Book Reviews

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Freedom of Information is a bulletin consisting of 16 pages, which is produced six times a year by Privacy & Data Protection Ltd. Its stated purpose is to provide reports and comment on developments in the law on freedom of information. In its first edition it was acknowledged that there had been warm encouragement for such a publication from Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, who said: "All those involved in FoI – especially in the early years – will need practical and timely information. I very much welcome this new journal aimed at promoting greater understanding of how FoI is working in practice." There can be no doubt that the publication of a bulletin, which at regular intervals both reports decisions of the Information Commissioner and provides comment as to how the Act is actually being applied, is likely to be a valuable resource for any person working or researching in this area. In this sense, it is far more valuable than a standard text book on the subject, which will all too quickly be out of date.

The editor of the bulletin is Marcus Turle, a solicitor from Field Fisher Waterhouse, and he is assisted by an impressive editorial board which includes one silk, and experienced data protection and privacy solicitors from Clifford Chance, Bird and Bird, Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, Herbert Smith and MacRoberts Solicitors. Marcus Turle has been a specialist in privacy and information law since 1998, and writes a short and sensible editorial section in each issue touching on key current topics of interest. There are high quality contributions to the bulletin from experts across the field, many in employment as solicitors. For example the second issue contained a very useful piece by Professor Brian Jones of Herbert Smith on the impact of the Environmental Information Regulations (a parallel but mutually exclusive set of regulations to the FoI) highlighting the potential pitfalls for the unwary. It also contained the first part of a series of pieces by Hazel Grant of Bird and Bird about the difficult topic of exemptions under the Act.

The content of the short pieces in the bulletin are informative, clear and easily digestible. They are exactly the sort of articles which the busy practitioner or information officer, who needs to see if there is any recent learning on a specific area, can quickly have resort to. The short index on the front page gives a helpful brief summary of the key areas which are discussed inside, and many of the items are accompanied by links to other articles, or website information on the same or similar topics. The publication of the email address of the author at the end of each article suggests that additional clarification may be sought from the author him/herself.

As the case-law on FoI develops, such a resource will become more and more necessary. There is no doubt that the exemptions and the associated public interest test constitute one of the most difficult aspects of the application of the Act and timely reporting of how these cases are resolved in practice will be essential to officers dealing with FoI requests.

Other sections of the bulletin include a book review section, and a FoI news section. It is understood that the news section will summarise decisions of the Information Commissioner, with appropriate comment. Perhaps understandably, the early issues of this bulletin did not have too many specific decisions to report, but the comments on the passage of legislation, availability of guidance on answering confirming or denying the existence of documents, and more esoteric questions such as whether VAT should be charged on FoI requests, were all pithy and informative. In conclusion, there can be no question but that this publication (the only publication of its kind) will be of real practical use to those advising and working in the field.

Jeremy Hyam
Barrister
1 Crown Office Row
Temple
EC4Y 7HH

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In this book Coppel provides a comprehensive well indexed guide to the law of information rights. The book’s main focus is to provide a detailed analysis of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act ("FoIA") which came into force fully on 1 January 2005. FoIA gives the public the right to access information held by public sector organisations. As such it provides a useful reference for both those working in the public sector.
who need to deal with requests for information under FoIA and those members of the public who want to use FoIA to gain access to publicly held information.

In addition to chapters dealing with the specific provisions of FoIA, Coppel provides a chapter outlining the need for legislation to enable access to publicly held information and provides an overview of information access legislation in other parts of the world. This provides useful background which is of assistance in interpreting the general principles underlying FoIA.

Coppel considers rights of access to information under other legislation, including the Data Protection Act 1998 and other less well known acts such as the Health Service Joint Consultative Committee (Access to Information) Act 1986! He also considers rights to access information under European Union legislation which applies to information held by domestic public bodies as well as enabling members of the public to access information held by institutions of the European Union.

The book contains a useful section dealing with the rights of access relating to particular categories of information including healthcare records, environmental information and educational records. The book's appendices contain copies of all the relevant domestic acts of parliament and statutory instruments, together with links to a website providing details of the legislation from other jurisdictions that are referred to in the book.

In my view, this is a book which achieves the author's aim as stated in the preface to provide a practitioners' text, "not just [for] . . . . legal practitioners but all those whose occupation involves seeking or handling requests for official information"

Marion Kinshuck
Solicitor
Commercial Team
Cobbetts Solicitors
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To launch a new directory of official contacts in the European Union is a major challenge, particularly at the end of a year which has seen huge changes to the European institutions. The first parliamentary elections in a European Union of 25 states were held last June while a new Commission took office in December, amid much controversy.

