

# The Source



David J Jones

**...when did you last call a 'manhole' a 'sewer cover, utility access hole, streethole, vent hole, exit port, underground service access hole, peephole or, my favourite, 'sewer viewer'?**

**A**FTER DIPPING into Rosalie Maggio's recent guide to non-discriminatory language, I guarantee you'll be more careful about or at least more conscious of the words you choose. As Maggio points out time and time again, many words in common usage have undertones or overtones of bias, sexism and discrimination (in the nasty sense of the word). Non-sexist language is by now reasonably well-established—the Commonwealth Style manual, for example, devotes a chapter to the subject; most Australian publishers, including ALIA Press, advocate the use of non-sexist terminology; and there is a sizeable literature, to which the present work makes a valuable contribution. *The dictionary of bias-free usage*, published by Oryx Press in 1991, contains 5000 entries and suggests 15 000 alternatives which are bias-free, gender-free or gender-fair. Today's enlightened writer would be aware of some of the non-preferred terms: 'jockette' (for a female jockey, not for an undergarment), 'fireman', 'policeman', 'manpower' and so on. Others, I suspect, still slip through once in a while: when did you last call a 'manhole' a 'sewer cover, utility access hole, streethole, vent hole, exit port, underground service access hole, peephole or, my favourite, 'sewer viewer'? And I don't think I can be persuaded to give up *deus ex machina* on the rare occasions when I need one. The compiler freely admits that the reader will not agree with everything in this book: 'there is imperfect consensus today on which words are biased and on what constitutes an adequate substitute for those that are.' I'll say there is. Read the compiler's introductory chapters before you use the dictionary: it puts the work into perspective, and gives very useful guidelines. The dictionary sequence itself is fascinating to browse and helpful, incidentally, for Australian authors thinking of writing for an American audience without

raising hackles. *The dictionary of bias-free usage* by Rosalie Maggio was published by Oryx Press in 1991 and costs US\$25.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 89774 653 8)

## Disappearing suburbs

Where's Hell Hole? Does Yabbie Creek exist? Yes, there is a Bellbird, isn't there? What colourful place names we have. The Geographical Names Board of New South Wales has details of over 74 000 place names on file, and in August 1991 issued a very useful index. The alphabetical listing by place name shows 'designation' (town, village, suburb, neighbourhood and so on), local council, map area (in the 1:100 000 map series), map name, parish, county, latitude and longitude. The compilers allude to the dynamic nature of place names, and apologise for the inevitable omissions—my vigilant friends at Marrickville Municipal Library have noted that that suburb isn't listed at all, and that 'Saints' are not dealt with consistently. The publishers promise to update the index each year, which is greatly encouraging. *Index of place names in New South Wales* was published in 1991 by the Geographical Names Board, PO Box 143, Bathurst, NSW 2795. (ISBN 0 646 05894 0)

## Worth a thousand words

Annual reports, brochures, press releases, displays, articles in professional journals—there are many applications for photography in library work. Raymond Bial, a library director from Illinois and widely-published photographer, deals with these and more besides in his *Looking good*, a clear and concise guide to photographing your library. Without getting unnecessarily technical, Bial talks a little of photography and its terms, deals with ways you can use photographs to get a stronger message across, discusses equipment and describes aspects of technique: how to avoid clichés, coping with perspective, choosing the right film, and much more. *Looking good* by Raymond Bial was published by the American Library Association in 1991. It costs US\$18.50. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 0575 7)

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## Australian Judaica

The new edition of *A bibliography of Australian*

► *Judaica*, unlike most other new editions of such works, is actually slimmer than its predecessor. The periodical section of its predecessor has been omitted—this section will shortly appear as a work in its own right. In addition full entries are not repeated under different headings, as was the case with the first edition. The slimline second edition covers ‘all traceable self-contained books, monographs, pamphlets and chapters from books which in some way pertain to Jews in Australia and New Zealand.’ With the exception of the *Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society*, it does not contain references to articles. Included are creative writing by Australian Jews in English, Yiddish and Hebrew, references to the Jew in Australian literature, works about Jewish contributions to the arts, sport, the press, and a substantial section covering history, politics, genealogy, Judaism and similar subjects. There are full author and title indexes. Most entries are briefly annotated. The second edition of *A bibliography of Australian Judaica*, compiled by Serge Libermann and edited by Laura Gallou, was published in 1991 by the Mandelbaum Trust and the University of Sydney Library. Copies are available from the Department of Semitic Studies at the University, NSW 2006, at \$65.00 plus \$5.00 postage. (ISBN 0 86758 379 7; ISSN 0818-8696)

