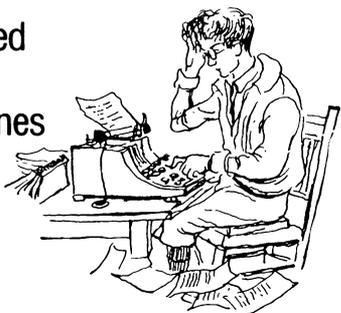


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## ABN – another draft

During 1980 there were many discussions between the National Library of Australia and other libraries about the viability of a national online shared cataloguing facility.

A draft document was prepared and distributed as a basis for discussion at these meetings. All the comments and suggestions generated by the document and the discussions have been 'taken into account' in the publication *Draft proposal for an Australian Bibliographic Network*, issued in February by the National Library.

Interest in ABN is keen, particularly in libraries which have automated some of their processes or are contemplating doing so. Interest in this draft will be all the more keen because the National Library has, in its own words, 'determined to seek, at an early date, approval for the extra resources, including staff, which would be needed to mount a scheme along the lines set out in the draft proposal'. *Draft proposal for an Australian Bibliographic Network*, which is Networks Study no15 in the Development of Resource Sharing Networks series, is available from the Sales and Subscriptions Unit, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600, and costs \$3.50. (ISBN 0 642 99217 7).

## The disabled in fiction

Around 180 books portraying handicaps of various kinds are listed in *Fiction about the disabled*, which was published earlier this year by the School Libraries Branch of the Education Department of South Australia.

The material listed is suitable for school students from years one to 12. Some of the items are suitable for pre-schoolers too. The list includes a handful of non-fiction, but not enough to justify a change of title. Each entry includes a brief summary of contents and an indication of the age-group for which the item would be most suitable. *Fiction and the*

*disabled* is available from the Information Office, Education Department, Box 1152, GPO, Adelaide, SA 5001. It costs \$1.00 plus 40c postage. (ISBN 0 7243 5153 1).

## APAIS thesaurus

Entries published in APAIS (*Australian Public Affairs Information Service*) since 1978 have been searchable for some time on AUSINET.

A thesaurus for APAIS, which will be particularly useful for AUSINET users, has now been published by the National Library of Australia. It lists descriptors which may be assigned to APAIS entries and refers users from non-preferred terms to descriptors. It also suggests additional access points via broader terms, narrow terms and related terms. Its producers point out that the thesaurus is specifically designed to facilitate access to terms used in APAIS, and does not attempt to present a comprehensive coverage of all concepts in the social sciences and humanities.

*APAIS Thesaurus* is available from the Sales and Subscriptions Unit, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600. It costs \$5.00 (ISBN 0 642 99216 9).

## Melbourne on the cheap

What was done to Sydney has now been done to Melbourne, with the publication of *The bargain shopper's guide to Melbourne*. In turning their attention to the southern city, the authors Margaret Megard and Jebby Phillips have adhered to the successful formula of the Sydney guide. They cover factories and distributors willing to sell direct to the public, auction rooms and secondhand shops, markets and discount houses.

All products available from these sources are listed together with the sort of reception you can expect. So if you happen to need a butcher block or a bed protector at a discount, or a gingerbread person or driplolated coffee, or indeed any of the hundreds of items listed in the excellent index, this guide is for you.

*The bargain shopper's guide to Melbourne* by Margaret Megard and Jebby Phillips is published in Sydney by Horan Wall and Walker, and is available from Bargain Shoppers, 195 Bridge Road, Richmond, Vic 3121. It costs \$3.95 including postage. (ISSN 0159-6861).

## Business-like report

The realities of the economic climate are duly reflected in the report of the British Library Working Group on Business Information, which was published earlier this year.

The Working Group was established in

February 1980 as a result of concern expressed by some sectors of the business library community about the adequacy of business information provision in Britain. Among ideas canvassed earlier was a wider role for the British Library.

BL accepted the need for improvement in services at a national level, but recommended that creation of a national business library was not at present feasible. Within that context the Working Group, with representatives from the Bank of England, the Department of Trade, other business information providers and consumers and the various BL divisions, set about suggesting improvements to existing services.

As a first priority the Group sees the establishment of a national referral service for business information to alleviate the problem of 'little if any co-ordination of existing resources'. Development of areas of BL's collections is a second priority, with many perceived present weaknesses needing to be rectified.

The Australian reader of this report will note a number of similarities in the British scene to the provision of business information in this country. The report of the Working Group, entitled *Business information: the role of the British Library*, is available from The British Library, Press and Public Relations, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH. (No ISBN).

## Not another Gale directory?

In their *Research centers directory* (6th ed, Detroit: 1979) Gale listed and indexed research facilities of universities and independent non-profit organisations.

The very large area of research directly funded and controlled by the US Government in its own centres is now covered by their new *Government research centers directory*.

Editors Anthony T. Kruzas and Kay Gill outline the major activities of each centre and provide very full keyword and name indexes. This work is to be completed in three parts (Part one was published in August last year) and will include entries for 1400-odd centres. An appendix to Part 1 is a name and address only listing of the centres which will be covered by the complete work.

To me it seems a pity that the content of this work cannot be incorporated in *Research centers directory* – the distinction between government and non-government doesn't justify separate treatment to my mind.

*Government research centers directory* is published by Gale Research and costs US\$72.00 for the three-issue subscription. (ISBN (vol 1) 0 8103 0460 0; ISSN 0270-4811).

## You live and learn

*Opportunities to learn: a guide for adults* has been around for a while – the third edition was published in 1979 – but it is still a cornucopia of courses for adults in New South Wales.

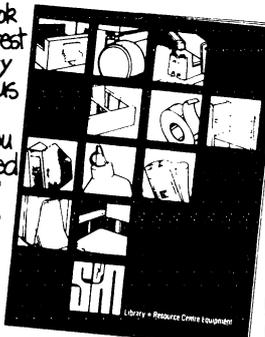
It doesn't just list what is available and where, but gives a bit of background to the topic and has a helpful introductory chapter on 'Ways for adults to learn'. The variety of subjects available is amazing: from human relations at Bondi Junction to trout fly tying at Eastwood, from domestic survival at Faulconbridge to painting at Peakhurst.

Incidentally, the 30-page list of agencies at the back of this work is useful for tracing groups, like the Batik Association of Australia which you will not find in your Sydney phone book.

*Opportunities to learn*, 3rd edition, 1979, is published by the NSW Board of Adult Education, Level 14, ADC Building, 189 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, phone (02) 237 6500. It costs \$2.00. (No ISBN). □

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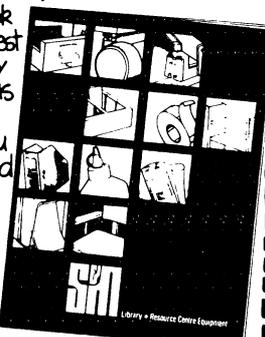
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