

Bandscan analysis of Radio Handbooks for 2005

by Anker Petersen, Denmark, 04 January, 2005. © DSWCI
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Again this year the publishers of the 2005 editions of the World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH), Nicholas Hardyman, UK, and of the Shortwave Frequency Guide (SWFG), from Joerg Klingenfuss, Germany, sent me review copies of their latest Handbooks for a comparative analysis. On 28 October 2004 the B04 winter schedules became effective. I received the Handbooks around Christmas. Within the few days available since then, I have analysed and compared their value to the SW Broadcast Dixer.

The WRTH 2005 looks thinner than the 2004 Edition, but once more it contains 688 pages about Broadcasting. It is, however, on thinner and whiter paper, nicely printed. The SWFG 2005 contains 508 pages (307 about Broadcasting and 201 about Utility stations). Its predecessor had 532 pages. At the same time Klingenfuss has published the 2005 Super Frequency List (SFL) on a CD-Rom with the same total of 19,000 entries.

The new WRTH costs £ 22 from the Publisher in England or 34 Euro for members of the DSWCI from Hein Radio Bookshop in Germany, while the SWFG costs 35 Euro from the Publisher, Klingenfuss. The SFL costs 25 Euro, but the package price for SWFG + SFL is 50 Euro. Prices include postage and handling.

Bandscanning

As in my analysis a year ago, I did not choose the traditional way of reviewing each section in the Handbooks. Instead I scanned through the shortwave bands randomly, selected 50 broadcast stations and identified them 100%, no matter what language. I then checked in the two Handbooks, if each particular broadcast heard, was mentioned in the Country Section and in the SW frequency list (Station name and frequency). Half of the stations carried domestic broadcasts, and half of them international broadcasts. Every DX-er, in Europe at least, has the possibility to listen to the same stations and check my loggings. The list with my detailed analysis will be published on our home page 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 have these details and they are correct. This is then marked "+" in my detailed analysis.

I still consider it useful, if the Handbooks can provide the DX-er with additional information about Geographical Coordinates for his propagation calculations and ID in the language heard. Furthermore it is necessary to know current addresses (postal, e-mail and web) and QSL-policy for his reception report writing.

Most of these useful details can be found in the WRTH, but they are still missing in the SWFG !

Comparison

I then counted how many of the 50 stations heard which had all essential details correct (each figure out of 25 possible):

	WRTH		SWFG	
	Internation.	Domestic	Internation.	Domestic
Country Section	22	23	21	19
Frequency List	24	24	23	24.

Sum converted to %	WRTH	SWFG
Country Section	90	80
Frequency List	96	94.

For identification purposes, it is necessary that all the essential details are readily available in the Country Section of the Handbook. This was found to be the case in **90% (78%, 68%)** of the checks in the **WRTH**, and **80% (80%, 74%)** in **SWFG**. (In brackets are the results from 2004, 2003). Particularly the WRTH has steadily been improving this Section.

Please be aware that changes in broadcast schedules occur nearly each day and also during the period from the editorial deadline till the printed Handbook reaches the listener. It has always been so. Because of this, it is impossible to achieve a 100% score! I must state that the Country Sections in both Handbooks are very comprehensive and accurate.

In both Handbooks the Frequency Lists are very up-to-date!

Both Handbooks cover Clandestine stations well, but as for other broadcasting stations, the list in the WRTH has much more details about the stations.

Conclusions

It is evident that the editors of both Handbooks once more have done a tremendous work to gather up-to-date broadcasting schedules and other information for the B04 period and both have succeeded in this ! Each of the Handbooks is useful for the DX-er and ordinary shortwave listener. I need both Handbooks for my broadcast DX-ing on shortwave, because they supplement each other. The details published in both of them are at a very high accuracy level and can hardly be much better!

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 easily available and very complete in both Handbooks.

The **SWFG** is a Frequency List with SW schedules, but without any other details about the stations. It is in English. On page 206 is an interesting article about "The digital future: DRM is here!"

I prefer the SWFG when I scan the SW broadcast bands, because the current schedule and language is added to the Frequency List. Moreover, the SFL CD-Rom is unsurpassed with its search capability on a PC: In a split-second you are able to get all entries in either frequency-, station-, country-, language- or timeorder which is extremely useful for the shortwave listener.

The German editor, Joerg Klingenfuss, and his staff has put a lot of effort to make it as up-to-date as possible.

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

In contrary to the SWFG, the **WRTH** also contains LW, MW, FM and some TV information. Therefore I use this Handbook when I DX on these bands or need more information about SW stations.

The 2005 Edition of the WRTH contains tests e.g. of JRC NRD-545G and the PC-based Winradio G313i and interesting articles such as "Ancillary Equipment", "Managing the HF Spectrum" (Mike Still of VT Communications), "Digital Radio Update" and "World Music Radio".

