

Books Review

DÍAZ NOSTY, B. *Tendencias 2006. Medios de comunicación. El año de la televisión*

Madrid: Telefónica Foundation

ISBN: 84-89884-68-4

On the 50th anniversary of the start of television in Spain, the Telefónica Foundation has dedicated its annual to analysing this medium. As opined by the director of the report, Bernardo Díaz Nosty, quantitative analyses, based on data from commercial media measurement, describe a growing trend in the Spanish communication and media market. The figures offered on the turnover, advertising spend and consumption seem to place Spain at the level of its European peers.

In any case, continues Díaz Nosty, television in Spain (as the core of the audiovisual sector) suffers from an anomalous situation: within a context of liberalisation and multiplication in terms of supply, communication does not have any arbitrating body to regulate the sector, a circumstance that affects the democratic quality of society. So this collective work has been published with the aim of offering a global, contextualised view of the sector, beyond the specific data.

JÄCKEL, A. *European Film Industries*

London: British Film Institute (2003)

ISBN: 0-85170-948-6

Anne Jäckel, lecturer at the University of the West of England (Bristol), evaluates the film industry in Europe, its operational systems and business model within a global context. Trends in production, distribution and exhibition are analysed, both at the level of the different national markets and also pan-European, as well as the public and private financing, co-productions, public policies, the relationship between the film and television industry and the threats to creative cinema.

The book is divided into six chapters, very clearly delimited, and conclusions. Jäckel starts with a historical description of the film industries in Europe, continues with the production and co-production systems, both within states and pan-European, and ends with a description of the distribution and exhibition of films on the continent.

HALL, C.; SCOTT, C.; HOOD, C. *Telecommunications Regulation. Culture, Chaos and Interdependence Inside the Regulatory Process*

London: Routledge (2000)

ISBN: 0-415-19949-2

This book is a result of a commission in 1994 by the Director General of the time of Telecommunications for the British government, Don Cruickshand, to a team of researchers. They had to carry out internal independent research into Oftel, telecommunication's regulatory authority. Oftel, which in 2003 was wound up to become part of the new convergent regulator Ofcom, opened its doors to this team and showed all its work processes and protocols. Based on fieldwork, three levels of decision-making in Oftel were described. Each level was defined by a dichotomy of opposing concepts, indicating the positive and negative aspects it might involve:

- 1) The Cartesian-bureaucratic level, employed to set telephone rates and to assign numbers;
- 2) the ad hoc-chaotic level, for regulating anti-competitive behaviour and market abuse; and
- 3) the bargaining-diplomatic level to resolve issues related to public complaints or the compliance of specific obligations for operators.

LANGE, A.; NEWMAN-BAUDAIS, S. *Les entreprises de distribution cinématographique en Europe*
Strasbourg: European Audiovisual Observatory (2007)
ISBN: 92-871-6019-8

The latest monographic edition of the European Audiovisual Observatory is the first that systematically and comparatively deals with film distribution in the 28 countries of the Council of Europe. Notwithstanding this, it starts with previous studies, especially the one entitled *The Fragmented Universe of Film Distribution Companies in Europe*, presented within the context of the ministerial conference carried out in Venice in August 2003, under the Italian presidency of the European Union.

This study is a response to a series of fundamental questions in order to understand the sector and possible public intervention: key distribution firms country by country, market share, firms specialised in importing European films, strategies they use, the most successful non-national European films, etc.

MATEU DE ROS, R.; LÓPEZ-MONÍS GALLEGÓ, M. (coord.). *Derecho de Internet*
Cizur Menor (Navarre): Aranzadi (2003)
ISBN: 84-9767-107-4

This book is a critical and complete study of State Act 34/2002, of 11 July, on the services of the information society and e-commerce. In addition to commenting on the act in its entirety, the book also offers an overview of the right to Internet in all its aspects: service providers in the information society, electronic contracts, preventative juridical security or e-government, among other issues.

This manual also includes all EU regulations on the area, for example the European directives on protecting consumers, and their transposition into Spanish law, such as Directive 2002/58/EC on the privacy of electronic communications.