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Television, Video, and Radio

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TELEVISION, VIDEO, AND RADIO

See also Electronics; Films; and Media and AV sections.

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Introduction

The world of television, video, and radio continues to expand as new technologies are introduced. It is difficult to pick up a magazine about the television industry without seeing the words digital cable, interactive TV, or on-demand TV. The radio industry is exploring digital radio signals, satellite radio, and Internet radio broadcasting. Digital video production is becoming more and more popular as equipment, software, and technologies become more affordable. Several publications have broadened their scope to accommodate readers’ interests as the development and refinement of these technologies helps to blur the lines between these three industries.

The field of home entertainment has expanded far beyond the TV, VCR, and stereo system. 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 market continues to grow as well, and many established magazines have expanded to include this wildly popular video format. Still other magazines have been created solely for the DVD audience.

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, and interactive multimedia. Broadcasting & Cable contains short, informative feature articles, programming information, Nielsen ratings, and the latest news, including FCC regulations and station sales. Regular columns titled “Fates & Fortunes” and “Facetime” report job changes, obituaries, and recent activities of industry people. Each issue also includes a classified section. 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.


CQ contains detailed how-to articles, product reviews, and feature articles on a broad range of topics, including “How the Internet Can Save Your Repeater” and “The Use of Pringles Containers to Enhance Network Security.” A recent issue highlights the relationship between ham radio and the space program in the wake of the Columbia shuttle tragedy. CQ 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. The company recently began publishing CQ VHF, a quarterly for people interested in VHF ham radio above 50 MHz. This publication had been merged into CQ: amateur radio, but due to popular demand it has been brought back as a separate magazine.


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 “Re-Edit Your DVDs,” “Ticks, Hums, Hiss and Pops,” “C.S.I. Videos,” and “Make Video, Not War.” Recommended for public and school libraries.


Current is a biweekly newspaper about public broadcasting. 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, calendar of events, 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.


Digital Video Magazine provides news, tutorials, case studies, and product reviews to digital industry professionals. Additional information and discussion forums can be found on its companion web site (http://www.dv.com). Sample articles include “Editors as Storytellers: How to Find the Story While Editing Your Footage” and “Training Spaces: The Making of a Pier 1 Training Video Series.” Recommended for industry and academic libraries as well as public libraries serving interested groups.


Fans of digital home video entertainment will find plenty to like about DVD Etc. With regular columns such as “DVDs MIA (Missing In Action),” which compiles the movies and TV shows that readers want to see released on DVD, “Excetera,” which reports the latest DVD news; and “Surf’s Up,” which highlights the magazine’s web site pick of the month; the magazine has something for everyone. Sample features include “Restoration Techniques: Classic Film to DVD” and “Director’s Cut: Joss Whedon, Director of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel, and Firefly.” Reviews of DVDs and many related products are included. The magazine, links to the online store, and DVD-related forums are also available online at www.dvetc.com. Discussions on the “Home Theater Forum” are reprinted in a regular column called “The Monthly Post.” Recommended for all public and school libraries.


DVD Guide is a comprehensive listing of recently released movies, special-interest programs, and music videos. The listings include domestic and foreign titles from major studios as well as independent filmmakers. Titles are grouped under headings such as “New Releases,” “Coming Soon,” and “Editorial Picks.” The guide also features special listings such as “DVD Gifts for the Season,” “Rock Concerts Live on DVD,” and “AFI Top 100 Films on DVD.” The Complete DVD Guide CD-ROM allows the user to search by title, actor, director, genre, and more. Users can also use the CD-ROM to build a database of the DVD titles they own. Recommended for all public and school libraries.


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 to M Street Journal in content, but with a more independent feel. Suitable for public and academic libraries with an interest in FM radio broadcasting.


Home Theater contains industry news, DVD and CD reviews, and extensive product reviews. Although primarily geared toward the high-end consumer home theater market, the publication does include some more moderately priced components. In addition to covering home theater equipment, Home Theater also provides advice on home theater environments from the best lighting techniques to the most effective noise reduction. This glossy publication is best suited for medium to large public libraries.

Independent Film & Video Monthly. See 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 articles include "M Street Daily." Inside Radio and features contributions from professionals in a variety of emerging policy issues in the broadcasting and telecommunications industries Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media

The large numbers of communications students. content make it a good choice for academic libraries, especially those serving large numbers of communications 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, cultural, and social. Sample articles include "Gatekeeping International News: An Attitudinal Profile of U.S. Television Journalists," "Interactivity in Television: Use and Impact of an Interactive Program Guide," and "Is Online Buying Out of Control?: Electronic Commerce and Consumer Self-Regulation." 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 new publication continues to deliver radio news, industry trends, and related research five days a week to subscribers via e-mail and fax. Each issue also includes Arbitrants and stock reports as well as employment opportunities. Recommended for libraries that serve industry professionals or a large population of communications students. A good alternative is M Street Journal, which provides much of the same information on a weekly basis.


