



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LIBRARY

LIBRARY

news

Guide to Australian Literary Manuscripts

Until now, finding manuscript material for specific Australian literary authors has been a matter of painstaking detective work. Researchers have had to fossick through numerous collections, and their guides, in a range of different libraries. There has been no easy way to examine the contents of these manuscript collections.

About This Guide

The *Guide to Australian Literary Manuscripts* is a new Web service that brings together finding aids - electronic guides - for almost 90 collections of Australian literary manuscripts. They can now be browsed and searched on a single Web site.

The guide includes notable authors Miles Franklin, Christina Stead, Peter Carey and David Malouf. Western Australian writers include Henrietta Drake-Brockman, Robert Drewe, John Kinsella and Tracy Ryan.

The manuscript collections are in six major libraries: the National Library of Australia, the Australian Defence Force Academy, the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney, the State Library of New South Wales, and the University of Western Australia.

Encoded Archival Description

The finding aids in the guide use an archival format known as Encoded Archival Description, which is widely used in Europe and North America. This is the first significant collaborative use in Australia. National guidelines and a national training strategy are being developed to promote its wider use in libraries and archives.

The project to develop this service received funding from the Australian Research Council under its Research Infrastructure and Equipment Fund (RIEF). The project is directed by Professor Dennis Haskell and Dr Toby Burrows at The University of Western Australia.

The *Guide to Australian Literary Manuscripts* was launched at the National Library on 1 June by Professor Alan Robson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia and Acting Chair of the National Library Council.

The *Guide to Australian Literary Manuscripts* is freely available on the Web at:

<http://findaid.library.uwa.edu.au/>



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A magazine stand at your desktop

Popular culture magazines can be a valuable source of information particularly in the arts and social sciences. Unfortunately, few libraries keep back issues of these publications. Now, *World Magazine Bank* offers full-text articles from Rolling Stone, Variety, Inside Sport, Billboard, People, and more. There are over 280 full-text English language publications from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, UK, South Africa, and the US. Altogether, 430 titles are indexed. A complete list is available to browse at the site.

The *World Magazine Bank* helps you to find the more esoteric and ephemeral information that has often eluded the coverage of academic full-text databases. Try it out and see what you can find!

To access *World Magazine Bank*:
Information toolbox – Keyword search for Business Source Elite - select *World Magazine Bank*

Funding for expensive items

Now is the time to make your recommendations for purchases from the Expensive Items Fund.

Each year the Library sets aside funds (separate to departmental allocations) for special resources such as large sets of books, reference works or research collections, with a cost of more than \$1,000. These funds are not normally used for the establishment of new subscriptions.

Examples of titles ordered in 2000 from the Expensive Items Fund include:

The Forum of Trajan in Rome: a study of the monuments

The International library of studies on migration (in 10 volumes)

Handbook of computer vision and applications

Encyclopedia of forensic sciences

Recommendations for purchases from the Expensive Items Fund, accompanied by a brief statement explaining how the title can support the research priorities of the University, should be sent to John Meyer, Manager, Acquisitions Section, by 31 July 2001.



Locating Library services

We are continuing to adjust the new CygNET Online according to your feedback.

All Library services, both online and traditional, have now been consolidated within the *Library Services* area. To make it easier to pick out online services in this list, click on the icon on the right hand side of the title.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the University Library presente une soiree musicale dans un salon elegant a University House, 1 aout 2001 a 7.30. Les artistes les plus distingues et brillantes de Perth vont executer un programme charmant introduit par M le professeur David Tunley qui va donner quelques mots (en anglais) concernant la tradition du salon Parisien au 19eme siecle.

Artists include Taryn Fiebig (singer), Paul Wright (violin), Suzanne Wijsman (cello), Graeme Gilling (piano).



The soiree, to be held on 1 August at 7.30pm at University House, is the main fund-raising event for the year by The Friends of the University Library which helps to purchase books beyond the Library's budget. Because 2001 represents the bicentenary of the Baudin explorations of the West Australian coast, it was decided to give the event a French flavour and you are invited to enjoy the pleasure of an imaginary 19th century Parisian musical salon. So do come dressed for the occasion!

Tickets are \$38.50. Please contact Liz Tait, Friends of the Library, on 9380 2356 by 20 July.