Press officers, lobbyists and other professionals who need current information about the people in charge both in the governments of the European Union’s member states and in its institutions will welcome this new publication from Dod’s Political Publishing which replaces their European companion.

Introduced last year by Guide to the new EU, a concise introduction discussing the institutional changes caused by the recent enlargement, Eurosource is a two-volume directory complemented by a subscription database. It lists 4,000 senior officials and gives biographies for over 1,500 of them.

The first volume is a substantial directory of the European Parliament with biographical and contact details of all 725 MEPs, and includes lists by membership of committees and political groups. Details are also provided for the European Ombudsman’s office, the Committee of the Regions and the European Central and Investment Banks.

The second volume, due to be published in March, will include similar information for the Council of the European Union and its General Secretariat; the European Commission; European Court of Justice; European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and for other official bodies and agencies of the European Union.

The database at http://www.eurosource.eu.com/ provides an online version of the directory updated with news releases and amendments where required.

The directory is a clearly laid out and concise reference work for the European institutions while the database is a convenient source of reliable news of national elections and EU policy.

Patrick Overy
EDC Librarian
University of Exeter
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It is over a decade since the previous edition of this weighty tome was published. During that time nationalist tendencies have broken the former Soviet Union, the Middle East has been embroiled in an excess of disturbances, Yugoslavia has collapsed, and tensions have risen in Kashmir and on the Korean peninsula.

Not unexpectedly this third edition of Border and Territorial Disputes is considerably more voluminous than the second. Even though some disputes have officially been settled, the editor has intentionally included them, adding to its volume, not in the expectation that they will re-surface, but that they are relevant in the historical context around which present-day disputes are presented.

The book is divided into five main parts: Africa, the Americas (together with Antarctica), Asia and the Pacific Ocean, Europe, and the Middle East. Each part consists of
a continuous series of chapters covering a particular territory or border area, for example, Chad-Libya, Japan-Russia, the Cyprus Question. In all there are over 90 territories or border areas, each of which is discussed by one of a panel of some 27 expert authors drawn from around the world.

Each of the 90 or so chapters provides a detailed historical perspective, giving the reader a suitable breadth and depth of information from which to understand the underlying causes of the disputes. Many of the disputed territories or borders of the world have their origins in the nineteenth century or even earlier, but the present day governments are no less content to let their claims lie quietly.

In many areas, for example the Central Asian republics, there have emerged several disputes as a result of mainly twentieth century political or religious imperialism. This has led to a complex pattern of seemingly intractable disputes between states wielding considerable political, economic and military might, such as China and Kazakhstan.

Many of the disputes are over relatively small areas of the Earth’s surface, such as a tiny island in the Sea of Azov between Russia and Ukraine, or Navassa Island claimed by both the US and Haiti.

More familiar disputes are also discussed in this book, including those between Britain and Spain over Gibraltar, between Greece and Turkey over Cyprus, or the complex Palestinian Question. What is not included is any discussion of maritime border disputes, except where they affect landward claims.

Towards the end of the book are some 19 pages of black-and-white line maps of various scales and orientations illustrating the locations, and in some cases the salient details of, disputed territories or borders. Unfortunately these maps lack the detail needed to make them more useful than merely illustrating the general locations of disputes. It is a pity, for example, that natural features, roads and railways and other details are not shown. The serious researcher will certainly have to revert to a detailed atlas or large-scale map of the relevant area for a proper illustration.

This book is an excellent encyclopedia of probably every disputed area of the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Journalists and undergraduate students will find it perfect for background information, and for the more advanced academic researcher there is sufficient historical material from which to continue research elsewhere. Strangely, however, there is a noticeable absence of footnotes or bibliographic references of any kind. This may be a cause of some concern for the academic researcher, though not if the book is viewed as the starting point for further investigation which could be undertaken in, for example, the companion volume entitled Revolutionary and Dissident Movements of the World.

Jonathan Gordon-Till
Oxford Business Intelligence
The 17th century was of course a time of great political turbulence in Great Britain but towards the end of the century the Licensing Act 1695 ended the system of state licensing with which the privileges of the Stationers Company had been intertwined. This relative loosening of the régime led to the introduction in 1710 of a statutory copyright law under the Copyright Act which gave to existing published works a limited copyright period of 21 years and to new works a copyright period of 14 years. Following shortly after the Treaty of Union of 1707, the Copyright Act applied also to Scotland.

