



## Compleat Computer Reviewed

by STEVEN L. LEVIN

*The Compleat Computer*, Dennie L. van Tassel, Science Research Associates, 1976.

What do noncomputer specialists think about computers? The specialist and nonspecialist will find this book an entertaining and enlightening answer to that question.

The book is a collection of lively articles, news items, poetry and illustrations about the computer. None of the material is new, but this is probably the first time it has been collected together in such a pleasing fashion. The author intersperses the serious with the sometimes comic.

Much of the book deals with popular topics like computer chess, robots and thinking machines. There are also articles on criminal data banks, computer monitoring and controls on the use of computers. When there are contrasting views, the author usually presents back to back stories on the topic. For instance, a positive article on criminal data bases is followed by a story describing such criminal histories as a 7 year blunder.

This book would make a good supplementary text for a course on social impacts of computing. People who use computers would benefit from this book by learning how most of the world perceives computing.

Steven L. Levin may be reached at the Department of Information and Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine, California 92717.

## Scenario Reality Planning

by PHILLIP CRABTREE

A Review of two scenario reality planning bibliographies  
*The Future of Consensus—Formation Technology Utilization in a Normative Governmental Planning Support System Environment.*

*Social and Political Protocol Aspects of Large Scale Media — Conferencing Planning Systems and Consensus—Formation Technology Utilization* both by R. H. Martin, P. O. Box 677, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.

This report contains two bibliographies in the Scenario Reality Planning (SRP) Bibliographic Series. Both bibliographies contain annotated references to books excerpts, journal articles and dissertations within the subject area. The selection is somewhat skewed and doesn't systematically include all the appropriate references from a particular journal, or technical report series.

Nevertheless, most of the references are quite recent and the listing may be of some utility to the researcher in the areas of public policy and the social impacts of computer technology. The introduction contains methods for readily gaining access to the desired publications.

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## Calendar

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| Sept. 29-<br>Oct. 1<br>Chicago | AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS (AIEE), Ambassador West Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Theme: Manufacturing Data Systems. Contact Department PR, AIEE Seminars, P. O. Box 25116, Los Angeles, California 90025, (213) 826-7572.  |
| Oct. 11-13<br>Chicago          | CATC CONFERENCE III, Chicago, Illinois. Third Annual conference on the construction of conventional tests through the use of computers. Format: overview, discussions of item banks, statistics, classification, sharing, administrative considerations and exchanging information. Sponsors: ETS, AEDS, NCME, West Virginia University, and Moaraine Valley (IL) Community College. Fee \$35. Contact: CATC Conference, Educational Testing Service, 960 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Telephone: (312) 869-7700. |
| Oct. 20-22<br>Houston          | ACM '76, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas. Theme: updating computer specialists in a variety of areas. Format: special interest group sessions and tutorials in automata and computing theory, artificial intelligence, information retrieval, minicomputers, numerical methods, programming languages, university computer center management and technical writing. Contact: ACM headquarters.   |
| Nov. 10-12<br>Boston           | EDUCOM, THE INTERUNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL FALL CONFERENCE, Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts. Theme: Successes and Prospects in Computer Networking for Higher Education. Chairman: Robert Scott, Director, Information Technologies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Host Institution: MIT. Contact: Carolyn P. Landis, EDUCOM, P. O. Box 364, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (609) 921-7575.  |