

REVIEWS

BOB HOWARTH

Queensland Newspapers' Editorial Technology Manager, who has taught subbing, design and internet courses for the Commonwealth Press Union in Papua New Guinea

Lesson for the internet Down Under

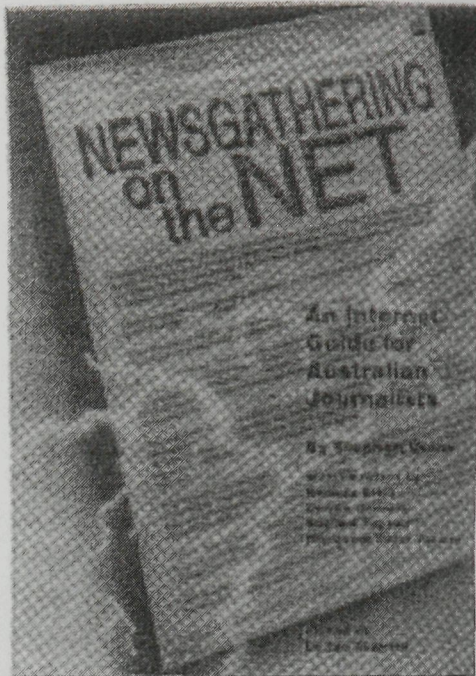
Newsgathering on the Net, edited by Stephen Quinn. Second edition. Melbourne: Macmillan, 2001. 80 pp. ISBN 0-7329-5599-8

AFTER REVIEWING the first edition, then using it as a teaching tool, a new review is simple: It should be on every reporter's bookshelf and in every newspaper reference library.

I'm also pleased to report our head librarian ordered three copies a month before I got my review copy.

Dr Stephen Quinn, director of the Research Unit for Computer-Assisted Reporting at Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria, and if anything has simplified the message in the second edition. Chapter One covers journalistic skills for the new millennium and my favourite subject CAR — computer assisted reporting.

Other simply presented chapters



include explaining the jargon of the Net, managing bookmarks, email for newsgathering, listservers and newsgroups for news gathering, assessing information quality, and a look at the future.

"If the internet seems a huge project, don't despair," Dr Quinn advises. "remember the best way to eat an elephant — one spoonful at a time."

I had two copies of Dr Quinn's first edition.

One is currently in use in Papua New Guinea and the second graces the book shelves of the journalism reference library of the Gambia Press Union in Banjul, Gambia, West Africa.

One of the most useful tips in this

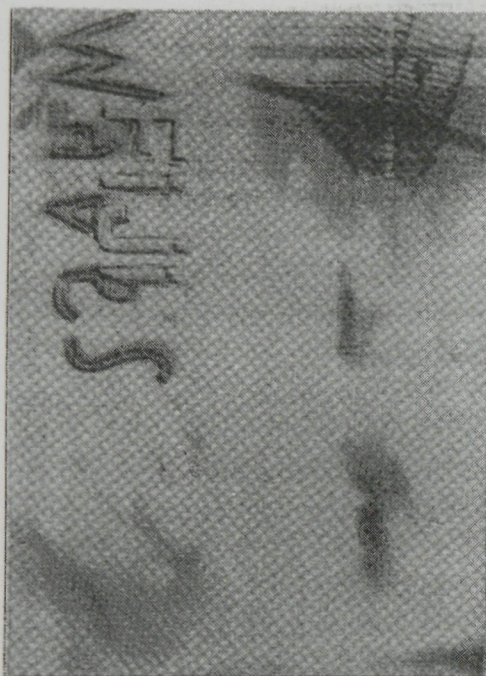
new edition is about how the Net can help that threatened industry species — freelancers.

“Even a student just coming out of university can opt for self-employment. It just takes great ideas, creativity, vision and perseverance — and not necessarily a large bank account,” Dr Quinn wrote.

“This is not an easy option, but the young ‘techno-journalists’ have the ability in the internet environment to make a living without a corporate parent.”

With the widespread industry semi-freeze on hiring new staff, this book, if you’ll pardon the old cliché, is an absolute must for any journalism student and for that matter, Net-deficient news executives.

PS: My review copy has gone to a bookshelf in Dili, East Timor — even though East Timor’s journalists still have (to their great disadvantage and the shame of the UN) very restricted Net access. □



NOORA ALI

Final-year double major in journalism at the University of the South Pacific

Frozen in time? Not so likely in tropical Fiji TV

Fiji Waves, produced/directed by Natalie Gouln. Canadian television documentary, 57min, 2001. Montreal, Quebec: Écran Total. ecrantotal@qc.aira.com

FIJI WAVES starts with a moving glimpse of Fiji. But it isn't meant for Fijians.

In fact, the almost hour long docu-