

"value" of hatred, racism, genocide, and sexism. Such a counterargument, however, would place Kors and Silverglate in the uncomfortable, but honest, position of arguing publicly in support of the very real "benefits" of hatred-based ideologies. For example, managers have long found racism very useful in playing off one group of ill-treated workers against another group in order to maintain exploitative (and profit-enhancing) working conditions. Class-based elitism has long sustained power and wealth in the hands of the few. National and religious chauvinism has long supported war industries. Sexism has long relegated women to low-worth positions that benefit men economically and psychologically. Rather than attempt a reasoned, rigorous, or historically based counterargument to Marcuse and the others, Kors and Silverglate merely propound and repeat ad nauseam their simple belief in the infallibility of the absolutist approach to freedom of speech.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about this book is the bald disdain the authors express toward those who recognize the injustice of racism, sexism, and so on. For example, in the chapter "'Shut Up,' They Reasoned: Silencing Students," the sexual harassment policy dealing with speech and nonverbal expression at the University of Maryland-College Park is described. Kors and Silverglate quote from a list of the nonverbal behaviors prohibited: "leering and ogling with suggestive overtones; licking lips or teeth; holding food provocatively; [and] lewd gestures, such as hand or sign language to denote sexual activity." This is followed immediately by a remark characteristic of the authors: "As if dry lips or American Sign Language were not trouble enough..." It is almost incomprehensible that two grown men seem incapable of recognizing the difference between the licking of lips as a sexually suggestive gesture and the licking of lips that are dry. And it is terribly disturbing that these two grown men should be either so ignorant or so insensitive to equate the richness of

American Sign Language with the crudity of juvenile gestures.

Kors and Silverglate would do well to recall that their hero John Stuart Mill restricted the granting of liberty to children, minors, and barbarians, for these have not attained the maturity of mind required for the exercise of liberty.

This is a disappointing book. It belongs in academic library collections only because it is about the college community. Public libraries need not bother acquiring a copy; instead, they should use interlibrary loan. —*Elaine Harger*, W. Haywood Burns School, New York.

**Meadow, Charles T.** *Ink into Bits: A Web of Converging Media*. Landham, Md.: Scarecrow Pr., 1998. 292p. \$45, alk. paper, cloth (ISBN 0-8108-3507-X); \$24.50, paper (ISBN: 0-8108-3508-8). LC 98-16854.

*Ink into Bits* is a very readable, survey-style, lightly documented introduction to the communication and media issues resulting from the shift from print to electronic publishing. It is one person's viewpoint and one person's priorities, about which the author is very straightforward. Meadow, Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies, has written extensively in the field of information science. The breadth and diversity of topics he has addressed is evident in the list of essays included in this volume: "Changing Media in a Changing World"; "Media and Information"; "Some Media History"; "Special Place of Books and Writing in Our Culture"; "Representing and Presenting Information"; "Linear Text and Hypertext"; "Interacting with Information Machines"; "Multimedia"; "ModernTelecommunications: The Information Highway"; "Distribution"; "Comprehension"; "Adoption of New Technology"; "Markets"; "Protecting the Customer"; "Thinking about Change"; and "Thinking about the Future."

This book is a bit of a hybrid. On the one hand, it is extremely basic and textbooklike, often presenting fascinating tidbits of information such as the fact that

one experiment showed that the smell of cinnamon buns is more of a sexual attraction for men than perfume (that would explain those long lines at the airport Cinnabun counters); on the other hand, it goes into ponderous detail about topics that do not seem relevant to contemporary issues. At times, there is just too much history. Why do we need such detail on the use of the electromagnetic spectrum and how computers read letters? Do we need to know how the phone works? Do we need a history of radio in the twentieth century? Sure, all this is typical of the genre, but it just seems to me that this history is presented in lieu of information that I would rather see here.

For a book on contemporary trends, it is strangely disconnected from the opinions and activities of contemporary seekers of information. For example, there is little discussion of how people actually use information systems and even less on how people read books. Yet, there is considerable hand-wringing over the loss of reading discipline that comes from the reading of hypertext books. Although Meadow recognizes that there have always been differences in the way people read fiction and nonfiction, he only seems to be concerned with the reading of fiction and encyclopedias. But what about other nonfiction? Surely social scientists have been selectively reading books in their disciplines for ages. Meadow does not come right out and say—though the reader may easily get the impression—that he views hypertext as the text equivalent of the sound bite.

On the positive side, reading Meadow makes us constantly question our own assumptions. The chapter on the book makes a strong argument that the technology called the book has changed over the past five hundred years. The author writes coherently about the possibility of reading books on computers and of individuals being able to independently print copies of books they desire. He poses many excellent questions about multimedia: What do we make of the fact that it is more difficult to find errors in multime-

dia products? What effects will the use of multimedia products have on learning styles and education? He ponders the possible changes in book storage and distribution, and reviews the issues of portability, durability, versatility, and acceptability as they concern electronic books. Meadow does all this while very wisely refusing to make definitive futuristic statements.

As is the case with any book addressing current trends in information studies, this one runs the risk of quickly becoming dated. There are already hints: Meadow states that the year 2000 problem is probably trivial, but it could be expensive to fix and he predicts the day when the Web will become more commercial. Time does fly. This book is an opinion piece, and it is safe to say that it is probably not a final word on anything but, rather, a beginning word on many issues. —*Ed Tallent, Harvard University.*

*Towards the Digital Library: The British Library's Initiatives for Access Programme.* Ed. Leona Carpenter, Simon Shaw, and Andrew Prescott. London: The British Library, 1998. 256p. \$45 (ISBN 0-7123-4540-X) LC98-183175.

This collection of articles on the British Library's now-concluded Initiatives for Access Programme can be read at various levels. On one level, it is a kind of *Festschrift*, actually a *Selbstfestschrift*, in that it places a monument to what, by all the accounts collected here, was an enormously successful spurt of innovation in the field of library digitization. As such, the celebratory tone of many of the contributions in this volume, the heavy coated paper used in its production, and the beautiful color plates reproducing the digital *Sforza Hours* or the library's Portico Web site all lend an uncommon air of weight and even permanence to the accomplishment—the notorious volatility of the digital scene notwithstanding. Underlining the showcase function of both this book and the projects it describes, the British Library's chief executive, Brian