

## Bandscan analysis of Radio Handbooks for 2009

by Anker Petersen, Denmark, January 03, 2009. © DSWCI.  
This article may be fully quoted, if the source is mentioned.

On 26 October 2008 the B08 winter schedules became effective. On the 05 December I received the "2009 Shortwave Frequency Guide" (SWFG) from Joerg Klingenfuss, Germany, and on 13 December the "2009 edition of the World Radio TV Handbook" (WRTH) arrived from Nicholas Hardyman, UK.

Both annual, printed Handbooks have kept their wellknown, but different format.

The SWFG 2009 (13<sup>th</sup> edition) contains 448 pages in English (250 about Broadcasting and 198 about Utility stations). The Broadcasting part begins with an updated article about DRM including a list of DRM schedules on LW, MW and SW. It is followed by the comprehensive SW frequencylist which for each frequency contains a line for each broadcast. That includes exact times, transmitter site, language and target area. The Country section contains the same data listed by Station, but without details like geographical coordinates, addresses, QSL info, etc. Price: EUR 40,-.

At the same time Klingenfuss has published the 2009 Super Frequency List (SFL) on a CD-Rom with the same 8,400 Broadcast frequencies and 9,800 utility frequencies plus 21,500 formerly active frequencies. This modern tool is very easy to use on a PC using Microsoft Windows and has excellent search functions for specific frequencies, countries, stations, languages, call signs and times - or any combination thereof! Price: EUR 30,-. More details at [www.klingenfuss.org](http://www.klingenfuss.org).

The WRTH 2009 (63<sup>rd</sup> edition) has 680 pages, including 70 in full colour. The first article is by Canadian contributor Andy Reid. The WRTH Receiver Reviews 2009 covers two very good Software-Defined Receivers: Perseus from Microtelecom and SDR-IQ from RFSpace. Furthermore the professional RA 1778 from RACAL is reviewed. Internet Radio and antennas, like the new Wellbrook ALA-1530+ are also covered. After articles about FM DXing and a Digital Update, follows a digest on some All India Stations from the DX-er who knows best, Jose Jacob in Hyderabad. Finally, George Jacob's forecast on SW reception conditions in 2009.

After the maps, on page 73 begin the fully updated sections with all details about National and International Radio, MW and SW Frequency Lists, International broadcasts in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish. On page 616 is a useful list of current DRM International Broadcasts followed by Television and References. Read more at [www.wrth.com](http://www.wrth.com). Price: £ 23,-. You can also ask for it at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and maybe still get it for the special offer of £ 23,-. It is no longer available from the book shop of Bernhard Hein.

### Spotcheck by bandscanning

As in my previous analyses, I did not choose the traditional way of reviewing each section in the Handbooks. Instead I scanned through the shortwave bands in mid December, selected 50 broadcast stations at random and identified them 100%, no matter what language, and made a comparative analysis. My listening covered most available SW bands at nearly all times of day and night and a variety of broadcasters and languages.

I then checked in the two Handbooks, if each particular broadcast heard, was mentioned in the Country Section and in the SW frequency list. This must contain the five essential details: Station name, frequency, scheduled at that exact time, exact language and site of transmitter. Half of the SW stations carried domestic broadcasts, and half of them international broadcasts. For further details on any of my results, please look at: [www.dswci.org/specials/bookreviews/200901handbooks.pdf](http://www.dswci.org/specials/bookreviews/200901handbooks.pdf)

### 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 if they are correct. This is then marked "+" in my detailed analysis. If just one is missing, the column got a "-".

I still consider it useful, if the Handbooks also can provide the DX-er with additional information about Geographical Coordinates for his propagation calculations and Google Earth search, 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. For listeners with Broadband internet (ATDL) is it also useful to know, if the station broadcasts live audio on the web.

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

### Comparison

I then counted how many essential details were correct for the 25 international and 25 domestic stations randomly heard. The results were (each figure out of 5x25 = 125 possible):

	SWFG		WRTH	
	Int.	Dom.	Int.	Dom.
Analysis result	121	120	125	122
Sum (Max. 250)	241 (96%)		247 (99%)	

The WRTH and the SWFG contain nearly all essential details. The WRTH has improved both its International and Domestic coverage since last year where the score was 96%.

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 almost impossible to achieve a 100% score!

### 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 B08 period and all have succeeded in this to a very high degree! Each of the Handbooks are useful for the DX-er and ordinary shortwave listener. The details published 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, e.g. as an identification tool. The schedules are easily available and very complete both in the WRTH and SWFG, and on the SFL CD-version.

The **SWFG** is a Frequency List with SW schedules, but without any other details about the stations. I prefer the SWFG when I scan the SW broadcast bands, because the current schedule and language is available at each frequency in timeorder. 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 that the book is split up into two cheaper publications in the future.

