Selected Resources for the Access Practitioner/Philosopher

ORGANIZATIONS

Our Media, Not Theirs
A one day gathering of scholars and practitioners of alternative media from around the world to discuss practical and theoretical issues within “alternative,” “radical,” “community,” “citizens’” media. The focus is primarily on the Americas and Europe. The 2001 conference was in Washington, D.C.; the 2002 gathering is scheduled for July 20 in Barcelona. Information and papers from the conferences are available on the Our Media website: http://faculty.menlo.edu/~jhiggins/ourmedia

Union for Democratic Communication (UDC)
This organization brings together activists in academics and community-based media to explore issues within alternative media.
www.udc.org

BOOKS

This collection of essays by cultural critic and public intellectual Pat Aufderheide explores a range of issues related to the practice and culture of media in the U.S. and around the world. Topics include film, broadcasting, the Internet, media literacy, public policy, as well as access cable television’s contribution to the public sphere. International concerns concentrate on cinema and grassroots video in Latin America.

Rodriguez presents four international case studies in grassroots electronic media, framing the discussion within the context of the democratization of communication and the survival of cultural identities. She explores numerous instances of “citizen’s media” around the world, and focuses on instances in revolutionary Nicaragua in the 1980s; Catalonia, Spain; Colombia; and Latino radio in the U.S. Rodriguez provides a context for understanding the manner in which “citizen’s media” contribute to social change.

Media activist and film/video maker DeeDee Halleck shares stories and thoughts from her three decades of experience with community-based media in the U.S. and around the world. The essays that make up this book are drawn from diary entries, articles, conference keynote addresses and presentations. Halleck thoughtfully combines people’s stories, case studies, personal experiences, and theoretical frameworks to make the case for grassroots-oriented media and national/international policies that encourage community media. Topics touch on the origins of Paper Tiger TV, Deep Dish Network, and Gulf Crisis TV Project; public access cable television as an international model of community-based media; women and media; international examples of alternative media; and the Indy Media Center movement. The book includes a timeline of technology and alternative media -- a helpful tool for anyone exploring the history of media industries and media activism in the U.S.

Branwyn explains how to use public access television, the internet, film, radio, ‘zines, and other media -- from conception, through production, to distribution.


Downing, et. al., present a theoretical framework in which to consider “radical,” “alternative” media, including notions of audience, power, hegemony, community, and the public sphere. Organizational models of radical media are discussed. Various media in Europe and the U.S. are explored, including print, radio, video, the Internet, community radio, and public access television.


Harding provides examples of video activism around the world, as well as skills and strategies for pursuing social change using video as a tool.

PUBLICATIONS

This issue of the CMR, a publication of the Alliance for Community Media, highlights the 25th anniversary of the Alliance (formerly the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers). Historical and philosophically-oriented articles trace the roots of access in the U.S. and the continuing use of grassroots-based, democratic media in the struggle for a more equitable society. A must for everyone interested in the roots and current state of affairs of the community access video movement in the U.S.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS:


*end*