appears to recognize the political significance of conflicts over telecommunications. Rather than turn loose technologies or entrepeneurs, it is investing $2 million in a public relations campaign to sell deregulation to a very skeptical public. Telecom 2000 would be a better book if it helped us to understand the conflicting interests that make such actions necessary.

Reviewed by: Vincent Mosco
Queen's University

The Electronic Scholar:
A Guide to Academic Microcomputing
John Shelton Lawrence
Ablex Publishing Corporation, 1984
Norwood, New Jersey

This is a useful guide to academic uses of the microcomputer. It will be of value both to those already owning one and wondering how to use it better, and to those contemplating a purchase. The author's stated biases come from his experience as a teacher, scholar and administrator in the humanities and social sciences, a welcome "bias" to anyone who has tried to struggle through books on microcomputing written by authors of a different background.

The book is not a guide to hardware or software, however, There are other books and guides available on that topic. Lawrence's book discusses, in a general way, the various uses of a microcomputer. Specifically in the major chapter segments it discusses: word processing, co-operative writing and revision, research and filing, publication, administrative uses, legal and social issues. There's also a concluding reflection on "computopia."

While Lawrence presupposes a minimal level of familiarity with microcomputer operation, his work is relatively free of technical jargon,

and the little there is is explained well. Useful appendices follow each chapter and contain brief discussions of relevant hardware, software and bibliographic material.

The book's unavoidable drawback lies in its examples, which derive from Lawrence's own software and protocols. Such a drawback is unavoidable in a book of this kind. Without examples, the discussion tends to be too vague; with examples, it becomes too product-specific. Lawrence is aware of the problem and minimizes the difficulties. Still, some extra-sympathetic reading is called for to follow the exposition at several points, but the motivated reader will have little problem.

The Electronic Scholar will prove its usefulness many times. Especially noteworthy is Lawrence's proposal to introduce a new type of documentation for scholarly work, database footnotes. This procedure would list the database(s) searched, the date, keywords and their combinations, hits, retrievals and quotations. Such footnotes make sense and can help other scholars devise further search strategies.

It is worth adding to the author's insightful remarks on computopia, the thought that anyone thinking of purchasing a microcomputer would be well advised to do so in consultation with his or her university's computing specialists. University mainframes, their software and storage capabilities, are too valuable a resource to be ignored. While the microcomputer, equipped with modem, offers a rare sort of "independence" in electronically-assisted scholarship, this independence is misleading and its scope limited.

As Lawrence points out, the microcomputer does not replace typists, it provides them with more readable manuscript drafts; it does not replace librarians trained in computer searching, it provides them with more informed guidance as to what databases to search, and what terms to use; it does not replace record clerks or administrative secretaries, it makes their lives easier.

Reviewed by: Henry Overduin
University of Western Ontario

The High Cost of High Tech:
The Dark Side of the Chip
Lenny Siegel and John Markoff
New York, Harper and Row, 1985

Non-scholarly, descriptive, comprehensive, factual, and up-to-date, this book destroys conventional wisdom about the social impact of microelectronics and computers, giving a detailed accounting of the second Industrial Revolution as it occurred in Silicon Valley (Santa Clara County, California), a place often seen as a model for post-mechanical development. Its chapters also deal eloquently with the global impact of the computer and microelectronics industries, focussing on such issues as the computer's effects on the arm's race, individual privacy and freedom, education, employment, two-way communications links such as the telephone and postal services, post-mechanical industrialization and the environment, the Asian assembly labour force, and the trading of information.

At the outset the authors take a realistic, commonsensical approach to their subject:

> The 'electronic cottage' envisioned by futurists promises a range of computer-based services for the informational haves, from electronic mail to home banking. But the have-nots may find themselves stranded in their homes with no phones, decaying public libraries, and declining postal services. Like the car-less urban poor in America's central cities today, they will be locked out of the benefits of a remarkable new technology (p. 7).

Today the telecommunications network is being reorganized and rebuilt to meet the needs of a corporate-designed informational society.