

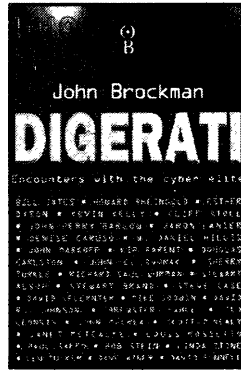
New in the library

The following books have been selected from the range of new additions. These notes are indicative of a book's subject matter, but are not intended as critical comment or review. The ABA invites the public to use the Library for research purposes, by appointment. The Library's e-mail address is library@aba.gov.au

Digerati: encounters with the cyber elite

John Brockman. London: Orion Business Books, 1996. ISBN 0752811592

Today technological advances are taking place at a rate unparalleled at any other time in history. In 1996 John Brockman videotaped discussions with 36 digerati, or cyber elite, about their work and the work of others included in the book. The group constitute a critical mass of the doers, thinkers and writers, connected in ways they may not even appreciate, who have tremendous influence on the emerging communication revolution surrounding the growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Although they all happen to be Americans, their activities have a worldwide impact. The book is designed to be an oral presentation of a culture; an exhibition of this new community in action, communicating their ideas to the public and to one another. The author calls these people the first generation of digerati: they are the people who got us to the present situation. Participants include Esther Dyson, Stewart Alsop and Bill Gates. The ideas and information contained in *Digerati* are useful to anyone interested in knowing who we are, and where we are headed.

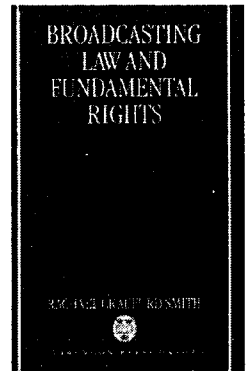


Broadcasting law and fundamental rights

Rachel Crauford Smith. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977. ISBN 0198262213

In the face of technological and ideological challenges, European democracies have been experimenting with different regulatory regimes for audiovisual media. In *Broadcasting Law and Fundamental Rights*, the author considers the appropriateness of judicial intervention in broadcasting. Starting

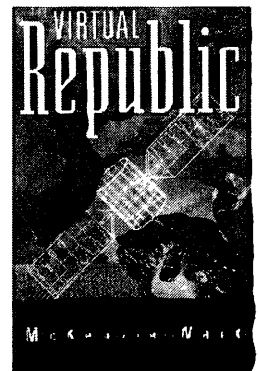
from an historical perspective, she examines the changes which have occurred in the perceptions of the role of broadcasting in society, and the structure of the industry itself. Drawing on concrete cases from Italy, France and Britain as well as decisions of the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, she explores challenges made through the courts to the monopoly position of broadcasters and considers the implications for freedom of expression and the future of the broadcasting industry.



The virtual republic: Australia's culture wars of the 1990s

McKenzie Wark. St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 1997. ISBN 864485205

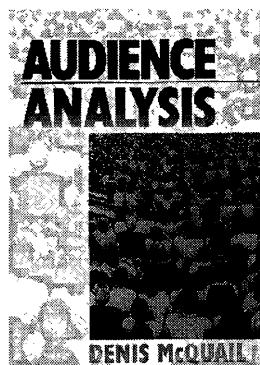
In this book the author, a leading Australian cultural commentator, takes a fresh look at recent debates about gender, race, culture and the media. He suggests that our sense of national identity no longer resides in our past but is continually being reinvented. Media attention has thrust into the limelight a host of cultural issues, ranging from political correctness to multiculturalism, postmodernism, as well as Australian writers, such as David Williamson, Helen Garner, Les Murray and Manning Clark. In this wide ranging survey of Australian cultural life in the 90s, Wark asks if these various fronts of the 'Culture Wars', in literature, higher education and the media, might be connected to each other and connected also to a wider question of what it means to talk about a possible Australian republic.



