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,
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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.   Bas Agterberg (Utrecht)