In contrary to the SWFG, the **WRTH** also contains LW, MW and some FM and TV information. Therefore I use the WRTH when I DX on the bands mentioned or need more information about the stations. It is highly appreciated that, like last year, an update free of charge will be published on their website in January 2009 and a full summer edition of the International Section will be available in May 2009.

Explanation:

SWFG 2009 Shortwave Frequency Guide, Klingenfuss Publications, Germany  
 WRTH World Radio TV Handbook 2009, WRTH Publications Ltd. , UK

My loggings were made in Denmark on an AOR AR7030PLUS between 13 and 20 December 2008.

For the logged station: + = Scheduled at that time, frequency, language and site.

- = No or wrong information available on at least one essential detail.

International broadcasts

kHz	Station	Transmitter	UTC	Language	SWFG	WRTH	Remarks
3320	Voice of Korea	Pyongyang	2235	Korean	+	+	
3955	KBS World R	Skelton	2015	German	+	+	
3975	Hungarian R	Jászberény	2225	Hungarian	+	+	
3985	V. of Vietnam	Skelton	2115	German	+	+	
3985	V. of Croatia	Deanovec	2135	Croatian	-	+	SWFG signs on at 2158
4005	R Vaticana	Vatican City	2228	Italian	+	+	
4828	V.of Zimbabwe	Guineafowl	2315	Shona	+	+	
4930	VOA	Moepeng Hill	1910	English	+	+	
4965	CVC	Lusaka	0005	English	+	+	
5070	WWCR	Nashville	0430	English	+	+	
5995	R France Int.	Montsinery	0105	Spanish	+	+	
6020	China R. Int.	Cerrick	0045	English	+	+	
6030	Bible Voice Brc.	Wertachtal	0045	Hindi	+	+	
6165	V. of Turkey	Emirler	2145	Turkish	+	+	
7145	R Romania Int.	Galbeni	2130	English	+	+	
7160	R China Int.	Kunming	2135	English	-	+	SWFG not on this frequency
9620	AWR	Moosbrunn	1900	Hausa	+	+	
9640	REE	Noblejas	2140	Spanish	+	+	
11765	BBC	Sines	0745	English	+	+	
11775	University Net.	Anguilla	1045	English	-	+	SWFG missing site and frequency
11785	V. of Indonesia	Cimanggis	1155	Japanese	+	+	WRTH not in frequency list
13665	China R Int.	Cerrick	1215	English	+	+	
13685	CVC	Darwin	1220	Chinese	+	+	
15150	VOIRI	Sirjan	1205	Chinese	+	+	
15165	VOA	Saipan	1210	Indonesian	+	+	
All details/Lack of details					22/3	25/0	

Domestic broadcasts

kHz	Station	Transmitter	UTC	Language	SWFG	WRTH	Remarks
3396	ZBC	Guineafowl	2245	Shona	+	+	
3815	KNR (USB)	Tasiilaq	2110	Greenlandic	+	+	
3905	R New Ireland	Kavieng	2115	Tok Pisin	+	-	WRTH switched 3235 and 3905
4699	R San Miguel	Riberalta	2250	Spanish	+	+	
4760	AIR	Port Blair	1540	English	+	+	
4765	Tajik R-1	Yangiyul	1545	Tajik	+	+	WRTH only in frequency list, ex 4635
4780	R Djibouti	Arta	2015	Somali	+	+	
4800	Voice of China	Ge'ermu	2255	Chinese	+	+	
4820	Xizang PBS	Lhasa	2340	Chinese	+	+	
4830	China Huayi BC	Fuzhou	2320	Chinese	-	+	SWFG schedule not updated
4845	R Mauritanie	Nouakchott	2345	Arabic	+	+	
4895	Mongoliin R	Murun	2335	Mongolian	-	+	SWFG missing Mongolian schedule
4905	R Chad	N'Djaména	2150	French	+	+	
4940	AIR	Guwahati	0000	Hindi	-	+	SWFG schedule still not updated
5025	R Rebelde	Bauta	0305	Spanish	+	+	WRTH not in frequency list
5035	R Aparecida	Aparecida	0415	Portuguese	+	-	WRTH schedule still not updated

5100 R Bana	Asmara	0430	Tigrinya	+	+	
6015 Xinjiang PBS	Urumqi	0055	Kazakh	+	+	WRTH language only shown in fq.list
6035 LV del Guaviare	San José del G.	0030	Spanish	+	+	
6035 Bhutan Brc.Sce.	Thimpu	0050	Dzongkha	+	+	
6040 Belaruskaje R 1	Hrodna	0955	Belarus	+	+	
6135 R Aparecida	Aparecida	0010	Portuguese	+	+	
6185 R Nac.da Amaz.	Brasilia	0035	Portuguese	-	-	SWFG still on 6180. WRTH no time
6190 Deutschlandfunk	Berlin-Britz	1315	German	+	+	
9575 R Médi 1	Nador	0020	Arabic	+	+	
All details/Lack of details				21/4	22/3	