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At the beginning of December, I purchased the 2003 editions of the World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH) (672 pages, 25 Euro), and the Shortwave Frequency Guide (SWFG) from Klingenfuss (324 pages Broadcasting and 203 pages Utility, 35 Euro). (Look for advs in SWN/DEC pages 2 & 36). Since then I have analyzed and compared their value to the DXer. These results can be compared to my analysis in SWN two years ago.

Method

I did not choose the traditional way of reviewing each section in the Handbooks, but instead analyzing what information they were able to provide me when I listened to 100 randomly selected broadcast stations throughout the shortwavebands. Half of the stations carried domestic broadcasts, and half of them international broadcasts. All stations were 100% identified no matter what language. Every DX-er, in Europe at least, have the possibility to listen to the same stations and check my loggings. The list of the 100 loggings with my detailed analysis is mentioned below.

Analysis

I found the following details essential for the DX-er during his listening and identification of the transmitter and broadcast: Station name, Exact language, Scheduled broadcast time, Exact frequency and Transmitter site.

In addition I took note, if the Handbooks could provide the DX-er with additional, useful information, for his propagation calculations and reception report writing. However, the correctness of this information has not been evaluated.

For each logging I gave a score, depending on the information in each of the Handbooks. The essential details counted double.

Comparison

I compared the correctness (in %) of the details of the 100 heard stations on the following details:

	WRTH		SWFG	
	Internation.	Domestic	Internation.	Domestic
<u>Essential:</u>				
Exact language	98	98	100	92
Time schedule	90	84	96	96
Frequency	88	84	94	80
Transmitter site	84	84	84	80
<u>Useful:</u>				
Geograf. coord.	90	58	Missing	
ID in heard lang.	56	28	Missing	
QSL policy	76	42	Missing	
Postal address	94	100	Missing	
E-mail address	90	40	Missing	
Web address	96	66	Missing	

For identification purposes, it is necessary that all the essential details are readily available in the Handbook. This was found to be the case in **68% (57%)** of the checks in the **WRTH**, and **74% (77%)** in **SWFG**. (In brackets are the 2001 results).

I also noted that both Handbooks still are weakest on updated details on domestic SW broadcasting compared to international broadcasting. It will probably always be so, because the domestic broadcasting organisations are less cooperative in providing details than the international broadcasters.

Another important feature when searching for and identifying broadcast stations, is their complete frequency schedules, so that all parallel frequencies can be checked. The schedules are handily available and very complete in both handbooks.

It shall not be forgotten that the WRTH contains comprehensive tests of receivers and other useful articles in addition to the station information. Both book have articles about future aspects of the Digital Radio Mondiale.

Conclusion

It is evident that the editors of both Handbooks have done a tremendous work to gather up-to-date schedules and other information, and each of the Handbooks is very useful for the DX-er.

The **SWFG** is a Frequency List with SW schedules, but without any other details about the stations. The German editor, Joerg Klingenfuss, and his staff has put a lot of effort to make it as up-to-date as possible and it is slightly more accurate than the **WRTH** in the details, it contains. It is in English. Its big advantage is that for each SW frequency you can read at what time it is used by various broadcasters and in which language.

I am afraid that the ordinary Broadcast DX-ers do not have any use of the Utility pages, so I suggest the book split up into two cheaper publications in the future.

In contrary to other Handbooks, the **WRTH** contains LW, MW, SW, some FM and some TV information. Compared to previous years, the National and International sections have been much better coordinated, and the SW frequency list on pages 565-595 is again matching the Country sections. Thus a lot has improved after the change of Editor last spring and finally I can again recommend serious DX-ers to buy this "DX-ers Bible" ! My congratulations to Publisher Nicholas Hardyman and his team!

These were my conclusions and comments based upon the analysis of the published details on the 100 logged stations. Please note that this was a comparison and not an ordinary review of each of the two publications. (Ed)

Comparison SWFG/WRTH 2003 by Anker Petersen, DSWCI

22 JAN 2003

Explanation:

SWFG 2003 Shortwave Frequency Guide, Klingenfuss Publications, Germany

WRTH World Radio TV Handbook 2003, WRTH Publications Ltd. , UK

For the logged station: + = Correct information available _ = No or wrong information available.

l exact language	g geographical coordinates of site
t time schedule	a announcement in language heard
f frequency	v verification policy
s transmitter site acc. to HFCC	p postal address
	e e-mail address
	w web address

When counting the score: l, t, f and s counts double because of their importance for the DX-er.

