NZ Who's Who

WHO'S WHO IN NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES 1980 (8th ed)/comp A.L. Olsson and Alan D. Richardson. Wellington: New Zealand Library Association. 1981. 35pp. NZ$22.40. ISBN 0 908560 06 0.

The coverage differs very little from the previous editions, ie, it includes only practising professional librarians in New Zealand (NZ).

The main purpose for compiling the publication was 'to serve as a management tool for the use of librarians and employing authorities' (p5).

The work contains 1050 entries, compared to the 950 in the previous (1975) edition, and they are up-to-date to 31 August 1980.

As in other similar works, complete coverage was not possible therefore, to increase comprehensiveness, the authors consulted public records and made brief entries from them.

The content of entries follows a logical sequence and includes full name, positions held, place and year of birth, qualifications, membership of societies, NZLA offices held, publications and home address.

The names of NZ libraries are indicated only by symbols in the entries therefore, those unfamiliar with these need another reference work, the latest edition of *New Zealand Library Symbols* in order to make effective use of this *Who's Who* . . .

The NZ library symbols are given in the 'Index to institutions with library symbols' section of the *Who's Who* . . . but in a way that makes them difficult to find for non-New Zealanders, because the primary arrangement of this index is by geographic area, e.g. 'Hamilton' geographic area is a heading and under it are listed the relevant institutions with their symbols like 'Waikato Technical Institute HPY'.

In contrast to earlier editions, the book is well produced, with clear crisp type on good quality paper, but at an increased cost.

If the height (30 cm) of the book were reduced it would make it even more attractive and would be easier to shelve among books of average height.

This is a fine reference book for the use of NZ librarians, but probably overseas users should also be considered, as interest in this work extends beyond the boundaries of NZ.

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Zero growth libraries?
Myth of the '70s — Necessity for the 80s?

Have your say in Adelaide at LAA 22
August 22-26 '82.

Database uses

NON-BIBLIOGRAPHIC ONLINE DATABASES: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THEIR USES WITHIN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES/B. Houghton and J.C. Wisdon. Boston Spa: British Library Lending Division. 1981. 32pp. ISBN 0 905984 70 6. ISSN 0308 2385 (British Library Research and Development Report no5620).

It is difficult to take seriously a research survey that presents results in percentages but at no stage states sample size. Those polled consisted of an undetermined number of clients of three major suppliers of source data. (Data Resources Inc, Business International Inc, and Automatic Data Processing Inc), and 'over two hundred other users'. How many responded is not divulged. Figures that would otherwise have been of interest must therefore be viewed with considerable caution — for example 26 percent of organisations reported all searches done by 'end-user', and 42 percent reported all searches done by intermediary; the rest had various proportions performed respectively by end-users and intermediaries. Librarians/information specialists conducted 24 percent of searches, 24 percent were conducted by administrators/managers, 29 percent by social scientists and smaller proportions by research assistants/analysts, financial analysts and scientists.

The work was undertaken as an initial investigation into use of the numeric and textual-numeric types of source data bases. It has been used to support a proposal to develop a teaching methodology at Liverpool Polytechnic School of Library and Information Studies. It would have been of more interest to educators, special librarians and managers of information services if actual numbers had been used to substantiate the percentages given.

Mike Middleton
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Community info services

REPORT OF A DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP TO REVIEW PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY (British Library Report No5597) / Judith Bowen and Ed Walley. Leeds: Public Libraries Management Research Unit, Leeds Polytechnic. 1981. 24pp. £2.50. ISBN 0 900738 23 5.

This brief report is a summary of a one-and-a-half-day workshop held in March 1980. The workshop aimed to look at developments in libraries which had participated in an earlier project (*The management of community information services in the public library* BLR No5534); to provide a forum for other libraries and information agencies to report their experiences; and to discuss 'practical problems of how to utilise material generated by the project' (Appendix One). Unfortunately this last aim was not achieved.

The authors report that 'the extent to which all speakers identified common problems was very striking' (p7). One generally perceived problem was that of altering the general public's expectations of the library. However, the question of how this was to be achieved was answered in different ways.

One approach was to switch from building-based services to outreach services by means of a community information bus — the 'Bilbus'. Another approach stressed the

'animateur' role whereby the library is an information exchange agent — updating a file for someone over here, offering space to someone else over there with a 'spontaneous and sometimes uncoordinated approach' (p5). Other approaches included the production of directories with a local emphasis — an approach common in Australia.

