991. It is distributed in Australia by DA Books and Journals at around A\$85.00. (ISBN 90 6191 638 0)

Monsoons never occur at Oak Valley, the subject of *Diet and dust in the desert*, a major study of the diet and lifestyle of an Aboriginal community 140 kilometres northwest of Maralinga. The dust in the title is significant, in view of the atomic tests held in the area between 1953 and 1963. An interesting work for those 'concerned with the health of desert communities.' Kingsley

Palmer and Maggie Brady's *Diet and dust in the desert* was published in the Institute Report Series by Aboriginal Studies Press in 1991 and costs \$15.00. (ISBN 0 85575 231 9)

Galleries galore

131 institutions are listed in the new, 1991 edition of *Australian art museums and public galleries*, published by the Art Museums Association of Australia and the very enterprising National Centre for Australian Studies. Entries are arranged by state, and provide half a page to a page of basic information on each gallery: personnel, admission charges, if any, opening times, collection strengths, and a tick-a-box section covering everything from baby change rooms to libraries. There are personnel and institution name indexes. *Australian art museums and public galleries* is a neat little publication, available for \$15.00 post free from the National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168. (ISBN 0 7326 0274 2)

Items for review in *The Source* should be sent to
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