While at first sight the Act might be seen as freeing authors, publishers and, importantly, the purchasing public from the de facto perpetual copyright of the guild and licensing system in favour of a temporarily limited copyright, that was not the practical result in England and Wales. As a Scots lawyer, your reviewer has always been impressed by the ingenuity of the English legal mind. That native ingenuity was duly deployed in the years after 1710 to develop the doctrine that, under English common law, perpetual copyright was given to the first publisher of any text, thereby continuing the privileges of the guild.

Not so in Scotland. Here there developed a considerable industry in which Scottish publishers proceeded to publish works which were out of copyright in terms of the Act. Understandably, these began to find their way into England at much cheaper prices, and so the London cartel felt obliged to take action. Proceedings were taken in the Court of Session in Scotland in the case of Hinton v Donaldson. The case in fact receives little prominence in the Scottish law reports being given a relatively short entry in Morison’s Dictionary ((1773 Mor 8307) but from other sources, for example Boswell’s The decisions of the Court of Session upon the Question of Literary Property, Edinburgh, 1774, or the opinion of Lord Kames reproduced in Ian Ross’ work, Lord Kames and the Scotland of his Day, it is clear that the case raised major policy issues decided firmly and adversely to the monopolists. In short, it was held that no perpetual copyright, but only such as was allowed under the statute, was available in Scotland.

Having been successful before the Court of Session, Donaldson was much fortified in his resistance to the attempts before the English courts to have his activities in England ended. These proceedings eventually came to the House of Lords in 1774 (Donaldson v Beckett (1774) 4 Burr 2408) where their Lordships were invited to follow the decision of the senators of the College of Justice in Scotland. They did so, holding that even in England there was no common law right of perpetual copyright.

This was a momentous decision. William St Clair carefully analyses the results of this liberalisation of copyright before, in the early part of the 19th century, the period during which copyright might claimed was progressively extended to the longer of the authors’ lifetime, plus seven years, or 42 years. Put in brief summary, which inevitably cannot do justice to the scholarship and research upon which St Clair’s conclusions are based, the opening of the “copyright window” after 1774 resulted in the compilation of low cost, accessible editions of texts which were out of copyright in terms of the 1710 Act – “the old canon” – but the closing of that copyright window in the early 19th century meant that for the many not able to afford the high price of new copyright works, that canon was the staple fodder available to them. As William St Clair carefully explains, with the closing of the copyright window in the early part of the 19th century contemporary works again became inaccessible to many sectors of the population. He notes, for example, that Wordsworth’s Excursion was sold, unbound, at a price equivalent to roughly six weeks’ wages of a skilled artisan and that, unsurprisingly, not a single copy of his Poetical Works was sold in his native Cumbria. In the result, the “old canon”, compiled in the short copyright window came to influence much of the reading public in the 19th century. It perpetuated within that reading public an image of England inconsistent with its then contemporary industrialisation. The effects of that are still to be felt within contemporary culture.

There is much more that could be said about this work which must appeal to a wide variety of readership. From a legal and political view, the actions of Lord Eldon, the Lord Chancellor for much of the period between 1801 and 1827, in the exercise of his functions as censor are discussed and St Clair demonstrates how, by withholding copyright from works which were considered pernicious, publication at low cost vastly increased their circulation.

The development of printed material as a major medium in the communication of ideas and thought cannot be divorced from the technical changes which may take place in the means of printing. St Clair admirably explores the interrelationship between changes such as the development of stereotype printing and intellectual property right.

To anyone interested in intellectual property, or competition law, this scholarly, but eminently readable, work is highly commended. As the concluding chapter discusses, there may be important lessons to be learned for our current age of electronic communication. But viewing the matter from the standpoint of a lawyer concerned with intellectual property or restrictive trade practices it is invaluable as a well researched and readable discussion of the practical working such property rights in the publishing trade. It would not be surprising were this outstanding work to be found as “lecture de chevet” for officials of the competition authorities in DG IV in Brussels or elsewhere.

Hon Lord Eassie
Scottish Law Commission
It is perhaps fitting that the genesis of this text can be traced to an idea that came to Dr. Cox back in May 1999 while he was sitting in the Nou Camp Stadium, home to Barcelona Football Club. The quality of Barcelona’s play this year has been acknowledged and revered by those who have been fortunate to have seen them in action. Upon reading this book, I have no doubt that the quality of the text will ensure that it becomes a much quoted, and indeed a much relied upon text for some years to come.