Small group discussion included the topics: is community information different to other library services?; where should the resources come from?; and how to evaluate services. Interestingly the majority opinion was that community information is different in that it involves a more active role in information seeking and more interaction with people as sources of information. That there is generally 'slack in the system' (p10) which can be diverted to the new service. And strong reservations about using number of enquiries as a measure of evaluation. Some interesting, albeit difficult to measure, alternative indicators were discussed.

Much of the report, unavoidably given its scope, is anecdotal. However, read with the awareness that it is reporting the opinions of the (perhaps more vocal) participants at a workshop it is an interesting account of the opinions and attitudes of some British community information practitioners. Appendix Five consists of an excellent 19-page summary of the earlier project which I would recommend, for clarity as well as brevity, over the full report.

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LIBRARIES — WHO PAYS?
Have your say in Adelaide, August '82.

School librarians

PERCEPTIONS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN/John Rainforth. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Dalhousie University. 1981. (Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhouse School Library Service Occasional Paper 27). 23pp. C$5.00. ISBN 0 7703 0168 1.

In the much under-researched field of school librarianship, the one area which receives continuing attention is that of the *role of the school librarian*. Such attention should result in the gradual evolution of the body of theory as researchers build on, draw from, dispute and refine and reinterpret findings. However as with other areas, such as historical studies in librarianship, the quantity of completed research is not matched by its quality.

Perceptions of the High School Librarian is a Canadian based study which appears to have been written from Rainforth's Dalhousie University Master's thesis. The booklet has been published as part of that university's School of Library Science Occasional Paper Series.

The purpose of the study was to determine the role of the senior high school librarian in Nova Scotia as perceived by senior high school principals, librarians and teachers. Respondents selected for the study were asked to complete a general information sheet and a role inventory. Results were tabulated and the chi-square test was used to determine significance.

Rainforth reported that the three groups under investigation saw the 'materials specialist, technical processor, professional activities, and especially the teacher segments as being strong parts of the role of the

Reviews —

librarian' (p.ix). All groups saw a peripheral role for the librarian as a curriculum developer but were rather ambivalent in this area. Librarians were generally more 'emphatic in agreement or disagreement over items in all segments than were the other two respondents groups'.

Rainforth's study has a number of elementary flaws which limit its contribution to discussion on the role of the school librarian. It is lacking a conceptual framework — there is no discussion of what constitutes 'role perceptions'. The literature review is lacking in both breadth and depth with very little of the available and relevant research based material being discussed or even referenced. Rainforth reports his results in a tedious and repetitive manner and his discussion of conclusions then fails to synthesise his findings and place these in the context of related research.

Unfortunately *Perceptions of the High School Librarian* contributes little to the research base of school librarianship. It might however make comforting reading in the comparative sense for those who are in any way depressed about the development of school librarianship in Australia.
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More directories

DISLIC: DIRECTORY OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN NEW ZEALAND/comp Paul Szentirmay and Thiam Ch'ng. Wellington: Special Libraries Section, New Zealand Library Association. 1981. NZ$24.80 79pp. ISBN 0 908560 07 9.
NORTH QUEENSLAND LIBRARIES: A DIRECTORY/ed Alex Byrne. Townsville: LAA North Queensland Regional Group. 1981. 82pp, $4. ISBN 0 909915 89 X.

In an article 'What, where and who in the Australian library world' published in the *Australian Library Journal* in 1976,[1] Mari Davis provided useful criteria for the evaluation of directories. These were:
1 definition of subject
2 a statement on limitations
3 a note on objectives and intended audience
4 a description of the information-gathering procedures
5 a description of the arrangement
6 a note on the methods used to prepare indexes
This reviewer would add:
7 a note on the intention for a further edition
8 a note on where the directory can be purchased and at what price.

Both *DISLIC* and *North Queensland Libraries (NQL)* stand well against these criteria, although the reviewer had to telex the NZLA for a price for *DISLIC*. *DISLIC*, which is the fourth edition of a directory of special libraries first published in 1959, 'is designed to assist reference and referral work and to facilitate regional and national cooperation in utilising information and library resources'. *NQL*, one of a number of regional directories produced in Australia in recent years, has a more localised aim 'to highlight strengths and weaknesses and foster the establishment of more libraries in the region. The directory should encourage inter-library professional contact and improve public and professional access to information'.

Although both directories have a similar general aim, their appearance, content and arrangement is quite dissimilar. *DISLIC* is derived, for the first time, from a machine-readable data base. It will be an interesting comparison, because of this aspect, with the 1982 edition of the *Directory of Australian Special Libraries*.