Again this year, I can recommend serious DX-ers to buy this "DX-ers Bible" ! It is really a MUST! My congratulations to Publisher Nicholas Hardyman and his international team.

Best 73, Anker

Comparison SWFG/WRTH 2005 by Anker Petersen, DSWCI

04 JAN 2005

Explanation:

SWFG 2005 Shortwave Frequency Guide, Klingenfuss Publications, Germany
 WRTH World Radio TV Handbook 2005, WRTH Publications Ltd. , UK

My loggings were done in Denmark on an AOR AR7030PLUS between 29 December 2004 and 02 January 2005.

My analysis at each logging is shown as: Country Section / Frequency List.

For the logged station: + = Scheduled at that time and language. - = No or wrong information available.

kHz	Station	Transmitter ITU	UTC	SWFG	WRTH	Remarks
<u>International broadcasts</u>						
3955	WYFR Family R D		1850	-/+	-/-	SWFG scheduled 0500-0600
3955	R Taiwan Int.	G	1905	-/+	+/+	SWFG not scheduled in French
3965	R Taiwan Int.	F	1855	-/-	+/+	SWFG scheduled on 3955
4760	R Liberty	TJK	0150	+/+	+/+	
4810	V. of Armenia	ARM	1915	+/+	+/+	Site: Yerevan (WRTH), Gavar(SWFG)
4860	AIR Delhi	IND	1910	+/+	+/+	
4940	VOA	STP	1935	+/+	+/+	
4960	VOA	STP	0315	+/+	-/+	WRTH: Old schedule from *0400
5025	R Tashkent	UZB	0325	-/-	-/+	New frequency at this hour
5070	WWCR	USA	0330	+/+	+/+	
5815	WMR	DNK	1030	+/+	+/+	
5965	BBC	THA	2210	+/+	+/+	
6055	R Kuwait	KWT	0340	+/+	+/+	
6065	VOIRI	IRN	2345	+/+	+/+	
6075	Deutsche Welle	D	0345	+/+	+/+	
6085	WYFR Family R	USA	2350	+/+	+/+	
6110	BBC	G	2355	+/+	+/+	
6135	R Romania Int.	ROU	2353	+/+	+/+	
6150	CBS Gen.Netw.	TWN	2358	+/+	+/+	
6190	BBC	CYP ?	0210	+/+	+/+	SWFG: Skelton, WRTH: Cyprus
9685	VOA	GRC	1555	+/+	+/+	
11550	R Sweden Int.	MDG	0145	+/+	+/+	
15530	RNZI	NZL	1155	+/+	+/+	
15545	VOIRI	IRN	1205	+/+	+/+	
15555	BBC	CYP	1210	+/+	+/+	
Sum				21/23	22/24	

Domestic broadcasts

4788	Rdif. Malienne	MLI	2105	+/+	+/+	Frequency drifted
4790	R Pakistan	PAK	0155	+/+	+/-	It is no longer on 4790.4 (SWFG)
4810	Armenian Nat.R	ARM	1320	-/+	+/+	SWFG: Domestic brc. unlisted
4820	Xizang PBS	CHN	0010	-/-	+/+	Missing in SWFG
4830	AIR Jammu	IND	0220	+/+	+/+	
4840	AIR Mumbai	IND	0235	+/+	+/+	
4840	AIR Mumbai	IND	0005	-/+	+/+	Old schedule in SWFG
4860	AIR Delhi	IND	0240	+/+	+/+	
4874.8	R Dif. Roraima	B	0245	+/+	+/+	
4910	AIR Jaipur	IND	0250	+/+	+/+	SWFG: S/on 0230. It is at 0025
4910	ZNBC, Lusaka	ZMB	0305	+/+	+/+	
4925	RRI Jambi	INS	2350	+/+	+/+	
4930	Türkmen R	TKM	0310	+/+	+/+	
4950	R Nac. Angola	AGL	1940	+/+	+/+	
4976	R Uganda	UGA	1945	+/+	+/+	
4980	Xinjiang PBS	CHN	2345	+/+	+/+	
4985	R Brasil Central	B	0320	-/+	-/+	Sometimes 24 h
5010	R Nat. Malagasy	MDG	2015	+/+	+/+	
5015	Türkmen R	TKM	1500	-/+	+/+	SWFG wrong time for E nx
5015	Türkmen R	TKM	2100	+/+	-/+	WRTH listed as 0000-2000
5030	Rdif. TV Burkina	BFA	2340	+/+	+/+	
5040	AIR Jeypore	IND	1505	-/+	+/+	City name is not Jaypur (SWFG)
6060	RAI	I	2330	+/+	+/+	
6973	Galei Tzahal	ISR	2340	+/+	+/+	
9575	Medi 1	MRC	2335	+/+	+/+	
Sum				19/24	23/24	