

Mid December, I received the 2004 editions of the World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH) ( 688 pages about Broadcasting, £ 22 or about 31 Euro), and the Shortwave Frequency Guide (SWFG) from Klingenfuss (298 pages about Broadcasting and 234 pages about Utility, 35 Euro). Since then I have analyzed and compared their value to the Shortwave Broadcast Dxr. These results can be compared to my analysis a year 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 log list with my detailed analysis will be published on our home page [www.dswci.org](http://www.dswci.org) , Latest News.

**Analysis**

I consider the following details to be 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. Thus it was checked for each logging, if the Handbooks contained these details and they were correct.

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. The scores are shown on the log list only.

**Comparison**

I then compared how many of the 100 stations heard which had the following details correct:

	WRTH		SWFG	
	Internation.	Domestic	Internation.	Domestic
<u>Essential:</u>				
Exact language	100	80	90	96
Time schedule	90	90	86	94
Frequency	94	96	86	96
Transmitter site	88	90	82	94
<u>Useful:</u>				
Geograf. coord.	96	52	Missing	
ID in lang. heard	68	40	Missing	
QSL policy	86	38	Missing	
Postal address	100	100	Missing	
E-mail address	98	62	Missing	
Web address	100	48	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 **78% (68%)** of the checks in the **WRTH**, and **80% (74%)** in **SWFG**. (In brackets are the 2003 results).

**Conclusions**

It is evident that the editors of both Handbooks have done a tremendous work to gather up-to-date schedules and other information and to improve the quality compared to the 2003 Editions and both have succeeded in this ! Each of the Handbooks is useful for the DX-er. I need both for my broadcast DX-ing on shortwave, because they supplement each other.

The details published in both Handbooks are at the same, very high accuracy level. It can hardly be better! But various kinds of information are still missing as indicated by my figures above.

An 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.

I also noted that both Handbooks still are weak 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.

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. It is in English. Its big advantage is that for each shortwave frequency you can read at what time it is used by various broadcasters and in which language. This is also possible in "The Shortwave Guide" published each summer by the WRTH, but is missing in its traditional Main edition at winter.

Klingenfuss also sells the same broadcast and utility database on a CD-Rom called "2004 Super Frequency List" where you easily can search on a PC using Windows, for specific frequencies, countries, stations, languages or times. This very useful tool costs 25 Euro.

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

In contrary to the SWFG, the **WRTH** also contains LW, MW, FM and TV information. Besides the above mentioned improvement in information about shortwave stations, I also noted that all clandestine stations have been moved to a separate section called "Clandestine and other Target Broadcasts" placed after the International Broadcasts. Both Handbooks cover Clandestine stations well, but the list in the WRTH is the most complete. Another improvement in the WRTH is a highly needed cross reference system for broadcasters using foreign sites.

It shall not be forgotten that the WRTH also contains tests of receivers and other useful articles in addition to the station information. Both books have articles about Digital Radio.

Again this year, I can recommend serious DX-ers to buy this "DX-ers Bible" ! I have all Editions of the WRTH since 1961 in my collection and I am pleased to say that the 2004 Edition is the best ! My congratulations to Publisher Nicholas Hardyman and his team.

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

Explanation:

SWFG 2004 Shortwave Frequency Guide, Klingenfuss Publications, Germany

WRTH World Radio TV Handbook 2004, WRTH Publications Ltd. , UK

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

- l exact language
- t time schedule
- f frequency
- s transmitter site acc. to HFCC
- g geographical coordinates of site
- a announcement in language heard
- v verification policy
- 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 Dec UTC ITU Station Transmitter Site Language ltfS SWFG ltfS gapew WRTH