In their introduction the authors tackle the much-debated question of whether there is a distinct body of law known as “sports law” or whether we are concerned with the application of existing legal principles to a sporting context? Though the authors ultimately conclude that in reality the answer to that question is not that important, they make quite a convincing argument that sports law can be seen to exist as a separate “activity led” area of law.

Pride of place is afforded to due process and in Chapter 2 topics such as judicial review and the status of sporting bodies, private law challenges to the decisions of sporting bodies and the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights are discussed in some detail. The authors opine, quite correctly in this observer’s opinion, that as the operation of professional sport is completely dominated by the relevant sporting body, judicial review should, as a matter of principle, be available to applicants in cases involving Irish sports governing bodies.

The thorny issue of prohibited substances and methods in sport is considered in Chapter 3. That consideration (which includes an interesting piece on the Michelle Smith case) is impressive. Confusion reigned amongst inter-county Gaelic football and hurling teams when the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) announced that it intended to randomly test players after competitive games. Set against that background, even a cursory perusal of the text would prove invaluable and informative to any athlete involved in amateur or professional sport today. I look forward to consideration of the impact of the World Anti-Doping Code, which only entered into force in 2004, in future editions of the text.

Chapters 4, 5 and 6 consider the topics of “Sport and the Criminal Law”, “Civil Liability and Sport” and “Occupiers, Organisers and Crowd Control” respectively. In his foreword Michael J. Beloff Q.C., quoting Lord Atkin, notes that the sporting field of play is not a zone untouched by civil and criminal law or “an Alsatia where the kings writ does not run”. In their consideration of the subject matter, the authors expand in some detail on this reality.

Chapter 7 is dedicated to the business of sport and considers topics such as the significance of intellectual property rights, the rights of the individual sportsperson, sports clubs (including a detailed account of the legal battle between Arsenal Football Club and street trader Mathew Reid), sporting bodies, event organisers and also the broadcasting of sporting events. In considering the veritable thornbush that is the concept of “image rights”, the authors, like many writers in this area, conclude that the law as it currently stands in Ireland may be out of touch with modern commercial practices. However, though the authors argue eloquently that any individual (in practice a celebrity) should have a legal right to control marketing which uses his/her image, they acknowledge that there remains no such thing in Irish (or indeed English law) as a specific property right in one’s image. Interestingly, in analysing the Eddie Irvine decision, the authors suggest that if a celebrity declines to endorse a product for a willing licensee, that licensee might decide to use the celebrity’s image anyway, content that it will merely have to pay the relevant licence fee for use of the celebrity’s image should the action be challenged in court. This argument is convincing and is based upon the English Court of Appeal’s decision to award Eddie Irvine damages fixed at £25,000 (a figure which was deemed equivalent to the licence fee that Mr. Irvine would have received in return for permission to use indicia of his identity in Talksport’s advertising campaign).

Chapter 8 considers “European Community Law Freedoms and the Business of Sport” while the interaction of sport and competition law is considered in Chapter 9. Both chapters are highly informative (for example taking in recent changes such as the decentralised application of EC competition law with the entry into force of the EC Modernisation Regulation). I do have doubts about the possibility of a successful argument being made that Croke Park (the Irish national Gaelic games stadium) could amount to an “essential facility” under EC and Irish competition law not least because it would be extremely difficult, in this observer’s opinion and bearing in mind the decision of the European Court of Justice in Oscar Bronner, to demonstrate that access to a tangible infrastructure such as Croke Park is indispensable (in that there is no real or potential substitute stadia in this case and which would result in the elimination of all competition in a secondary market) for international rugby and soccer. Access to Croke Park would undoubtedly be convenient for both the Irish Rugby Football Union and the Football Association of Ireland, but the doctrine deals with granting access to essential facilities not access to convenient facilities. The essential facilities doctrine has proved complex in its application and is in a state of flux at present in light of recent decisions such as Microsoft and IMS Health. It would nonetheless be interesting to see whether the GAA’s Rule 42 (which in essence prevents soccer and rugby from being played in Croke Park) would stand up to a challenge on competition grounds.
Chapter 10 deals with “Sport and Equality” and does so quite comprehensively. The chapter also includes an interesting comparative survey of UK and US equality law in relation to gender discrimination.

In conclusion, the authors are to be congratulated for producing what is a major and very welcome addition to Irish legal scholarship. They display an encyclopaedic knowledge of their subject matter throughout the text (and not least in the footnotes). Anyone whose practice touches on the business of sport would do well to have a copy of “Sport and the Law” on their shelves. Bart Daly and his team at First Law are also to be commended for having the foresight to back this impressive project.