kHz	Jan	UTC	ITU	Station	Transmitter Site	Language	l	t	f	s	SWFG	l	t	f	s	gavpew	WRTH	Remarks
<u>External services</u>																		
4140	10	0450	CLA	R Kurdistan	?	Kurdish	++_	4				+__	_+	__++				2+3
4810	12	0445	ARM	V.of Armenia	Gavar	Farsi	+_++	6				+++	++	++++_				8+4
4860	06	1925	IND	AIR	Delhi	Urdu	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
4890	07	0415	F	RFI	Moyabi	French	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
4950	06	1935	USA	VOA	Pinheira	English	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
4960	11	0350	USA	VOA	Pinheira	English	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
5050	11	0400	USA	WWRB	Manchester,TN	English	+++_	6				++_+	++	++++				6+5
5070	08	2212	USA	WWRB	Nashville	English	++++	8				++_+	++	++++				6+6
5930	09	1645	CZE	R Prague	Litomysl	Czech	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
5960	11	0415	CYP	R Montecarlo	Sackville	Arabic	++++	8				_____	+	_____				0+1
5965	11	0420	I	RAI	Prato Smeraldo	Ukrainian	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
5965	11	0430	USA	R Sawa	Kavala	Arabic	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+3
5980	11	0433	MRC	RTV Maroc.	Tangier	Arabic	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
5990	11	0435	F	RFI	Issoudun	French	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6000	11	0450	CUB	R Habana	La Habana	English	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6005	11	0455	G	BBC	Ascension	English	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+5
6025	11	0500	HNG	R Budapest	Szekesfehevar	Croatian	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
6035	11	0505	USA	VOA	Greenville,NC	English	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6045	11	0510	F	RFI	Issoudun	French	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6055	11	0515	KWT	R Kuwait	Sulabiyah	Arabic	+++_	6				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6055	11	0520	E	REE	Noblejas	Spanish	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6065	11	0525	S	R Sweden	Horby	Swedish	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6075	11	0530	D	DW	Wertachtal	German	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6080	11	0535	USA	VOA	Pinheira	English	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6090	11	0545	USA	Univ. Network	The Valley	English	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+3
6100	11	0550	D	DW	Sackville	German	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
6110	11	0555	G	BBC	Skelton	Arabic	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+4
7430	06	1625	CAN	RCI	Moscow	Russian	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+5
7440	06	1655	RUS	V.of Russia	Moscow	Russian	++_	4				++_	__	++++				4+4
7455	06	1658	GUM	KTWR	Merizo	Mandarin	+_++	6				++_+	++	++++				6+5
7470	06	1714	CLA	R Barabari	Sitkunai	Farsi	++_	4				++_	_+	__++				4+3
7475	06	1905	GRC	V. of Greece	Kavala	Polish	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
7490	06	1910	NOR	NRK	Sveio	Norwegian	++++	8				+++_	__	++++				6+4
7500	06	1916	BUL	R Bulgaria	Sofia	Russian	++++	8				++++	++++	++++				8+6
9980	11	1705	NOR	NRK	Kvitsoy	Norwegian	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
11600	06	1445	SEY	FEBA	Mahe	Hindi	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
11600	06	1504	CZE	R Prague	Litomysl	Spanish	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
11605	06	1539	ISR	Kol Israel	Yavne	Farsi	+++_	6				++++	++	++++				8+5
11755	09	0655	FIN	R Finland	Pori	Finnish	++++	8				++++	++	++++				8+5
11760	10	0949	G	BBC	A'seela	English	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+5
11755	10	1004	USA	Univ. Network	The Valley	English	++++	8				++++	++	++_+				8+3
11780	10	1013	USA	WSHB	? (Taiwan)	English	+++_	6				+++_	_+	++++				6+4
11785	10	1040	EGY	R Cairo	Abu Zaabal	Arabic	++++	8				+++_	+++	+++_+				6+5

