

Presentation

In our culture of image and omnipresent audiovisual narratives, it is inconceivable that school curricula should ignore learning skills and abilities in audiovisual communication. Girls and boys, children and teenagers, grow up immersed in iconographic and multimedia environments and do not have sufficient or efficient tools to interpret, understand and critically judge the audiovisual proposals insistently offered by the media.

The Catalonia Broadcasting Council (CAC) has promoted various initiatives in this respect. Number 25 of the *Quaderns del CAC* (CAC Notebooks) contains some recent contributions of interest to make education in audiovisual communication a fundamental aspect of learning and formal schooling. "Thinking of audiovisual education" is the general proposal of this single-themed work, as noted in the introduction of the article by Victòria Camps, and as argued by Joan Ferrés ("Education in audiovisual communication in the digital era"), coordinator of the working group under the auspices of the CAC to define the concept of *competence in audiovisual communication*. Ferrés also presents results from a wide consultation among experts in this area ("Competence in audiovisual communication: proposal organised around dimensions and indicators"). In Catalonia, the Forum of entities of audiovisual users put forward some specific proposals at the end of 2004 ("Education in audiovisual communication: perspectives and proposals for action in Catalonia"), whereas Mercè Oliva presents a report on key international initiatives in this area ("An overview of education in audiovisual communication"). Finally, this collection includes a manifesto for audiovisual and multimedia education by a group of Spanish experts, as well as the conclusions of the *White Paper: education in the audiovisual environment* (2003).

In the "Observatory" section we have published three articles of applied research. Firstly, a summary of the findings of a study on how health is treated on the radio by Amparo Huertas and Maria Gutiérrez ("Health and radio: an analysis of journalistic practice"). There is also an appraisal of the new audiovisual and telecommunications regulations in Mexico by Rodrigo Gómez García and Gabriel Sosa Plata ("Reforming legislation on radio, television and telecommunications in Mexico"). And, finally, a study of how women were represented on International Women's Day 2005 ("Women, identities and television: how news programmes constructed the 8th of March") by Montserrat Ribas and Lydia Fernández.

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