2006

Television, Video, and Radio

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**Introduction**

Digital is the name of the game in the world of television, video, and radio. Several publications have broadened their scope to accommodate readers’ interests as the development and refinement of digital technologies helps to blur the lines between these three industries. The radio industry continues to explore digital radio signals, satellite radio, and Internet radio broadcasting. Digital video production has become the standard as equipment, software, and technologies become more affordable. As the technologies become increasingly mobile, the possibilities will continue to expand. The number of hand-held devices continues to increase in all three fields, although bigger is often still better when it comes to a TV. The sale of televisions with larger and larger displays continues to dominate the industry. The refinement of digital technologies has brought new players to the TV market; computer companies including HP, Dell, and Gateway have expanded into the TV arena. This migration has made an already full playing field positively crowded since the well-established television manufacturers are still around. The resulting competition benefits the consumer as options expand and prices fall.

The field of home entertainment has expanded far beyond the TV, VCR, and stereo system. According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the percentage of U.S. households with home theater systems doubled from 16 to 32 percent between 1998 and 2004. Today’s consumer seeks information about home theater systems, complete with high-performance sound, flat-screen TV, and HDTV. Home entertainment magazines are full of reviews covering an ever-increasing array of products. The DVD is now the media of choice, and it has even helped revolutionize the television industry by influencing the distribution and syndication of programming. Gone are the days of waiting five or more years for your favorite TV show to be reproduced for home viewing. Today, a
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show’s last season of episodes often arrives on DVD in time for the new season to start. Instead of trying to repackage a show originally filmed for TV viewing, shows are now produced with multiple formats in mind.

The Internet is an important tool for accessing and evaluating the resources reviewed here. Many of the print publications have companion web sites that can be explored before a subscription is placed. Although some sites can only be fully accessed by subscribers, evaluators should be able to determine the focus of a particular publication through its corresponding web site. Several of the sites also offer free electronic newsletters and electronic forums on a variety of topics. The world of television, video, and radio continues to evolve and thrive by incorporating new technologies into the old, thus guaranteeing the public’s continued interest.

Basic Periodicals


Basic Abstracts and Indexes

Film Literature Index, UnCover.

Adbusters: journal of the mental environment. See Alternatives section.

Afterimage. See Photography section.


This weekly industry publication covers a wide range of topics from broadcast and cable television to radio, satellite, multimedia, broadband, and emerging technologies. Broadcasting & Cable contains short, informative feature articles, programming information, Nielsen ratings, and the latest news, including FCC regulations and station sales. A regular column titled “Fates & Fortunes” reports job changes and recent activities of industry people. Each issue also includes a classified section. The online version provides daily news updates, early previews of print versions, and links to relevant industry web sites. Corporate libraries in the communications industry, academic libraries with communications or business departments, and public libraries with a well-developed business section will find this publication useful.


C Q contains detailed how-to articles, product reviews, and feature articles on a broad range of topics, including “From DXpedition to Disaster Aid: Ham Radio on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands” and “The Use of Pringles Containers to Enhance Network Security.” Recent features include three first-person accounts of ham radio activity impacted by the tsunami that struck southern Asia in late December 2004 and profiles of U.S. hams operating from Iraq. C Q also includes the latest government regulation news and information on upcoming conventions, contests, and awards. This publication will appeal to all ham radio enthusiasts and is suitable for the libraries that serve them.


This publication will appeal to all levels of video enthusiasts. Camcorder & ComputerVideo covers the latest trends in video photography and desktop video production through product reviews, expert advice, and how-to articles. Sample articles include “Master Your Camcorder’s Features: What Do These Buttons Do, Anyway?,” “How To Shoot Better Home Video,” and “From the Frontlines: A Soldier’s Video Diary.” Recommended for public and school libraries.


Current is a biweekly newspaper about public broadcasting in the United States. It covers a wide range of topics including history of public broadcasting, technological advances, and people in the field of public broadcasting. Current Online provides news briefs, employment opportunities, a calendar of events, a database of key historical documents of public broadcasting, and an archive of feature articles. Recommended for any library serving a population interested in the public broadcasting system.


DV provides news, tutorials, case studies, and in-depth product reviews to digital-video industry professionals. Additional information and discussion forums can be found on its companion web site (www.dv.com). Sample features include “HDV: A Hands-On Test Drive” and “10 Hot Tips: After Effects 6.5.” Recommended for industry and academic libraries as well as public libraries serving interested groups.


