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**Julia Knight and Alexis Weedon (ed.) *Convergence.*
The Journal of Research into New Media Technologies**

Luton: John Libbey Media at the University of Luton Press (1996, Vol. 2, No. 1 and 2), 160 p., ISBN 1-86020-008-7, Subscription: Institutes: £ 40.00, private £ 18.00

The study of new media technologies can be characterized by the very diversity of critical approaches. The Journal reflects this diversity in the issues of 1996, by which similar questions recur, concerning control, authority, expectations, access and resistance to new technologies.

The journal is organised in four main chapters, usually four debates, three articles one or two feature reports and about six book/media reviews. It started in 1995 as a biannual, and in 1997 it became a quarterly magazine. The editorial board consists of academics of universities in the U.K., Australia, Canada and the U.S.

Convergence 1 gathered together contributions which explore the internet's current role as an arena for information dissemination, cultural studies, political activism, artistic expression, national identity, publishing, and entertainment. One of the important insights emerging from the contributions to this issue is that the internet, despite its potential autonomy, is currently being used in parallel with other media.

In *Convergence 2* the editors mention that the empirical and theoretical, the technologically innovative and the philosophical are put side by side. For instance an article with the findings of a research study into young people's creative uses of new technologies in the home focuses on the way children learn to use new technologies, parental regulation in the home and the role of new technologies in sustaining peer group cultures. The research study concludes that computers cannot in themselves transform young people into creative cultural producers. Factors such as age, social class and gender remain significant determinants on individuals' access to, and use of, such technology. (p.75).

In a philosophical article by Andrew Murphie, the work of Deleuze and Guattari is used to analyze the relations between technology, the social and art. By using Deleuze's and Guattari's notion of the 'machinic' Murphie argues that we have to view new media as 'productive' rather than representational (p.80).

The feature reports discuss conferences such as the 46th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, held in Chicago, may 1996. The reviews cover books on computer technology, about new media art, but also CD Roms such as a Cine Disc on Spanish Cinema.

Convergence is one of the first interdisciplinary journals on new media. With its clear organisation into four chapters and a variety of approaches and subjects it is very readable and can't be missed by those who are interested in new media research.

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