Niall Collins
Arthur Cox
Dublin

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The first edition of this book emerged as the result of a web indexing course at the University of New South Wales, and contained a series of practical exercises. The second edition, which has been significantly restructured, has two main sections: back-of-the-book style indexing for the web, and secondly information access on the web in general, including site navigation, search engines and the semantic web.

The authors have aimed the book at individuals, possibly those running their own websites, rather than people working in large specialist teams in libraries and corporations.

The first section on back-of-the-book indexing describes different types of traditional indexes found on the web including online indexes to hard copy books; ebooks; indexes to online journals and the use of glossaries as de facto indexes, as illustrated by the UKOnline A-Z of government (Now www.direct.gov.uk).

There is a chapter on indexing policies which covers project definition and the importance of designing an index which is user friendly, including two useful checklists of points to consider. This chapter also emphasises the need for the index compiler to not only have traditional indexing skills but also to be able to understand the structure of web-based information.

Chapter 4 discusses the structure and style of website indexes and includes the need for style sheets, internal index links and suggestions on index display, including the utilisation by Bristol University of a KWIC index (www.bris.ac.uk/index/) and the use of HTML Indexer.

There is then a chapter devoted to making the index as searchable as possible in light of the fact that website index locators are direct links to the information itself and not page numbers. It emphasises the importance of subheadings and how best to utilise them in the web environment and also discusses the use of see and see also references.

Chapter 6 discusses the software available for website indexing including the general web tools such as HTML and XML (including DTDs or Document Type Definitions). It then covers book indexing software such as CINDEX and Macrex which can be used to create website indexes. There is a detailed discussion of HTML Prep which converts indexes that have been created using word processing programs or dedicated indexing software into HTML files, and of HTML Indexer which is software which produces back-of-the-book type indexes with an alphabetical bar which is a hyperlinked line of initial letters.

Chapter 7 starts the section of the book devoted to alternative and additional methods of accessing web information. It discusses the physical structure of a website, navigational structures, categorisation and taxonomies including automatic taxonomy generation by the use of software such as the Verity Thematic Mapping System, and the use of site maps.

Chapter 8 discusses site-specific search engines and reports some interesting research on user search behaviour, optimising search strategies and the use of metadata to aid searching. There is also a section on metadata standards including Dublin Core and the use of thesauri to create metadata for websites. The chapter concludes with a discussion of faceted classification and its use on the web.

Chapter 9 becomes more technical as it moves into the world of the semantic web. Both RDF (Resource Description Framework — “a formal data model from the W3C using XML for the description of web resources using machine readable metadata”), which is an extension of XML, and ontologies are considered. Topic maps are also explained. The differences between topic maps and RDF are explained as the latter being similar to the catalogue entry for one item and the former being similar to a subject catalogue in a library. Topic maps rely on human intervention to create “structured views of information” and they are based on traditional thesaurial construction techniques.

The book then moves further away from indexing techniques and into something called “social navigation” and mediated information access. The final chapters cover not indexing of a site but rather preparing your site in such a way that it will be selected by the major online search engines so that users can quickly access it if it is relevant to their needs. There is an interesting discussion of the merits or otherwise of paid inclusion in search engines, some commentators believing that it increases the relevancy of research results whereas apparently Google does not offer paid inclusion as it believes it would impair the quality of its ranking system.

The final chapter is entitled “Bringing it all together” and is a summary of the various topics discussed, and the
book ends with a plea for readers to ensure that indexing of their websites is treated as a high priority to enhance its usability. There is an appendix outlining basic indexing principles, plus a useful and comprehensive glossary of terms used. The book is fully footnoted and, as is to be expected, there is a back of the book index!

This book proved to be an extremely useful introduction to the topic of website indexing – my heart sank a little when on initial and cursory examination it appeared to be about back-of-the-book indexing as applied to websites – but in fact it turned out to be a mine of useful information on other methods of indexing and retrieving information on the web. This book is easy to read and is laid out in a helpful manner with the text interspersed at regular intervals with textboxes giving definitions for the terms which are discussed in the relevant section. Despite it emanating from Australia, it is international in scope and coverage as we would expect in the global information society, and I would thoroughly recommend it to both novice and more experienced legal information professionals who are involved in intranet or website construction.