External services

3200	27	1915	SWZ	TWR	Mpangela R.	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
3210	25	0635	USA	WWCR	Nashville	English	++++	8	+_++	+++++	6+6
3255	27	1910	AFS	BBC WS	Meyerton	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
3995	25	0640	D	Deutsche W.	Wertachtal	German	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
4810	26	1940	ARM	V.of Armenia	Yerevan	Armenian	+++_	6	++++	+++++	8+6
4860	27	1710	IND	AIR	Kingsway	Urdu	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
4960	26	0305	STP	VOA	Pinheira	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
5025	26	0310	UZB	R Tashkent	Toshkent	Uzbek	++_+	6	++_+	+++++	6+6
5029*	26	0325	CTR	Univ. Network	Cahuita	English	+_++	6	++++	+__+_+	8+3*Not on 5030
5070	25	0740	USA	WWCR	Nashville	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
5905	27	1450	KAZ	Dem.Vo.Burma	Almaty	Burmese	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
5915	22	1445	CHN	CRI	Huhhot	Mongolian	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
5925	27	1500	D	Vo.Dem.Eritrea	Juelich	Tigrinya	___	0	++++	+++++	8+6
5955	22	1520	HOL	R Netherlands	Flevo	Dutch	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
5965	22	1530	TUR	V. of Turkey	Emirler	Azeri	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
5975	27	1515	SNG	BBC WS	Kranji	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
5995	27	1520	POL	R Polonia	Warsaw	Belarusian	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
6040	28	0100	ROU	R Romania Int.	Tiganesti	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6040	27	1700	MRC	VOA	Briech	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6040	27	1705	CHN	CRI	Urumqi	Russian	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
6075	26	1625	D	Deutsche W.	Wertachtal	German	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6095	28	0105	D	R Liberty	Holzkirchen	Russian	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6100	28	0110	POR	Deutsche W.	Sines	German	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6105	26	1635	D	R Liberty	Lampertheim	Russian	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6135	26	0350	ASC	R Japan	Ascension	Swahili	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
6170	25	0750	FIN	SWR	Virrat	Finnish	___	0	++++	+_++++	8+5
6180	26	1650	D	R Liberty	Juelich	Tatar	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6195	25	0700	G	BBC WS	Rampisham	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
6985	23	0515	ERI	V. of Freedom	?	Vernacular	+++_	6	+_+_	__++++	4+4
7105	23	0525	STP	VOA	Pinheira	Hausa	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
7105	23	0535	ASC	BBC	English Bay	Hausa	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
7460	27	0025	RUS	IBC Tamil	Novosibirsk	Tamil	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
7475	20	1410	ARM	R Free Asia	Gavar	Korean	++++	8	+++_	+++++	6+6
7999	22	1535	ERI	V. of Sudan	?	Arabic	___	0	+++_	_+_+++	6+4
9410	22	1700	CYP	BBC WS	Cape Greco	English	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
9420	22	1710	GRC	V. of Greece	Avlida	Greek	+++_	6	++++	+++++	8+6
9585	20	1400	D	New Horizon	Juelich	Vietnamese	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
9930	27	1510	HWA	Fang Guang	Naalehu	Chinese	___	0	++++	+++++	8+6
11530	25	0630	MDA	Vo Mesopot.	Maiac	Kurdish	+_++	6	++_	++_+++	4+5
11690	25	0755	D	R Afrique Int.	Juelich	French	++++	8	++++	+++++	8+6
11690	25	0810	FIN	SWR	Virrat	Finnish	___	0	++++	+_++++	8+5
11725	27	1835	THA	R Free Iraq	Udorn Thani	Arabic	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5

11855	27	1850	THA	R Thailand	Udon Thani	Thai	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
11995	20	1430	MRC	R Sawa	Briech	Arabic	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5
12000	20	1405	MRA	R Free Asia	Tinian	Korean	++++	8	+++_	++++++	6+6
15170	23	1430	MRC	R Sawa	Briech	Arabic	+__	2	+__	++_+++	2+5
17495	27	1445	MDG	Dem.Vo.Burma	Talata/Volon.	Burmese	++++	8	++++	++++++	8+6
17870	27	1505	D	R Rhino Int.	Juelich	English	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5
21455	24	1035	AUT	BBC	Moosbrunn	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
21465	24	1040	PAK	R Pakistan	Islamabad	Urdu	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5

