

Bandscan analysis of Radio Handbooks for 2006

by Anker Petersen, Denmark, 16 January, 2006. © DSWCI
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Again this year the publishers of the 2006 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 30 October 2005 the B05 winter schedules became effective. I received the Handbooks in mid December and have now analysed and compared their value to the SW Broadcast Dxer.

This is the 60th edition of the WRTH and the 10th edition of the SWFG, so the DSWCI hereby congratulates both editorial teams on that fine achievement. It is hard work by many people to edit and publish such high quality products year after year!

Because of its big anniversary, the WRTH 2006 has been expanded to 704 pages, including 96 in full colour, with some extraordinary articles including a Brief History of WRTH, 50 Years DX-ing by Jerry Berg, 60 years of Reception describing the receiver market (Besides that there is also the usual Review of new Receivers). This is followed by an article about 60 Years of Technology and interviews on the Future of Radio. There is also a Digital Radio Update and a presentation of one of the many WRTH contributors, Jose Jacob in India.

On pages 97-704 are the fully updated sections with all details about National and International Radio, MW and SW Frequency Lists as one section, on page 648 a useful list of current DRM International Broadcasts followed by Television and References.

The SWFG 2006 contains 496 pages (296 about Broadcasting and 200 about Utility stations). The Broadcasting part begins with a comprehensive article about Digital Modulation including nine pages with introduction of current and coming DRM receivers and an up-to-date list of DRM schedules on LW, MW and SW. At the same time Klingenfuss has published the 2006 Super Frequency List (SFL) on a CD-Rom with the same total of 19,100 Utility and Broadcast entries on SW. This modern tool is very easy to use on a PC using Windows and has excellent search functions for specific frequencies, countries, stations, languages, call signs and times - or any combination thereof!

The new WRTH costs 22.00 GBP, including worldwide postage, from the Publisher in England or 32 Euro (+ postage) for members of the DSWCI from Hein Radio Bookshop, Germany. The SWFG costs 35 Euro including worldwide surface mailing from the Publisher, Klingenfuss. The SFL costs 25 Euro, but the package price for SWFG + SFL is only 50 Euro.

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 100 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 with the essential details of station name, frequency, scheduled at that time, exact language and site of transmitter. 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 www.dswci.org, click Latest News.

Analysis

I consider the five details mentioned above to be essential for the DX-er during his listening and identification of the transmitter and broadcast.

Thus it was checked for each logging, if the Handbooks have all these essential details and they are correct. This is then marked "+" in my detailed analysis. If just one is missing, they got a "-".

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 completely in the SWFG !

This year I noticed that there is no real difference between the information in the Country Sections and in the Frequency Lists. This is an improvement since the 2005 editions!

Comparison

I then counted how many of the 100 stations heard which had all essential details correct (each figure out of 50 possible):

	WRTH		SWFG	
	Internation.	Domestic	Internation.	Domestic
Analysis result	43	39	42	40.
<u>Sum</u>	WRTH		SWFG	
Analysis result	82		82.	

Thus both publications are very even, but the results seem to be a little below the results, I found in the 2005 editions. But please note that the remaining 18 loggings in most cases just missed one out of five details, so my conclusion is that 96% of the details in both Handbooks are correct!

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! This time particularly R Romania International and VOIRI, Iran, made changes after editorial deadlines. I must state that both Handbooks are very comprehensive, up-to-date and accurate and absolutely worth purchasing!

Both Handbooks cover Clandestine stations well, but again the WRTH has 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 B05 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 and on the SFL.

The **SWFG** is a Frequency List with SW schedules, but without other details about the stations. It is in English. I prefer the SWFG when I scan the SW broadcast bands, because the current schedule and language is available at each Frequency. 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 on SW stations.

Comparison SWFG/WRTH 2006 by Anker Petersen, DSWCI

15 JAN 2006

Explanation:

SWFG 2006 Shortwave Frequency Guide, Klingenfuss Publications, Germany
 WRTH World Radio TV Handbook 2006, WRTH Publications Ltd. , UK

My loggings were done in Denmark on an AOR AR7030PLUS between 21 December 2005 and 07 January 2006.
 For the logged station: + = Scheduled at that time and language. - = No or wrong information available.

