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lishers have access to the electronic channels of communication—is regulation needed to ensure diversity and competition? Should the government set technical standards to make systems compatible or should it leave that issue to the marketplace? Are privacy policies needed to protect consumers from misuse of the vast data banks the new technologies will create? Does current copyright law adequately protect the investments of those who create the information?

The book is written for the stakeholders in this new mass medium—newspapers, phone companies, cable companies, and book publishers—as well as for those who must devise new laws, enforce the laws, and test the laws for the lay public whose interests must be protected.

The content deals primarily with communications policy—current and proposed—and includes discussions of technical standards, privacy, defamation and obscenity, and economic rights. A brief but useful chapter, "How Electronic Publishing Works," sets the stage for delving into the text.

Librarians should read this book—if for no other reason than to understand that growth of the new medium cannot be resisted, and that the time is *now* for serious consideration of how the library will assimilate this new technology. The book is well written and interesting to read.—*Allen Kent, University of Pittsburgh.*

Spigai, Fran and Sommer, Peter. *Guide to Electronic Publishing: Opportunities in Online and Viewdata Services.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry, 1982. 100p. \$95. LC 81-20787. ISBN 0-914236-87-3.

Some publishers would call this book a "special report" because it provides concise information aimed at specialized audiences. The specialized audiences appear to consist of: (1) venture capitalists and (2) print publishers. The first audience would be interested in assessing new business opportunities, the second in deciding when, if ever, to adopt new technology.

The book addresses two technologies, one relating to online services and the other to viewdata services. The technologies of these electronic publishing examples are presented in a jargon-free man-

ner, suitable for nontechnical business executives. The book provides considerable quantities of data about suppliers and costs. Planning, staffing, and marketing approaches are also presented. All this is aimed at helping to make decisions as to whether viewdata and online publishing should be in the future of a publisher.

The general introduction points out:

Print publishers are captivated by the almost daily reports of the launch of a new viewdata experiment, the creation of a new online data base, a new development in microprocessing that is driving costs down even further. At the same time publishers are naturally concerned about the almost daily increases in the costs of postage, handling, fulfillment, print and paper.

Quite rightly, they are looking at the promises of technology and computer vendors; with reason they are questioning these promises. This report answers many of the questions print publishers are asking about the new media of viewdata and online services. Perhaps more importantly, it tells print publishers what questions to ask themselves, and how to find the answers.

This promise is fulfilled quite well as long as the alert is kept in mind that:

Readers should be aware that electronic publishing is a rapidly moving field, with changes in prices, services, etc. occurring almost daily. Statistical information in this report is based on data accumulated in spring 1981.

—Allen Kent, *University of Pittsburgh.*

ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse of Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.

Documents with an ED number here may be ordered in either microfiche (MF) or paper copy (PC) from the ERIC Document Reproduction Service, P.O. Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210. Orders should include ED number, specify format desired, and include payment for document and postage.

Further information on ordering documents and on current postage charges may be obtained from a recent issue of Resources in Education.

Center for Research Libraries Study, Concordia University. Final Report. By J. Tallon. 1979. 16p. ED 217 847. MF—\$0.83; PC—\$1.82.

This discussion of the implementation of services related to the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) if Concordia University Libraries were to join CRL includes policies and procedures designed to assist Concordia in making effective use of CRL's services without sacrificing regular services or incurring large expenses in addition to the membership fee. Included in the report are a history of the CRL proposal; a 1978 report by Derek Robertson recommending that the library join CRL; recommended policies and procedures; recommendations for publicity to make patrons aware of CRL and particular collections that might pertain to their

field of research; and recommendations for monitoring and evaluating interlibrary loan benefits (cost savings), user benefits, collections benefits, and the costs involved in membership. Appendixes include a description of CRL's art and architecture collection and a flowchart of interlibrary loan procedures at Concordia.

Comparative Study on the Handling of Serials by ISDS Centres and National Bibliographic Agencies. By Francoise Bouffez and Annette Grousseau. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris (France). 1980. 171p. ED 217 831. MF—\$0.83; PC—not available from EDRS.

A survey was conducted in July 1977 of thirty-eight centers of International Serials Data System (ISDS) and of national bibliographic agencies or comparable bodies in the same countries to study the various aspects of the identification and description of standardized bibliographic data by the ISDS and the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials (ISBD). Nine requests for information were also submitted to countries considering ISDS membership. Analysis of the survey and materials returned with the questionnaires are reported in five chapters: (1) bibliographic information sources available for establishing an ISDS national center and serial control methods, including both primary and secondary sources and an appraisal of bibliographic control by country; (2) establishment of ISDS centers, re-