Video Systems presents articles, news, and product reviews revolving around four key concepts of video technology—shoot, edit, display, and integrate. This well-rounded industry publication presents articles on a variety of topics, including the influence of digital technology on professional sports, the use of video in military training, and the role of video in corporate communications and business training programs. The web site offers several related electronic newsletters in addition to expanded information about many of the features in the printed edition. Recommended for industry and academic libraries.
This transdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal provides a feminist perspective on media and communication studies. Its goal is to serve as an international forum for discussions between scholarly, professional, and grassroots organizations. Contents include articles, commentary, criticism, and book reviews and reflect a variety of theoretical, analytical, and practical perspectives. Contents pages available online from the publisher’s web site at no charge. Full text available for institutional subscriptions.

This newsletter provides monthly updates to the FM Atlas, which records format, licensing, and operating changes in the FM radio industry. FMedia! also includes news about emerging technologies such as digital audio broadcasting and low-power FM. This publication is similar in content to M Street Journal, but with a more independent feel. Suitable for public and academic libraries with an interest in FM radio broadcasting.

The Independent Film & Video Monthly. See The Independent in Films section.

InterMedia, published by the International Institute of Communications, covers emerging policy issues in the broadcasting and telecommunications industries and features contributions from professionals in a variety of fields, including law, academia, and journalism. Sample topics include cybercrime, new approaches to copyright issues, the future of television, and public service broadcasting in Taiwan. This journal’s international scope and well-written content make it a good choice for academic libraries, especially those serving large numbers of communication students.

The Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media is a scholarly publication devoted to the study and advancement of the communication industry from a broad range of viewpoints, including historical, technological, economic, legal, cultural, psychological, and social. Published quarterly for the Broadcast Education Association, this journal is aimed at professionals, academics, and students in the broadcasting, telecommunications, media, mass communication, and communication fields. Sample articles include “The Liberal Media Myth Revisited: An Examination of Factors Influencing Perceptions of Media Bias,” “Color Coded: Racial Descriptors in Television Coverage of Intercollegiate Sports,” and “Cross-Media Use in Electronic Media: The Role of Cable Television Web Sites in Cable Television Network Branding and Viewership.” This publication is strongly recommended for academic libraries.

Journal of Popular Film and Television. See Films section.

M Street Publications purchased Inside Radio in August 2002 and merged it with their daily newsletter, M Street Daily. The combined publication continues to deliver up-to-the-minute radio news, industry trends, and related research five days a week to subscribers via web and fax. Each issue also includes Arbitrrends and stock reports as well as employment opportunities. Recommended for libraries that serve industry professionals or a large population of communication students. A good alternative is The M Street Journal, which provides much of the same information on a weekly basis.

The M Street Journal subscribers receive a weekly fax with industry news, FCC regulations, call letter and format changes, and changes in station owners and facilities summarized from the daily edition, Inside Radio. Subscriptions include online access. The M Street Journal is recommended for most libraries, except for those where the timeliness of the daily edition would be more appropriate.

This interdisciplinary, scholarly journal provides an international forum for research and discussion exploring how media and related technologies affect our lives. Sample articles include “American Journalism and the Politics of Diversity,” “Obsessed with the Audience: Breakfast Television Revisited,” “Market Valorization in Broadcasting Policy in Ghana: Abandoning the Quest for Media Democratization,” and “Professing Porn or Obscene Browsing? On Proper Distance in the University Classroom.” Comments and book reviews are also included. Strongly recommended for academic libraries.

This quarterly newsletter focuses on how the media portray women and issues of interest to women. All types of media—print, broadcast, film, the Internet, and emerging media—fall under its scrutiny. It also covers employment of women by the media. Current and back issue summaries, statistical information, and useful Internet links are available on the publication’s web site. Useful for journalists and others concerned with the misrepresentation and/or underrepresentation of women in the media.

Monitoring Times provides extensive listings of radio and scanner communications, including shortwave, satellite, and ham radio. It includes international broadcasting program schedules, information about pirate and clandestine stations, expert listening tips, industry news, interviews, new-product tests, and...
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frequency listings for specialty groups such as the military and air traffic control. Sample articles include “The Changing World of FM DX” and “Catch Me If You Can: Monitoring the Elusive Part 15 Broadcaster.” Suitable for most public and academic libraries.