Of A4 size, rather large one feels for a frequently used publication such as a directory, *DISLIC* is not typeset, is difficult to consult, with a proliferation of slashed zeros, an excess of abbreviations, and inadequate separation of elements in the entries. The perfect binding does not allow pages to remain flat for easy consultation and its durability must be suspect, the review copy having already acquired two tears on its spine before it reached this reviewer.

DISLIC has one alphabetic arrangement of entries, with no less than seven computer-generated indexes: parent organisations, type of organisations, subject index, supplementary subject index, normal and special collections, names of personnel (senior staff of the reported institutions) and locality index. One major problem is the lack of cross-referencing in the main arrangement of entries. A user would have a problem finding details of, for example, the library of Christchurch Teachers' College, which is listed in the H's under Henry Field Library with no cross-reference.

Computer-production in the case of *DISLIC* has been a mixed blessing, resulting in compromises in cross-referencing and arrangement, something to which the compilers are sensitive. They hope 'that the existing software will be developed into a more versatile tool, able to improve the arrangement, typesetting, and indexing of data by the time of the next edition'.

One also has sympathy with the compilers when they state 'some 400 questionnaires were distributed to ensure comprehensive coverage of all special libraries and information agencies ... in spite of follow-ups only some 280 questionnaires were completed and returned'. It thus seems that the establishment of machine-readable data bases for directories of libraries can be no guarantee of improved frequency of editions. Much will still depend on the willingness of libraries to supply information, and on the willingness of libraries to buy new editions more frequently.

The entries in *DISLIC*, where supplied by the libraries themselves, are very comprehensive with details such as address, hours, senior staff, date of establishment, services, subjects, collections, statistics, classification, catalogues, equipment and publications. Some of the information is of questionable value however, such as the considerable space given to listing types of minor AV equipment, particularly when there is no index to them.

Whilst *DISLIC* is a sophisticated directory suffering from some of the problems of innovation and the computer, *NQL* is quite conventional. It is A5 size, firmly stapled, not typeset, probably durable and quite impossible to open and keep flat for consultation. There is no CIP entry, and like *DISLIC* no indication of when the entries were completed.

There are two main sections: public, special and tertiary education libraries, and school libraries. Three indexes are provided: a geographic index, a subject index based on headings from the APAIS thesaurus, and a type or level index. Also included are two appendices, one with school library statistics, the other a copy of a revised questionnaire which the editor hopes libraries will use for the notification of errors and omissions so that a revised edition can be produced.

A timely innovation in *NQL*, which other directory-compilers should consider, is a note in each entry about wheelchair-accessibility. By this reviewer's count, only 27 out of the 60 libraries listed in the public, special and tertiary sections are wheelchair-accessible. Libraries in North Queensland and elsewhere in Australia have clearly a long way to go before they can be regarded as truly accessible.

In other respects the entries in *NQL* are conventional, with addresses, details of access, stock, date of establishment, number of staff and name of person in charge. Referencing from alternatives names and names of branch libraries is comprehensive.

At $4.00 this directory is very good value and should be in the working-collection of all interlibrary loans librarians in Australia. *DISLIC*, despite its weaknesses, is also good value. At the expense of spoiling the acronym it really warrants a different title because it seems to be close to a comprehensive directory of New Zealand libraries. Not only does it list special libraries, it also contains major public libraries, the National Library and university and college libraries. On this basis alone it should be in the reference collection of all larger Australian libraries.
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Footscray Institute
of Technology

Reference
1. M. Davis, 'What, where and who in the Australian library world', *Australian Library Journal* v25, no14 (October 1976): pp340-348.

Disabled in books

A list of books about disabled children in children's literature has been compiled by Valerie Weldrick at the State Library of NSW, published by the Australian Library Promotion Council.

Entitled *What Difference Does it Make?*, the booklist is organised into sections covering picture books, first books and books for older children and teenagers. The entries are annotated.

Contact the Australian Library Promotion Council, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000 for further information.

Research project

THE BRITISH LIBRARY Research and Development department has awarded Loughborough University of Technology Library a grant of £62,000 for three years to continue to support the British Library Information Officer for User Education Project.

In this new phase there will be particular emphasis on the provision of an advisory service as well as an information service, and an extension of interest towards the teaching of information skills in schools and the promotion of public library services.

The primary aims of the project are to investigate, co-ordinate, promote and develop in library and information user education in all library and information sectors in the UK. These will be effected by the acquisition of information, and its subsequent re-packaging and dissemination in various published and non-published formats.

Further information on the project is available from Ian Malley British Library Information Officer for User Education Loughborough University of Technology Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU.