

approach to the German original might have enhanced the flow and comprehensibility of the text.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- 1 G. J. Whitrow, *Time in History: The Evolution of Our General Awareness of Time and Temporal Perspective*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1988.
- 2 S. W. Hawking, *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes*, Bantam, London, 1988.

Guy Freeland

University of New South Wales

Women, information technology, & scholarship edited by H. Jeanie Taylor, Cheris Kramarae and Maureen Ebben (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1993), pp. 127, US \$10, ISBN 1-882875-00-1.

This slim work, the product of the Women, Information Technology, and Scholarship (WITS) Colloquium of the Center for Advanced Study of the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois, is an attempt to focus on some of the key issues faced by women trying, as the Introduction states, "to establish our rightful place within the complex nexus of new information technologies".

Written in 1993, and alive to the male domination of the computer profession, the editors and contributors turn a specific lens on what is happening in American universities. Although knowledge of information technology systems is now required for much academic work, the editors note a great disparity between women and men in computer use. "On most campuses the science and technology information and policy making groups", they stress, "are composed primarily of men". Given the consequences of technology-push and a dominant male enthusiasm for the new technologies, their concern is directed to flagging key areas where women's perceptions and input in the adoption and development of new information technologies can have their due effect.

These areas range across computerized individual instruction in school and university (will this, they ask, ultimately eliminate the important humanizing communication of student-teacher interaction?); the presentation and growth of data as 'knowledge' (what kinds of 'thinking and excluding' are scholars likely to be doing with the increased use of information technology?); and electronic publishing (there is, they allege, evidence that very little of the research on women and minorities is included in existing and developing electronic data bases of the humanities and social and behavioural sciences. "If women aren't involved in the classification systems of the new electronic publishing", the editors conclude, 'women will be excluded not only in the texts but also in the metatexts').

Aware of this last challenge, two of the contributors, Dale Spender and Cheris Kramarae, are currently editing a CD-ROM version of the *International Encyclopaedia of Women's Studies* to ensure that at least one major reference work involving international research on women will be available electronically.

The book, while aiming to be 'holistic', poses, but does not deeply examine, its spin of ideas. Brief contributed papers touch on women and men on electronic networks; changes in academic concepts of privacy, originality and ownership of ideas; publishing in an elec-

tronic environment; electronic scholarship; linking women - computer networks as a feminist resource, and talking on interchange. While the topics are important, the papers are essentially sketches and much research remains to be done.

The book also contains an Annotated Bibliography on Women and Information Technology. Regrettably, not one Australian publication is included in the list.

Ann Moyal

Canberra