

This Infoquest publication is intended to "alert all those interested in the field of economics, from secondary students to academic and business economists, to available information sources". The categories covered are: 1. printed sources — reference material, books, serials; 2. data bases; and 3. contacts — Commonwealth and State Governments, industry associations, professional associations, and economics teachers' associations.

Despite the obvious problem of updating, this guide will be useful. One can think of many possible extensions of the coverage. One such extension would be a directory of publishers (or their local representatives) of economics material. There is also the possibility of a directory of economists, who should be sources of Australian economic information. A companion directory, *Sources of Australian Financial Information* (pp. 37, \$5.00) is also available from Infoquest.

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THIS IS IT. A Manager's Guide to Information Technology by John Eaton and Jeremy Smithers

(Philip Alan, Oxford, 1982) pp. xi + 345, \$43.00 (hb), \$21.50 (pb).

This book grew from the need for teaching material for the authors' courses at the London Business School. The aspects dealt with are: the historical context of information processing; the fundamental concepts of computing, from the basic operation of the hardware to the nature and problems of software; microelectronics; telecommunications; the converging paths of telecommunications, computing and office products; office automation; and the wider social and national implications of information technology (IT) as an agent of technological change in the national economy.

The technical parts are better than the concluding section on the social impact of IT, which tends to reproduce an over-simplified, popular model of the process of change. An adequate treatment, for example, of the role of R&D in IT and the potential for organisational redesign that lies beyond office automation would have needed a separate volume. There is a 26-page glossary which includes the following entry: "Telecommunications: a system incorporating the combined use of computer and telecommunications facilities." Sources of statistics for tables and graphs are not indicated. The only references to the literature on the subject are in the preface, where two government reports issued after the book was written are mentioned.

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