Christine Miskin
Editor LIM

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This book is a comprehensive guide to setting up and maintaining a home based information business. It is extremely long and detailed and must surely contain everything the aspiring independent “info pro” would ever need to know. The author is American so there is a US bias and she works in the business information field but the general principles discussed in this book are applicable to anyone planning to set up an independent legal information brokerage or business.

It is divided into four sections: getting started; running the business; marketing and researching. There are 35 chapters in all, the first ten covering getting started. This section was illuminating and the scenes from the day in a life of the independent infopro sounded quite envy-inducing – a glorious spring day such as today would be enhanced by going for a run with the dog at lunchtime and having coffee and Danish with a colleague at the end – better than being hunched over a keyboard! Of course the reverse side of the coin – up to eighty hour weeks – is not quite so enticing. The chapter on the different types of business organisation which can be utilised and whether to go into business alone or with a partner are helpful, although the business structures discussed follow the US model. There is also sound advice on writing both business and marketing plans and identifying the potential client base, with the warning that the budding entrepreneur may well find that clients will quickly extend beyond the traditional legal field, in our case, and may well include offering business information research services. Another interesting experience of the author was that she quickly realised which types of organisation paid themselves for her services and which were able to pass her charges directly to their clients. She concluded that the former were very price sensitive and that the latter were a much better bet. This is an example of the excellence of this book in providing extremely useful nuggets of information based on the author’s own experiences. She concentrated initially on industry specific information and this quickly helped her to build a reputation after which she was able to extend her service provision to other areas. She also emphasises the importance of both having a wide set of contacts and of networking. The section on how to begin the business – whether to moonlight (where your contract of employment allows it), go part time or “Just do it!” is illuminating and helpful.

The section on the mechanics of actually setting up the business is extremely detailed, down to the level of supplying lists of stationery and equipment needed. There is also information on the relevant software packages and a useful endnote to this chapter entitled “Software lessons learned” – I. - You don’t have an IT department on call!

The chapters on Running the Business begin with one on managing your clients which again is full of helpful tips, from the question of whether clients can be too small to deciding whether one or two larger clients are better than a collection of small ones. The answer to this is that the more clients you have the better your position. Any other position can be fraught with difficulties as the author outlines fully. Detailed advice is given on identifying time wasters and other non-desirable clients. How to write a good business proposal is also covered together with examples.

There are chapters on managing the financial side of the business, which of necessity are based on US practice, so may not be always applicable, but the general principles of managing cash flow and overheads and making sure there is money to pay the Inland Revenue are the same here. There is also helpful advice on how to set fees, working out estimates and the merits of hourly rates over fixed fees, plus managing clients’ expectations – never agreeing to undertake work over a weekend for example.

Business and professional ethics are considered and risk taking in these areas is strictly not advocated. Clients should be treated with courtesy and respect and client confidentiality must be maintained at all times, as must adherence to copyright principles. The fine print in any contract or licence should be read carefully and research results should never be recycled for two clients.
Section three is devoted to marketing. It covers the do’s and don’ts of marketing, the business image which the infopro should be projecting, web and email marketing, print marketing including client newsletters and promotional postcards, the merits of directory entries and marketing by writing and speaking at conferences and courses.

The final chapters in this section concentrate on self-marketing and public relations – even including a sample press release.

The final part of the book is devoted to researching. It begins with conducting the reference interview, and how to think like a researcher, which should be second nature to readers of this review! It continues with tips on conducting online research, both via free and for fee sources, with more detailed information about the big three professional service providers in the US – Factiva.com, Dialog and Lexis-Nexis. There is then a chapter devoted to the challenges, pitfalls and successful methods of telephone research. Public records research is also covered together with library and other non-electronic research methods. This section ends with a chapter entitled “Deliverables” which gives advice on how to best present the results of your research to the client, including the vital element of added value – tidying up the research results, providing summaries, and packaging the results to make them more user-friendly.

This book is an absolute mine of useful information for the aspiring information entrepreneur and is packed with useful tips from the author’s own experience. It is written in a light-hearted and easy to digest fashion but never shirks the important ethical and business issues and, given that it contains 446 pages, which did seem a daunting prospect at the beginning of this reviewer’s journey, it is another compliment to the author that it was a pleasure to read it from cover to cover.

The book contains helpful hints for anyone working in the information world, for example in the online searching section, not just budding information brokers. I only wish it had been available when I set up my business as it provides so much useful information on all aspects of starting out in the entrepreneurial world. I recommend it unreservedly and no doubt it will become a classic in this field.

Christine Miskin
Editor LIM