This weekly publication for the cable TV and telecommunications industries covers news, programming, advertising, marketing, technology, and government regulations. Technological changes in the telecom and cable broadcast markets are covered in a special section called “Broadband Week.” Multichannel News Online (www.multichannel.com) provides to subscribers daily news updates, early previews of the print edition, archives, and links to related industry sites. Strongly recommended for industry libraries and academic libraries that have an emphasis on broadcasting and the television industry.


Popular Communications provides information about radio and scanner communications through feature articles and regular columns such as “Homeland Security,” “The Wireless Connection,” “Broadcast Technology,” “Ham Discoveries,” “World Band Tuning Tips,” “Plane Sense,” and “Loose Connection.” Sample feature articles include “Listening to Castro on Cuban Radio,” “The Mystery of the Last Zeppelin Raid,” and “Keeping your Home Antennas Up!” The publication provides a good overview of the receiving end of the broadcasting world and includes listings for world, national, regional, local, and pirate radio stations. Suitable for high school and public libraries.

Public Broadcasting Report. See Media and AV section.


Published by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), this high-quality monthly magazine contains news and features for the amateur radio operator. QST includes product reviews of the newest radios and accessories, from hand-held and mobile FM radios to home-station transceivers, antennas, and shortwave radios. Each issue features a variety of regular columns, such as “Digital Dimension,” which reports news and includes related web sites about digital radio, and “New Ham Companion” which contains easy-to-understand features and practical, how-to articles for novice amateur radio users. A calendar of upcoming hamfests, conventions, and swapmeets is also provided. ARRL members also have access to the online archives of product reviews from 1980 to the present and other amateur radio resources. Strongly recommended for school libraries that support related curricula and for public libraries serving amateur radio enthusiasts.


Radio Ink is a comprehensive industry publication for radio broadcasting professionals. Each issue, along with the related electronic newsletter, covers a broad range of topics from sales and marketing to programming and management. Featured articles highlight industry trends and radio broadcasting professionals. Recommended for industry libraries, academic libraries with communication departments, and medium-sized to large public libraries.


The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) publishes this scholarly journal for its members. SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal contains research and papers on the latest technical and scientific advances in motion imaging, including archiving, digital technology, and image quality. It also contains society and industry news, including upcoming events and meetings. New products and the latest publications are also highlighted. Industry professionals and communication students will find this journal useful. Recommended for academic libraries with communication departments and industry libraries.

TV Guide. See General Interest section.


Videography is a glossy industry publication covering all aspects of video making from production and postproduction to graphics and special effects. Feature articles and product reviews assume a working knowledge of the industry and are focused on helping video professionals hone their skills or address work-related issues. Employment opportunities and discussion forums are available online at the companion web site (www.uemedia.com/CPC/ videography). Recommended for academic libraries and larger public libraries with specialized collections.


This publication is geared toward the beginner and semiprofessional with easy-to-understand feature articles and regular columns providing practical, how-to advice. Sample articles include “DVD Recorders: The New VCR and More,” “A Ray of Light: A Buyers Guide for Lights and Reflectors,” and “Peer to Peer File Sharing.” Reviews of low- to mid-priced equipment are included in the “Test Bench” column. The companion web site (www.videomaker.com) includes tips for getting started with video, forums, a glossary of video-related terms, and the ability to sign up for a monthly newsletter called Videomaker ENews. Videomaker is recommended for public and school libraries.

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Electronic Broadcasts


Barry Mishkind, “The Eclectic Engineer,” has collected an impressive amount of material on pioneer and currently broadcasting radio stations at this free site called The Broadcast Archive: Radio History on the Web. While it emphasizes professional radio broadcasting, it also includes information about early amateur broadcasting. The site documents stories of early radio stations and the people who built them, and provides links to related software and databases. Sample pages include “Jurassic Radio,” “War Stories,” and “Top Ten List of Excuses for Ignoring FCC Rules.” Recommended for anyone interested in the history of radio broadcasting.


OnVideo provides a list of DVDs coming to video stores each week. The site (www.onvideo.org) includes brief reviews listing story lines, directors, actors, MPAA ratings, year of theatrical release, running times, and release dates. The site also includes related links, widescreen release information, and an tutorial on searching for titles. Useful for anyone who wants up-to-date information on the latest DVD releases.