Michelle's 'Magic boxes'

'Magic boxes' have been put together by Michelle Mahoney, Reference Librarian at the Medical Library, to assist first year medical students who are visiting country towns as part of Rural Week. The boxes contain information specific to each town including histories, business and tourist directories, socio-demographic profiles, telephone books and maps. As one student said, they proved to be a "great starting point" when he first arrived in a new town.

The initiative in the School of Medicine has seen first year medical students visiting Western Australian country towns for a rural medical



One of Michelle's 'magic boxes'



First year medical students prepare to leave for the country

experience, with Dongara, Harvey, Northam and Katanning as the 2001 destinations. The aim of Rural Week is to teach the prospective GPs about the unique health issues involved in working and living in a country town.

Assembling this non-traditional library material has involved co-operating with local government agencies in each Shire, as well as obtaining demographic information from the Health Department.

The magic boxes have proved to be an invaluable resource for the students. Their comments were unanimously grateful; one student remarked that without it she "would have been completely lost."

Building a better interlending system in Australia

Dr Toby Burrows, Principal Librarian of the Scholars' Centre, has recently been appointed Chair of the National Resource Sharing Working Group. The Group was established in response to concerns expressed by users and librarians about the effectiveness of the Australian interlending system. The Group aims to ensure that a robust, reliable and cost-effective interlending system, built on cooperation and agreed service standards and policies, is in place to serve Australian libraries and their users.

A major outcome of the Group's work is the new Australian InterLibrary Resource Sharing Code, launched in January 2001. The Code has been formally endorsed by the Australian Library and Information Association, the Council of Australian State Libraries and the Council of Australian

University Librarians. The service levels set out in the new Code are now being implemented in libraries across Australia, including the University of Western Australia Library.

The Group has also conducted an extensive benchmarking study of interlibrary loan and document delivery services in more than 100 Australian libraries. The results of this study will be used to identify "best practice" characteristics for future improvements to the Australian interlending system.

More information about the National Resource Sharing Working Group is available from the National Library's Web site, at:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/nrswg/>

Andrew Lewis – have degree will travel!

Last year I worked as a Reference Librarian at the Morris Miller Library at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, as a part of the Arts, Commerce and Education team.

UTAS is a smaller university than UWA, so there were obvious differences associated with being in a smaller university community. Both institutions are the original universities of their respective states, with a long and interesting history.

As it was my first year out in the professional workforce, it was a little daunting. UTAS has a traditional reference desk set up, whereby anyone can walk up and ask any question about using the library. I found that this was particularly useful for a newly graduated librarian as I became familiar with the collection and the various databases quite quickly. This gave me the opportunity to develop my reference skills rapidly. I really enjoyed my involvement with user education and found the students at UTAS were eager to learn about the library and the services it offered.

I really enjoyed the slower pace of life in Hobart, and my time in Tassie was like an extended working holiday! My favourite part of Hobart was Battery Point; with its little colonial cottages and small roads, you would swear that you were back in the early days of Van Diemens Land. I travelled right around the island and saw the East and West Coasts, Cradle Mountain, Mount Wellington, and the historic towns of Richmond and Ross.

As it is only a 50 minute flight from Hobart to Melbourne, I was lucky enough to go to 'the mainland' one weekend to see my beloved Dogs play in the AFL!

I would highly recommend this experience to other library graduates. As reference positions are quite hard to get, I think people have to be willing to travel for their first professional position. I still can't believe

that I managed to get an interstate position so soon after graduating as a librarian. It was great to get out of your comfort zone and go and try something new. The Tasmanian Branch of ALIA invited me to speak at one of their functions, so the professional support was there too. I found all the people that I worked with at UTAS to be really supportive, and I think that experiences such as mine should be more common for new graduates of Library Studies.

Andrew is now working in the Business Library and the Education and Fine Arts and Architecture Library.



Andrew Lewis wishing he'd brought his coat!

Library Classes Online

The Library is offering online courses that provide individual, self paced information skills instruction to first year students. Following the successful conversion of the Library's Infopathways tutorial modules to WebCT software, five new courses are now available on CygNET Online: Accounting, Law, Anthropology, Asian Studies and European Studies.

This interactive approach to developing library skills provides online instruction and automatically graded quizzes that give students immediate feedback on their progress. The information is easy to access and use. The courses can be integrated into teaching units and both group and individual quiz results can be made available to academic staff to include in Unit assessment. Feedback on the courses from both academic staff and students has been very positive. For further information, please contact your Reference Librarian.

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