

authoritative. The theme is well argued and sustained. It is recommended reading for all students of industrial and information technology policy. The format of the work unfortunately does not make for easy reading. The quality of the printing and layout could have been greatly improved.

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#### SHORTER NOTICES

**Scientific and Technical Research Centres in Australia** *edited by A. Ermes* (Australian Scientific Industry Association, Melbourne, 1984) pp. vi + 427, \$39.00, ISBN 0 643 03721 7.

This directory was compiled by Central Information Service, CILES, CSIRO. Over 1500 entries cover the research activities of Commonwealth and State government departments and authorities, universities, colleges, institutes of technology and a range of private and non-government organisations. The entry on each centre includes details of staff, an outline of the scope of research and current research projects, facilities and publications.

The publishers can rightly claim that this directory will be useful to those in both the private and public sectors dealing with current science and technology matters. Some of the material will date rather quickly. It is to be hoped that the planned efforts to update continually and to have the directory available for on-line interrogation do meet with success. This process would seem to justify several comments that might guide revisions. First, is it really helpful to read under so many entries that a list of research papers is available on request? — a symbol might have sufficed. Second, while complete consistency would be virtually impossible, the different extent to which social and economic research has been covered is noticeable. Third, a good case could be made for systematic inclusion of social and economic research centres that are engaged on research bearing upon science and technology.

**DML**