Home Entertainment


Home Theater contains features, industry news, and extensive product reviews covering high-end components to moderately priced products. In addition, Home Theater also provides advice on home theater environments, the latest A/V gadgets, DVDs, and CDs. Sample features include “Apartement Entertainment, A/V Style,” “Glow Eye for the Married Guy,” and “HDTV II: Home Theater Answers Your (Next) Questions about HDTV.” This glossy publication is best suited for medium-sized to large public libraries.


The Perfect Vision provides information about the latest home entertainment equipment, including TVs, players, recorders, speakers, accessories, and media. The in-depth product reviews and feature articles will appeal to video and audio lovers. Regular columns such as “Coming Attractions” and “HDTV Insider” showcase the latest trends in home entertainment. Reviews of newly released DVDs are also included. Online access to all product and media reviews from this publication as well as its sister publication, The Absolute Sound, are available at www.AVguide.com for a fee. Consumers may also be interested in AVguide Monthly, an e-magazine from the same publisher focusing on affordable home theater and audio components. The Perfect Vision is suitable for public libraries.


Satellite Direct is the program guide to the DIRECTV digital satellite system. Daily channel lineups, local listings, and special sections for movies, sporting events, and children’s programming are included. Feature articles and regular columns spotlight upcoming shows, entertainment news, and the latest trends in TV technology. Daily updates and programming changes for both Satellite Direct and Satellite Orbit can be found on the “Dishing It Out” page accessible via a link from each magazine’s web site. Recommended only for libraries with an adequate DIRECTV viewing audience.


Satellite Orbit provides national satellite TV programming, complete with channel lineups, daily guides, programming-plus stations, sports, special events, pay-per-view, and movies. It also includes a satellite locator section with satellite radio listings and a separate channel lineup for Dish Network customers. Upcoming shows, celebrity news, and the latest technology trends are featured. Daily updates and programming changes for both Satellite Orbit and Satellite Direct can be found on the “Dishing It Out” page accessible via a link from each magazine’s web site. Recommended for public and school libraries.


Smart TV & Sound is an accessible publication for the average electronics consumer interested in the latest technologies and products for home entertainment. It includes product reviews and regular columns such as “Noise: The Latest News in Interactive Technology,” “New Gear,” “Video In,” and “Smart Discs.” Columns discuss such wide-ranging topics as Internet radio, downloading music at Wal-Mart, and installing your own wireless network. Sample articles include “DTCP: Digital Transmission Copy Protection” and “DVD Extras: Good Grief, You Mean There’s More?” Unfortunately, Smart TV & Sound is only published twice a year. Recommended for school and public libraries interested in expanding general-interest or entertainment holdings.


Sound & Vision is a consumer publication with broad appeal. It provides detailed reviews of a wide range of products, including DVD players, DVD recorders, plasma TVs, digital video projectors, home theater speaker systems, universal remotes, and home entertainment accessories. Regular features and articles highlight the newest trends in entertainment technology. Sample articles include “Get the BIG Picture: Ten Reasons Why a Front Projector Could be Right for You” and “Invisible Tech: Blu-ray & HD DVD,” and ““Back to Basics: How to Set Up a DVD Player or DVD Recorder.” Recommended for public, high school, and academic libraries.

6221. Video Watchdog: the perfectionist’s guide to fantastic video. [ISSN: 1070-9991] 1990. m. USD 60 domestic; USD 75 foreign; USD 6.50 newsstand/cover per issue. Ed(s): Tim Lucas. Video Watchdog, PO Box
Video Watchdog provides critical reviews of the latest home video and DVD releases in the sci-fi, horror, B-movie, film noir, mystery, animation, and underground genres. Reviews include information about letterboxing, missing or restored footage, and alternate versions. A column called "Audio Watchdog" presents reviews of film and TV soundtracks, while related book reviews are presented in a column called "Biblio Watchdog." Recommended for public, high school, and academic libraries.

Widescreen Review is a consumer publication for the enthusiast in pursuit of the “ultimate home theatre experience.” Technical excellence, particularly with picture and sound quality, is the focus of this publication. Regular columns such as “Your Home Theatre” and “Coming Soon to a Retailer Near You” provide information about the latest technologies and system set-up considerations to enhance the experience. Also included are in-depth equipment reviews, critical reviews of DVDs, a DVD discography, and a DVD/D-VHS release schedule. Recommended for public and school libraries.