M Street Journal is printed biweekly with weekly online updates and provides subscribers with a majority of the news released in its daily companion publication. Compilations of all call letter and format changes as well as changes in station owners and facilities from the daily edition are included in the weekly edition. FCC regulations and other industry news items are summarized as well. 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 "Digital Interactivity in Public Memory Institutions: The Uses of New Technologies in Holocaust Museums," "The MIT Media Lab: Techno Dream Factory or Alienation as a Way of Life?," "Virtual Togetherness: An Everyday-Life Experience," and "Doing IT for the Kids: Re-examining Children, Computers, and the ‘Information Society.’" Commentaries and book reviews are also included. Strongly recommended for academic libraries.


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 frequency listings for specialty groups such as the military and air traffic control. Sample articles include “Radio in Germany: From Spark-Gap to Digital Shortwave” and “Digital Radio Mondiale—Hi-Fi for AM Radio.” 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 daily news updates, early previews of the print edition, archives, and links to related industry sites to subscribers. Strongly recommended for industry libraries and academic libraries that have an emphasis on broadcasting and the television industry.


The Perfect Vision is a consumer publication with an emphasis on technical information. The in-depth product reviews and feature articles will appeal to video and audio lovers. Regular columns such as “Coming Attractions,” “Real-World Home Theater,” and “HDTV Insider” showcase the latest trends in home entertainment. Reviews of newly released DVDs are also included. The Perfect Vision is suitable for medium to large public libraries.

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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.” 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, this high-quality monthly magazine contains news and features for the amateur radio operator. QST includes product reviews, how-to articles, and practical advice. Each issue features a variety of regular columns, such as “Amateur Radio World,” which reports the latest information about international radio legislation. Other topics include space communications, digital advances, and historical information. Subscribers have access to the online archives and other amateur radio resources. Strongly recommended for school libraries that support related curricula as well as 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. Feature articles highlight industry trends and radio broadcasting professionals. Recommended for industry libraries, academic libraries with communications departments, and medium to large public libraries.


The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers publishes this journal for its members. The publication’s name was changed to SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal in October 2002. This scholarly journal contains research and papers on the latest technical and scientific advances in motion imaging, including archiving, digital technology, and image quality. SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal also contains society and industry news. Industry professionals as well as communications students will find this publication useful. Recommended for academic libraries with communications departments and industry 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 listings and 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 any public or school library.


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,” “Audio In,” and “Smart Discs.” Sample articles include “The Changing Look of TV: Walled Gardens and TV Portals” and “Interactive TV In the 21st Century.” 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, plasma TVs, LCD video projectors, home theater speakers systems, and universal remotes. Regular features and articles highlight the newest trends in entertainment technology. Sample articles include “The Sounds of Silence,” “Making the HDTV Connection,” and “Digital Radio Comes Down to Earth.” Recommended for public, high school, and academic libraries.


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 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.


Video Watchdog provides critical reviews of the latest home video and DVD releases in the sci-fi, horror, B-movie, and underground genres. Recent feature articles include “Portals to a Shadowed Past: 4 Silent Horror Classics Revisited” and “A Phildickian Look at Minority Report.” 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.


Videography is a glossy industry publication covering all aspects of video making from production, postproduction, and audio to graphics, special effects, and streaming. Feature articles and product reviews are geared toward the video professional and assume a working knowledge of the industry. Employment opportunities and classified ads are also included. 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 “10 Ways to Steady Your Shooting,” “Framing Good Shots,” and “Six Ways to Soup Up Your Computer for Video Editing.” Reviews of low- to mid-priced equipment are included in the “Test Bench” column. Videomaker is recommended for public and school libraries.


Widescreen Review is a consumer publication for the home theater enthusiast. Feature articles and regular columns present a wide range of home theater-related topics such as “HD-DVD Prospects” and “DVD Blues.” Also included are in-depth equipment reviews, critical reviews of DVDs, a DVD discography, and a DVD/D-VHS release schedule. Recommended for all public and school libraries.

Electronic Journals


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. 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 as well as 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.


This easy-to-use site features online news and information that is continuously updated as well as a schedule of CNN-TV’s programming. The home page features “Top Stories” and provides links to a variety of other sections from technology and sports to entertainment and travel. CNN.com also produces an online international version. Recommended as a good general online news source.


OnVideo provides a list of videos and DVDs coming to video stores each week. The site 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 a tutorial on searching for videos. Useful for anyone who wants up-to-date information on the latest video and DVD releases. http://www.onvideo.org/


PBS Previews lists the current programming available on the Public Broadcasting System, including background information and educational tips for many of the programs. The interested user can check local listings as well as sign up for the weekly newsletter. http://www.pbs.org/previews/