										<u>External services continued</u>			
11800	10	1050	I	RAI	Prato Smeraldo	Italian	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6		
11820	10	1055	G	BBC	Zygi	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+__+++	8+4		
11845	10	1058	F	RFI	Issoudun	French	++++	8	++_+	+++++	6+6		
11980	11	1200	CHN	CRI	Kunming	English	++++	8	+++_	+++++	6+6		
12070	10	0842	MCO	TWR	Cerrik	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6		
15485	11	1250	G	BBC	Skelton	English	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5		
17885	10	1030	KWT	Pinoy R	Sulabiyah	Pilipino	+++_	6	++++	+++++	8+6		
										<u>Domestic services</u>			
3326	13	0430	NIG	FRCN	Lagos	English	++++	8	++++	_+_+++	8+4		
4635	12	1550	TJK	Tajik R	Yangiyul	Tajik	++++	8	++++	+__+++	8+4		
4770	08	2217	NIG	FRCN	Kaduna	English	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
4790	12	1605	PAK	R Pakistan	Islamabad	English	-+++	6	++++	+__++_+	8+4		
4795	08	2222	RUS	Buryat R	Selenginsk	Buryat	_+++	6	++++	___+__	8+2		
4800	07	0330	LSO	LNBS	Lancers Gap	SeSotho	_+++	6	++++	+++++_+	8+5		
4800	08	2228	CHN	CNR 1	Shijiazhuang	Mandarin	++__	4	++++	+__+__+	8+3		
4820	11	0335	BOT	R Botswana	Sebele	SeTswana	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6		
4820	08	2238	CHN	Xizang PBS	Lhasa	Mandarin	++__	4	++++	+__+__	8+2		
4845	08	2241	MTN	R Mauritanie	Nouakchott	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+++++_	8+5		
4930	11	0345	TKM	Turkmen R	Asgabat	Turkmen	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
4976	12	0300	UGA	R Uganda	Kampala	English	+_++	6	+_++	+++++_	6+5	S/on Sunday	
5015	08	2155	TKM	Turkmen R	Asgabat	Turkmen	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
5030	08	2205	CHN	CNR 1	Beijing	Mandarin	++++	8	++++	+__+__+	8+3		
5047	08	2208	TGO	RTT	Lomé	French	___	0	++_+	_+++__	6+3		
5054	11	0406	CTR	Faro del Caribe	San Isidro	Spanish	++++	8	+++_	___+++	6+3		
6005	13	1010	D	DLRB	Berlin	German	++++	8	+_++	___+__+	6+2		
6030	13	0345	RUS	R Rossii	Perm	Russian	++_+	6	++_+	___+++	6+3	Ex 5290	
6030	13	1000	D	SWR 3	Mühlacker	German	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
6050	13	0437	EQA	HCJB	Pifo	Spanish	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5		
6060	13	0303	I	RAI	Prato Smeraldo	English	++++	8	___+	+++++	4+6		
6080	11	0528	BLR	BR 1	Kalodziscy	Belarusian	++++	8	++++	___+++	8+3		
6085	11	0538	D	BR 5	Ismaning	German	++++	8	++++	___+__+	8+2		
6090	11	0543	NIG	FRCN	Kaduna	Hausa	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
6190	13	0945	D	DLF	Berlin	German	++++	8	+_++	___+__+	6+2		
6265	13	0425	ZMB	ZNBC	Lusaka	Vernacular	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5		
7220	12	0518	RUS	R Rossii	Yekaterinburg	Russian	++++	8	++++	+__+++	8+4		
7265	12	0532	D	SWRf	Rohrdorf	German	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
7275	12	0540	TUN	ERTT	Sfax	Arabic	++++	8	++_+	+++++	6+6		
7400	06	1601	POL	R Maryja	Armavir	Polish	+++_	6	++++	+_++++	8+5		
9515	13	0454	OMA	R Sultanate	Seeb	Arabic	++++	8	+++_	+++++	6+6		
9575	13	0502	MRC	Medi 1	Nador	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5		
9665	13	2200	B	R Marumby	Florianopolis	Portuguese	++++	8	++++	___+__	8+1		
9675	10	0515	B	R Cancao N.	C. Paulista	Portuguese	++++	8	+_++	___+__+	6+2		
9675	13	2206	B	R Cancao N.	C. Paulista	Portuguese	++++	8	+_++	___+__+	6+2		
9695	13	2211	B	R Rio Mar	Manaus	Portuguese	++++	8	+_++	___+__	6+1		
9715	10	0545	ARS	BSKSA	Riyadh	Arabic	++__	4	++_+	+_+++__	6+3	Holy Quran	
9800	12	0610	EGY	R Cairo	Abu Zaabal	Arabic	++++	8	+++_	+++++_+	6+5		
11770	10	0958	CHN	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	Mongolian	++__	4	++++	+__+__	8+2		
11780	13	2155	B	R Nacional	Brasilia	Portuguese	++_+	6	++++	+__+__+	8+3		
11960	12	0555	JOR	R Jordan	Al Karanah	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6		
12050	13	1058	EGY	R Cairo	Abis	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+++++_+	8+5		
12060	11	0600	POL	R Maryja	Samara	Polish	++++	8	++++	+_++++	6+5		
12085	13	1052	SYR	SARBC	Adra	Arabic	++++	8	+_++	++++__	6+4		
13610	13	1036	CHN	CNR 1	Kunming	Mandarin	++++	8	++__	___+__+	4+3		
13765	13	1020	CHN	CNR 1	Beijing	Mandarin	++__	4	++__	___+__+	4+2		
15515	13	1034	CHN	CNR 1	Beijing	Mandarin	++__	4	++__	___+__+	4+2		
17495	12	0600	CHN	CNR 1	Beijing	Mandarin	++__	4	++__	+__+__+	4+2		
17535	06	1554	ISR	Kol Israel	Yavne	Hebrew	+++_	6	++++	+_++++	8+5		
21505	10	0625	ARS	BSKSA	Riyadh	Arabic	++++	8	++++	++++__	8+4		