Domestic services

3320	27	1905	AFS	SABC	Meyerton	Afrikaans	++++	8	++++	+__+_	8+3
4635	26	1930	TJK	Tajik R	Yangi-Yul	Tajik	+_++	6	++++	+__+_	8+3
4760	28	0030	IND	AIR	Port Blair	Hindi	++++	8	_+++	__+++	6+3
4770	26	1705	NIG	FRCN	Kaduna	English	++++	8	++++	+_+__	8+2
4775	28	0035	IND	AIR	Imphal	English	++++	8	++++	_++++	8+4
4784	25	0650	MLI	RTV Malienne	Kati	Vernacular	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5
4790	27	1715	PAK	Azad Kashmir	Islamabad	Urdu	++++	8	++++	++_+__	8+3
4820	26	2000	CHN	Xizang PBS	Lhasa	Chinese	++__	4	++++	+_+__	8+2
4825	25	0655	B	R Cancao Nova	C. Paulista	Portuguese	++++	8	++++	__+_+	8+2
4830	26	0240	IND	AIR	Jammu	Hindi	++++	8	++++	__++++	8+4
4830	24	2200	MNG	Mongolian R	Altai	Mongolian	+++_	6	++++	__+++	8+3
4835	26	2005	MLI	RTV Malienne	Kati	French	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5
4840	28	0040	IND	AIR	Mumbai	Bengali	++++	8	_+++	+_+++	6+4
4845	25	0715	MTN	ORTM	Nouakchott	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+_+__	8+3
4880	28	0045	IND	AIR	Lucknow	Hindi	++++	8	_+++	__+++	6+3
4885	25	0720	B	R Cl.do Para	Belem	Portuguese	++++	8	+_++	__+++	6+3
4890	26	2010	PNG	NBC	Port Moresby	English	++++	8	++++	__+__	8+2
4910	28	0050	IND	AIR	Jaipur	Hindi	+_++	6	_+++	__+++	6+3
4910	26	0250	ZMB	ZNBC	Lusaka	English	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5
4915	26	2015	GHA	GBC	Accra	English	++++	8	++++	++_+++	8+5
4920	28	0055	IND	AIR	Chennai	Hindi	++++	8	_+++	+_+++	6+4
4915	25	0725	B	R Difusora	Macapa	Portuguese	++++	8	++++	__+__	8+2
4930	26	0255	TKM	Turkmen R	Asqabat	Turkmen	++++	8	++++	__+_	8+1
4976	26	2020	UGA	R Uganda	Kampala	English	++++	8	++++	++_+__	8+4
4980	22	1410	CHN	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	Uighur	++_+	6	++++	+_+__	8+2
4985	25	0735	B	R Brasil C.	Goiania	Portuguese	++++	8	++++	__+_	8+1
4990	26	0300	SUR	R Apintie	Paramaribo	Dutch	++++	8	++++	_++++	8+5
5010	26	1715	MDG	RTV Malagasy	Antananarivo	Malagasy	++++	8	+++_	++++++	6+6
5015	27	1720	TKM	Turkmen R	Asqabat	Turkmen	++++	8	++++	__+_	8+1
5030	26	1710	CHN	CNR 1	Beijing	Chinese	++++	8	++++	+_+__	8+2
5050	26	0330	TZA	R Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam	Swahili	++++	8	++++	++_+__	8+4
5055	26	0335	CTR	Faro del Caribe	San Isidro	Spanish	++++	8	+++_	__+++	6+3
5060	22	1425	CHN	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	Chinese	_+++	6	++++	+_+__	8+2
5930	22	1450	RUS	R Rossii	Monchegorsk	Russian	++++	8	__	__+__	0+2
6005	26	1545	D	Deutschland-R	Berlin-Britz	German	++++	8	__+__	+_+__	4+3
6010	26	1605	BLR	Belaruskaje R	Brest	Belarusian	++++	8	++++	__+++	8+3
6025	27	1525	HNG	R Budapest	Szekesf.	Hungarian	__++	4	++++	++++++	8+6
6030	26	1610	D	SWR 3	Muehlacker	German	++++	8	__+__	__+_	4+1
6065	26	1620	S	R Sweden	Hoerby	Swedish	++++	8	++++	++++++	8+6
6085	26	1630	D	Bayerisch. Rf.	Ismaining	German	++++	8	_+++	+_+__	6+3
6155	26	1640	AUT	ORF 1	Moosbrunn	German	++++	8	++++	+_++++	8+5
6165	26	1645	HRV	Hrvatski R	Deanovac	Croatian	++++	8	++++	++++++	8+6
6940	26	1655	ETH	R Fana	Addis Ababa	Amharic	++++	8	++++	__+__	8+2
6973	26	1700	ISR	Galei Zahal	Jaffa	Hebrew	+++_	6	+++_	+_+__	6+4
7200	23	1410	SDN	SNBC	Omdurman	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+_+__	8+2
7260	24	2205	MNG	Mongolian R	Ulaanbaatar	Mongolian	++++	8	++++	__+++	8+3
9575	27	1830	MRC	R Medi 1	Nador	French	++++	8	++++	++++++	8+6
9590	20	1350	NOR	R Denmark	Sveio	Danish	++++	8	__	+_++++	0+5
21495	24	1045	ARS	BSKSA	Riyadh	Arabic	++++	8	++++	+_+__	8+3
21505	24	1050	ARS	BSKSA	Riyadh	Arabic	++++	8	++++	++++_	8+4