and that everyone else would be improved by adopting their frame of mind.—Julie Still, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey

Short Notices


These proceedings of a 1994 symposium at Rutgers University contain five contributions, an introduction and conference discussion, and an annotated bibliography. Its central concern is to assess the impact of digital technology on the economics of information production, storage, and dissemination. The papers come from five very different perspectives: an economist (Malcolm Getz), a library school researcher (Paul Kantor), a publisher (Janet Bailey), a public interest advocate (James Love), and a library director (Arthur Curley). Although each is of some interest, they are all quite short—barely scratching the surface of such a complex (and crucial) topic. (BW)

McDermott, Patrice. Politics and Scholarship: Feminist Academic Journals and the Production of Knowledge. Champaign, Ill.: Univ. of Illinois Pr., 1994. 197p., alk. paper, $13.95. (ISBN 0-252-02078-2.) Politics and Scholarship examines the history of three feminist academic journals and traces their evolution and transformation: Feminist Studies, Frontiers, and Signs. McDermott chooses journals affiliated with major research universities in order to investigate the different ways they address both the feminist and the scholarly communities. She shows how, increasingly, feminist scholars choose to publish in feminist journals that replicate traditional academic publishing standards because of the recognition afforded them by tenure and promotion review committees, as well as their wider audiences and more stable financing. (EW)


Stemming from Haricombe’s dissertation at the University of Illinois, this study “was designed solely to determine to what extent scholarship in South Africa may have suffered as a result of various manifestations of an academic boycott.” These manifestations included the banning of South African scholars from conferences, rejection of manuscripts by South African scholars for publication, nonrecognition of South African degrees, etc. Access to information played a key role in the boycott, and the authors devote some attention to the debate among librarians (especially at the 1987 ALA conference and its aftermath), and to the actions they and publishers took to isolate South African scholarship. The bottom


As of June 1995 this “electronic archive” on electronic publishing included thirteen articles, divided into six categories: Copyright Issues, Digital Issues, Economic Issues (with FAQs on “usage-based” pricing by two University of Michigan economists), Imaging Issues, Policy Issues (“Institutional and Policy Issues in the Development of the Digital Library”), and Technical Issues (e.g., a critique of HTML by Philip Greenspun). Some of the articles provide hypertext links. The phrase “a lawyer has at his touch” connects, aptly enough, to the homepage of Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute, and the terms “adze” and “diazo” to dictionary definitions. Unlike much of what one finds on the Web, however, this particular publication is clearly more interested in providing substance rather than flash. (SL)