
Book review:

Straubhaar, J., & LaRose, R. (1997, updated for 2002). *Communications media in the information society*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

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Lest I be castigated for anti-Americanism, here's my escape clause: Straubhaar and LaRose's excellent text (from Brigham Young and Michigan State Universities) is brimming with internationalism and turns a happily wide-angled lens on all the things media people should be interested in today: namely, ALL the media, including telephony, which is fast becoming the dominant medium for all others.

At less than 500 pages, it's hard to imagine this volume being described as definitive but it comes damned close. Starting with Siebert's Four Theories of the Press and working through definitions, policy and practice, the authors lay their groundwork carefully.

They then embark on careful deconstructions of print, radio (and recorded music), television (and home video), cable TV, the telephone industry, computers, teletext, and other "information service industry" technologies, Local Area Networks and private networks. They wisely also choose to include advertising and public relations in the mix.