International broadcasts

kHz	Station	Transmitter	ITU	UTC	SWFG	WRTH	Remarks
3185	WWRB	Manchester, TN	USA	0220	-	+	SWFG: McCaysville, GA, out of service
3215	WWCR	Nashville, TN	USA	0200	-	+	SWFG: On ex 3210
3255	BBC	Meyerton	AFS	0330	+	+	
3945	VOIRI	Zahedan	IRN	0130	+	+	
3955	R Taiwan Int.	Skelton	G	1950	+	+	
3965	R Taiwan Int.	Issoudun	F	1825	+	+	
3975	R Budapest	Jászberény	HNG	1820	+	+	
3985	R Korea Int.	Skelton	G	2035	-	-	Both: Missing French heard // 5955
4005	Vatican R	Vatican City	CVA	1830	+	+	
4319	AFRTS	Diego Garcia	DGA	2040	+	+	
4760	R Liberty	Yangiyul	TJK	0150	+	+	
4960	VOA	Pinheira	STP	0440	+	+	
4965	Voice Africa	Lusaka	ZMB	0135	+	+	
5025	R Tashkent	Tashkent	UZB	2015	+	+	Heard in December. Now OFF!
5070	WWCR	Nashville	USA	0750	+	+	
5955	VOIRI	Sirjan	IRN	0155	+	+	
5975	R Japan	Rampisham	G	0500	+	+	
5980	RTV Marocaine	Briech	MRC	0330	+	+	
5985	China R Int.	Cerrick	ALB	0510	+	+	
6030	R Japan	Rampisham	G	0150	+	+	
6040	R Romania Int.	Galbeni	ROU	0140	-	-	Both: On ex 9690 or 11960 in Romanian
6045	R Romania Int.	Tiganesti	ROU	0200	-	-	Both: On ex 9615 or 11965 in French
6090	RFI	Issoudun	F	2005	+	+	
6090	BBC	A'Seela	OMA	1955	+	+	
6100	VOIRI	Sirjan	IRN	2015	-	-	Both: Missing Russian heard // 7205
6110	Overcomer Min.	Jülich	D	1335	-	-	Both: Missing at this hour
6110	VOA	Tinang	PHL	1340	+	+	
6120	VOIRI	Kamalabad	IRN	0220	+	+	
6125	REE	Noblejas	E	0210	+	+	
6155	ORF	Moosbrunn	AUT	1250	+	+	
6165	AIR	Khampur	IND	1405	+	+	
6170	R Taiwan Int.	Skelton	G	1935	+	+	
6195	BBC	Zygi	CYP	0200	+	+	
7120	R Romania Int.	Tiganesti	ROU	1320	+	+	
7220	R Liberty	Briech	MRC	0540	+	+	
7230	R Slovakia Int.	Rimavská Sobota	SVK	0125	+	+	
7245	Tajik R	Yangiyul	TJK	0130	+	+	
7250	AIR	Panaji	IND	0135	+	+	
7260	Voice of Russia	Vladivostok	RUS	1305	+	+	
7545	Kol Israel	Yavne	ISR	0030	+	+	
9585	R Farda	Briech	MRC	0140	+	+	
9715	RDP	São Gabriel	POR	0145	+	+	
9965	V. of Armenia	Gavar	ARM	0300	+	+	
11755	R Cairo	Abu Zaabal	EGY	0150	+	+	
11765	RAI	English Bay	ASC	0155	+	+	
11765	BBC	Meyerton	AFS	0455	+	+	
15110	China R Int.	Urumqi	CHN	1205	-	-	Both: Missing Chinese heard // 9855
15170	BSKSA	Riyadh	ARS	0545	+	-	WRTH: Missing Holy Quran // 17895
17585	R Japan	Dhabbaya	UAE	1055	+	+	
21820	R Japan	Moyabi	GAB	1030	+	+	
Sum					42	43	