### A little bit of everything

An ultra-concise AACR2, in two pages, no more. What to do if the media call. Dealing with disruptive behaviour. Defending the freedom to read. A glossary of library networks. Fund-raising by direct mail. How to mark rare books. What’s an ISBN/ISSN? These are a few of the hundreds of topics briefly treated in George M. Eberhart’s outstanding *The whole library handbook*, which was published in 1991 by the American Library Association. It contains current data (with a North American emphasis), professional advice and ‘curiosa about libraries and library services.’ There is much serious stuff, lightened with some trivia—did you know that J Edgar Hoover once worked at the Library of Congress? Which public library in 1980 prohibited children from borrowing the Bible without their parents’ permission? Would you like to know the word ‘library’ in 82 different languages? How do you choose an encyclopaedia? Drawn from recent

ALA and other publications, this is a lethal publication for the unwary browser—I spent hours being entertained and informed by it. George M Eberhart’s *The whole library handbook* was published by ALA in 1991 and costs US\$25.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 0573 0)

### Lachlan Macquarie—his mark

Rivers, marshes, streets, buildings, a University, and even a dictionary, remind us of the formidable Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. I must admit I have been fascinated by this figure since handling his diaries in the Mitchell Library, in which he put one, two or three exclamation marks after each date (and sometimes none, I wonder why)? The *Age of Macquarie*, published to coincide with a major exhibition at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney, is an unusually diverse treatment of Macquarie’s times, with contributions from specialists in architectural history, colonial furniture and silverware, painting, Australian literature, town and country planning, politics, the churches and education, dress and textiles. One will read individual chapters with varying attention, according to one’s interests, but all are well-written, appropriately illustrated (partly in colour) and tightly-focused. The book gives a vivid picture of a period of ‘expansion, experiment and flowering on every hand,’ with interesting sidelights on many of Macquarie’s contemporaries. On a minor note, it is a pity that, even with an eye on the cost of colour reproduction, it was not possible to have the well-known Opie portrait in colour. *The age of Macquarie*, edited by James Broadbent and Joy Hughes, is a valuable contribution to the literature. It was published in February 1992 by Melbourne University Press in association with the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, and costs \$29.95. (ISBN 0 522 84460 X)

### The future of reference services

The American Library Association’s guidelines for reference services, more effective use of the telephone, identifying ‘key’ reference sources, the ROLLUP (Remote OnLine Library User Project) and volunteers are among the subjects tackled by contributors to *Opportunities for reference services*,

optimistically subtitled: ‘*The bright side of reference services in the 1990s.*’ Permeating most of the contributions is the view of librarians as a ‘central mediating force’, allied to and not supplanted to new technological developments. Stimulating in parts, *Opportunities for reference services*, edited by Bill Katz, was published by Haworth Press in 1991 and costs US\$29.95. It was also published as issue 33 of *The reference librarian*. (ISBN 1 56024 137 3)

### Borchardt on Commissions of Inquiry

For over thirty-five years Dietrich Borchardt collected details of Commonwealth and State Royal Commissions and boards of inquiry, producing several checklists to help identify particular inquiries, and, most important, locate the published reports, which often have a wide but brief circulation as separate items, or near-burial in volumes of parliamentary papers. Borchardt has now produced a brief survey of the genre: what powers they have, how they are set up, what kinds of people chair them, what subjects they have covered in the last 80 or so years. There are analyses of the professions of chairpersons, of frequency in different States, and a chapter on bibliographical control. *Commissions of Inquiry in Australia*, by D H Borchardt, is a valuable adjunct to his and Zalums’ essential checklists, and was published by La Trobe University Press in 1991 at \$24.95. (ISBN 1 86324 011 X) □

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

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