# Micros index

One of the difficulties in keeping up with the world of information technology is finding the time to read the literature, and to find in that literature the information that you need. *Australian computer magazine index 1993* is a pretty good attempt to help you do it.

The editors have indexed articles, product reviews and book reviews from the 1993 issues of eight Australian magazines dealing with microcomputers. Each entry includes the title of the article, author, magazine name, page number and number of pages. Underneath this information is a one- to three-line summary of the article.

It is set out as a classified index and to help you find your way through it, the editors have included a schematic outline to provide an overview of the main headings and their sub-divisions.

While the coverage is already quite comprehensive, the editors could consider broadening it further to take in some of the more business-oriented journals as well as those that cater for home users. From Absolom and Achitophel, PO Box 89, Elwood Vic 3184. RRP $39.50 (spiral).

*Kerry Webb*

# Valuable educational overview

*T*echnology survey report: educational technologies 1994 provides an overview of educational technology options, concentrating on those now being applied.

Details of Australian institutions using the technology are set out in an appendix. It follows the 1992 report and complements two special publications on equipment for people with hearing and sight impairments.

The technology is explained under broad categories — facsimile, computer-mediated communication, audio, audiographic, computer-based learning, computer-managed learning, video conferencing, and television and delivery media. Where appropriate, categories are further divided: for example, audio has sections for audio conferencing, radio and PABX.

Each category or section begins with a definition and description, lists advantages and disadvantages of the technology and describes applications and indicative costs.

An appendix readers will find useful is a definition of educational technology terms used in the report, from artificial intelligence through optical media to virtual reality. From Open Training and Education Network, ph (02) 318 0299. RRP $25 (inc p & p).

*Kerry Webb*

# Families in Australia

Smaller community organisations, schools and welfare agencies may find this useful one-stop source for resources relating to the family in Australia. Libraries would be better off using existing indexes and directories.

The volume is organised around nine issues: divorce; fertility; violence; one-parent, rural, non-English-speaking families; homelessness; homosexuality and employment. There is a select unannotated bibliography for each issue, with newspaper articles, articles, and books listed separately. Each chapter includes names, address and phone numbers of major agencies in each State. No indexes are provided and there is no explanation of the guidelines for inclusion.

The 'Biographies' section lists some 170 names but gives only patchy information and no contact details, for example a typical entry is 'McBain, Dr John — IVF specialist'. This book has limited use, and I therefore find it difficult to recommend.

Osuch, Michael, comp. *Families in Australia: a resource guide to the issues of the 90s.* Port Melbourne: Thorpe, 1994. 145pp. $25.pp (pbk). ISBN 187558949X.
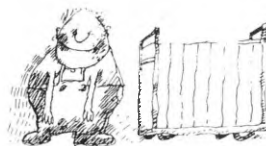
*Judith Clark*

# Fandom and comic books

Comic books tend not to feature in library collection development policies. Yet comics are a rich source material for research, as a mass-produced, widely-distributed cultural material, revealing much about popular attitudes and fantasies of the time. This compilation dips into various aspects of the comic book industry; the passionate fans, preservation and access in public collections, influence of imports, and Australian publication. Toby Burrows, Divisional Librarian for Technical Services at the University of Western Australia, provides an introductory bibliography of items relating to Australian comics and comic strips. No index. For cultural studies collections and members of the world of 'fandom'.

Burrows, Toby and Stone, Grant, Eds. *Comics in Australia and New Zealand: the collections, the collectors, the creators.* New York: Haworth, 1994. 115pp. US$24.95 board. ISBN 1-56024-664-2 (Published simultaneously as Australian and New Zealand journal of serials librarianship, Vol 4, No 3.

*Judith Clark*