Domestic broadcasts

<u>kHz</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>ITU</u>	<u>UTC</u>	<u>SWFG</u>	<u>WRTH</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
3200	TWR	Mpangela Ranch	SWZ	1800	+	+	
3315	AIR	Bhopal	IND	0055	+	-	WRTH: Not yet on 4810
3345	AWR	Meyerton	AFS	1805	+	+	
3815	KNR	Tasiilaq	GRL	2200	+	+	
3900	Hulun Buir PBS	Hailar	CHN	0045	-	+	SWFG: Missing at this hour
3950	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	CHN	0215	-	+	SWFG: Wrong site Xining
4010	Kyrgyz R	Bishkek	KGZ	0210	+	+	
4500	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	CHN	0145	-	+	SWFG: Not scheduled at this time
4775	AIR	Imphal	IND	0105	+	-	WRTH: Language not specified
4777	R Gabon	Libreville	GAB	1745	+	+	
4784	Rdif.TV Mali.	Kati	MLI	2215	+	+	
4790	R Pakistan	Rawalpindi	PAK	0300	-	+	SWFG: News in English missing
4810	Armenian Nat. R	Yerevan	ARM	0310	-	+	SWFG: Site Gavar
4820	Xizang PBS	Lhasa	CHN	0220	+	+	
4830	AIR	Jammu	IND	0225	+	-	WRTH: Language not specified
4840	AIR	Mumbai	IND	0320	+	-	WRTH: Language not specified
4845	R Mauritanie	Nouakchott	MTN	1940	+	+	
4885	R Cl. do Pará	Belém	B	0730	+	+	Now daily 24 h
4895	AIR	Kurseong	IND	0115	+	-	WRTH: Language not specified
4895	Mongolian R	Murun	MNG	0255	+	+	
4905	Xizang PBS	Lhasa	CHN	0120	+	+	
4915	R Difusora	Macapá	B	0735	+	+	
4915	R Ghana	Accra	GHA	1935	+	+	
4930	Türkmen R	Asgabat	TKM	0125	+	+	
4940	AIR	Guwahati	IND	0130	+	-	WRTH: Language not specified
4976	R Uganda	Kampala	UGA	0445	+	+	
4980	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	CHN	0140	+	+	
5025	ORTB	Parakou	BEN	2035	+	+	
5025	R Rebelde	Bauta	CUB	0745	+	+	
5050	R Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam	TZA	1945	+	+	
5060	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	CHN	2330	+	+	
5080	R Pakistan	Islamabad	PAK	0310	+	+	
5915	Kol Israel	Yavne	ISR	0520	+	-	WRTH: Not scheduled at this time
5980	Scand.WeekendR	Virrat	FIN	1245	-	+	SWFG: Missing station
6005	Deutschland R	Berlin-Britz	D	1055	+	-	WRTH: SW-schedule missing
6025	Magyar R	Jászberény	HNG	1100	+	+	
6035	BBS	Thimpu	BTN	0130	+	+	
6165	Hrvatski R	Deanovac	HRV	1940	+	+	
6165	Radioiffusion	N'Djaména	TCH	1915	+	+	
6170	Scand.WeekendR	Virrat	FIN	1130	-	+	SWFG: Missing station
6190	Deutschlandfunk	Berlin-Britz	D	1125	+	-	WRTH: SW-schedule missing
6973	Galei Tzahal	Lod	ISR	0020	-	+	SWFG: Transmitter site missing
7110	R Ethiopia	Gedja Dera	ETH	0410	+	+	
7120	CNR 8	Beijing	CHN	1400	+	-	WRTH: Kazakh not scheduled at 1400
7230	CNR 1	Xian	CHN	1425	+	-	WRTH: Missing Chinese heard // 4800
7230	Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	CHN	0120	+	+	
9575	R Medi 1	Nador	MRC	0755	+	+	
11690	Scand.WeekendR	Virrat	FIN	1135	-	+	SWFG: Missing station
11720	Scand.WeekendR	Virrat	FIN	1240	-	+	SWFG: Missing station
11815	R Brasil Central	Goiania	B	0200	+	+	
Sum					40	39	