

one thing, eight of the contributions (one-third of the book's length) concern the history of the preservation movement. Will there be enough significant "advances" to fill a volume annually? The series will fulfill its potential for usefulness only if the editors can get contributions from articulate experts and if they can maintain the fine balance between useful practical information and theoretical considerations.—*Susanne F. Roberts, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

**Electronic Documents.** Oxford: Learned Information (U.S. distribution: Medford, N.J.: Learned Information), 1992-. \$179 per year for 12 issues of the journal and an accompanying newsletter. (ISSN 0965-2035).

Each issue of *Electronic Documents* reports at length on a single subject, and contains briefer articles on other topics. Issues are written by the editor, Peter Hyams, and one or two other authors. They consult the secondary literature (and provide brief bibliographies), but most of the information comes from the vendors' literature and from interviews with both vendors and users. In one issue the editor describes his procedure: "[W]e offer no pretence to test, let alone to recommend products. Instead, we . . . learn where [product vendors] 'come from' and whom they aim to please, [and] hear/see what they offer, especially the key features." A review is expected to make a recommendation, but otherwise this does not seem a bad procedure to follow.

Despite their similar structure, there was considerable variation among the three issues I examined. Perhaps the most interesting was entitled "Hypertext in Action," an excellent introduction to hypertext for the layperson, well written and illustrated. It conveyed the excitement many people feel about this topic, but also addressed the amount of thought and effort required to produce a product that offers any real advantages over a well-designed "regular" text. The general presentation was accompanied by references to specific hypertext authoring

systems and accounts of hypertext in use. Criteria for choosing hypertext software were followed by descriptions of some currently available products.

A second issue, "Producing CD-ROMs," placed much more emphasis on technical issues, as might be expected, but was also devoted to text preparation and the issues of emerging standards for tagging text (SGML). The third issue, "Recognizing Characters," contained less explanatory material than the others. The outlines of the topic had been covered earlier in the year in an issue on "Reading Typefaces (OCR)," and this issue, after describing some additional user experience, concentrated on descriptions of specific higher volume, more complex, and higher priced systems.

Reader surveys have already caused some changes in format and are also used to determine topics to be covered. Recent and coming issues discuss such themes as image capture and handling, workflow, on-demand documents, multimedia, document storage and transport, and publishing and the networks, a topic that has been neglected in most of the publishing trade journals. The newsletters accompanying each issue draw heavily on announcements from vendors, but significant events from government and research are also noted.

The key feature of *Electronic Documents* is its solid introductions to the issues involved in the production of electronic documents. The reader will not understand information theory or be able to take apart a CD server after reading an issue, but will be able to evaluate production options. The reader will also know reasons not to put data into hypertext or on a CD-ROM, but will not know why a given software program should be avoided.

The primary audience for this journal seems to be managers who will be interviewing vendors and making decisions about production systems. Librarians and end users of electronic documents can learn a great deal from this journal, not only about techniques but also about the economic decisions publishers are making, but the editors are not aiming at them. This

is very clear in a conference description which mentions speakers who "range into very marginal areas like the effects of networking CD-ROMs in academia."

The contributors come from Britain. American and some continental European products are frequently mentioned, but most of the vendors and users interviewed are British or the British representatives of non-British firms. The (admittedly selective) list of hypertext products in one issue omits such major United States companies as DynaText and Eastgate. Since most related publications come from North America, it is interesting to see a different perspective, but unfortunate that the coverage stresses Britain at the expense of its partners in the European Community.

The price, which is not unreasonable for a publication researched and written in-house, will probably keep most libraries from subscribing to *Electronic Documents* to help meet staff information needs in emerging technologies, but libraries should consider it seriously if they support programs in publishing, information science, or business programs with an interest in document handling.—James Campbell, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

**Giroux, Henry A.** *Border Crossings: Cultural Workers and the Politics of Education*. New York: Routledge, 1992. 258p. \$45.50 (ISBN 0-415-90466-8); paper, \$15.95 (ISBN 0-415-90467-6).

About a quarter of a century ago in the northeast of Brazil, Paulo Freire developed theories that have had a global ripple effect among educators concerned with the kind of society that results from the process of education. Freire's ideas and his friendship have had a significant influence on Henry Giroux, professor of education at Pennsylvania State University. Giroux has published many monographs, compilations, and journal articles—all stressing the importance of education in the search for freedom and as an essential component in the survival of democracy.

The 1980s saw the emergence of the term *politically correct* which, as Calvin

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