

News Items

Future Survey Annual

Future Survey Annual 1979 is a guide to the recent literature on trends, forecasts, and policy proposals relevant to our understanding of the society's present condition and its possible future directions. It is published by the World Future Society, an association for the study of alternative futures. The Annual is edited by Michael Marien (a social critic with a passion for practicing some of the alternative futures that he advocates) who is committed to keeping his colleagues aware about what *he* considers to be the most important contribution in the area of future studies. This volume's 255 pages are organized into 15 chapters followed by a subject index, an author index, a list of book publishers and a list of periodical publishers. They are preceded by an Introduction accompanied by 3 charts, a table of highlights and a forecast of highlights for *Future Survey Annual 1980*. The first chart, entitled "Optimism and Pessimism, 1979" presents a column of favorable trends and hopes compared with a column of unfavorable trends and plausible fears, such as "Slowdown in the rate of world population growth (021/025)" versus "Long-term world population growth and dwindling resources (034/036)". The numbers in parentheses refer to the reviews of the selected references. The second chart is untitled, "Which Direction Society", with column headings: "Service Society" and "Self-Reliant Society"; the third is "Fifty ways to ease the Energy Crunch". Thirty eight books and articles are

selected as being of particular interest for their importance and originality, as judged by Marien; Karl Hess's *Community Technology* is an example. Ten items are included in the 1980 forecast; Alvin Toffler's *The Third Wave* is an example. The fifteen chapters into which the 50 to 150-word reviews of the 1603 selected items are organized are: World Futures, International Economics, World Regions and Nations, Defense and Disarmament, Energy, Environment and Resources, Food and Agriculture, General Societal Directions, Economy, Urban Affairs, Justice, Children and Education, Health, Science and Technology, Shaping the Future. Chapter 8, General Societal Directions, contains among its subheadings "The Service Society and the Growth of Government" and "Decentralization", to take just two examples, while the last chapter, Shaping the Future, contains among its six subheadings, "Corporate Planning" and "Power, Participation, and Political Parties."

The main purpose of this volume is to facilitate communication among various segments of our society and attain deeper discussion and less divergence on such issues as our global carrying capacity, energy strategy, national security, and so on. Readers of *Human Systems Management* are likely to find this and future *Future Survey Annuals* to be useful sources of literature for convenient reference as well as helpful aids for obtaining a new perspective on important and complex issues of their likely concerns.

Accounting, Organizations and Society

Accounting, Organizations and Society was founded five years ago to provide an innovative but scholarly forum for the publication of research on the

behavioral, organizational and social aspects of accounting. Recognizing that existing journals tended to favor particular perspectives and methodologies, *AOS* (as it has come to be known) sought to publish articles which advanced new perspectives, raised new issues and problems, and employed a broader range of research methodologies.

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In the intervening years *AOS* has published articles on the human process of accounting information, contingency approaches to accounting and information system design, organizational factors which influence the form which the accounting profession takes and the emerging interest in social accountings in France, Germany, Sweden and the USA. One paper focused on the constraining influence which accounting might play in the process of organizational change and renewal; another sought to promote the use of 'semi-confusing information systems' for organizations in changing environments. In addition, published papers also have considered the relationship between accounting systems and organizational power, the variety of organizational and social roles which can be served by accounting systems, and the use which might be and is made of accounting information by the organized labor movement.

AOS is now a respected journal in the accounting research community, and increasingly it is known to

and used by those working in the information systems and organizational behavior areas. Moreover the readership of *AOS* is not confined to the academe: in one large multinational company it is now the most frequently abstracted research journal in the accounting and MIS area. As a senior executive of that company said: "The problems which force us to consult the research literature lie at the boundaries of our knowledge. *AOS* has a record of operating at that boundary: we use it and respect it for that very reason." Needless to say, *AOS* is keen to maintain that track record.

If you are interested in subscribing to *AOS* contact Pergamon Press at either Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW, UK, or Fairview Park, Elmsford, New York 10523, USA. If you are interested in submitting materials for publication contact the Editor-in-Chief, Anthony Hopwood, at the London Graduate School of Business Studies, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1.

Work, organizations and technological change

The NATO Special Program Panel on Systems Science is sponsoring a symposium on *Work, Organizations and Technological Change*, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, West Germany, 14–19 June 1981. The Directors of the symposium are Prof. G. Mensch (International Institute of Management in Berlin and Harvard University) and Dr. R.J. Niehaus (Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.). The program of the symposium includes:

- Technological Change and Human Resources;
- External Labor Markets and Organization Planning;

- Methods and Studies;
- Social Impacts on Personnel Policy Analysis;
- Technological Change and Work Organization.

The titles and outlines of proposed papers and inquiries should be addressed to:

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