Audience analysis

Denis McQuail. Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage Publications, 1997. ISBN 0761910026

In 'Audience Analysis' Denis McQuail provides a succinct account of the concept 'media audience' in terms of its history and its place in present day media theory and research. He describes and explains the main types of audience, alternative theories about the audience, and the main traditions and the fields of audience research. This volume explains the contrast between social scientific and humanistic approaches and gives due weight to the view 'from the audience' as well as the view 'from the media'. It summarises key research findings and assess the impact of new media developments, especially transnationalisation and new interactive technology. Finally, the volume concludes with an evaluation of the continued relevance of the audience concept under conditions of rapid media change.

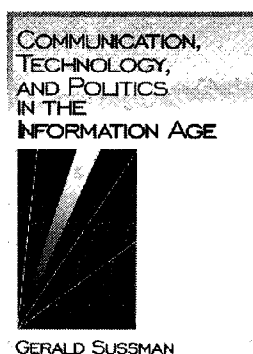


history? what are our entitlements and our responsibilities? From the vantage point of his own background - Australian-born but with the cultural residues of his refugee parents' background, he analyses differences among societies, evaluates the role of government and law within a good society, and defines the values that help shape one that is civil and decent. 'Between Fear and Hope' is based on the author's 1997 Boyer Lectures.

Communication, technology and politics in the information age

Gerald Sussman. Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage Publications, 1997. ISBN 0803951396

This book is about the political content of communication technology. It is intended to promote a deeper understanding of the nature of the 'information society'. The core idea is to show that technology is not only an apparatus, a tool, a technique etc., it is also the embodiment of human decisions made at particular moments in particular political settings. The author's aim is to reveal and demystify the social innards of a whole range of communication technologies - television, cable, computers, the Internet, satellites etc - showing how they are historically and politically related to one another, where they originated, and what effects they have on the people involved in their production and use. Gerald Sussman looks beyond the techno-functional aspects of product and process and focuses instead on the human agents and institutions involved in the making of information technologies. He starts with a theoretical introduction and then reviews the social history of communication technology. He next examines contemporary issues in the U.S. context, from the diminishing of citizenship and work experiences to the growing use of commercial and political surveillance.

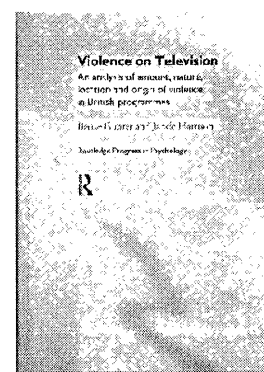


In so doing, he reveals to readers 'just who are the heavy truckers on the information highway and what that means for the rest of us' The author concludes by examining the global dimension of the information society, pointing out effects on developing countries and alternatives to the hegemonic tendencies of the U.S. and world economies.

Violence on television: an analysis of amount, nature, location and origin of violence in British programmes

Barrie Gunter and Jackie Harrison. London: Routledge, 1998. ISBN 0415172608

'Violence on Television' provides an objective analysis of the violence on television, how much there is and what form it takes. It presents findings from the largest ever study of the depiction of violence on television carried out in Britain, funded by the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent television Commission. As well as presenting a quantitative analysis of the amount of violence on television, this research places great emphasis on investigating the character of violent portrayals and the contexts in which they occur. The authors present a detailed literature review, which examines previous research from around the world. They then explain the methodology and look at the problems of measuring and quantifying violence on television. They examine the specific attributes of violence, including the form it takes, its physical setting, its motives and consequences, and the nature of the characters involved as either aggressors or victims. They also examine the amount and nature of violent portrayals in different program genres, such as films and drama, entertainment programming, new and factual programs, and children's programs.



Between fear and hope: hybrid thoughts on public values

Martin Krygier. Sydney: ABC Books, 1997. ISBN 0733306101

Against the background of current debates on immigration, multiculturalism and Aboriginal rights, Martin Krygier considers such issues as what makes a good society? which public values should be nurtured, and which avoided? should we have pride or shame in our national

