REFERENCES

1. A. Burns and A. M. Lister, A framework for building dependable systems. *Computer Journal* **34**, 173–181 (1991).
2. N. Leveson, Software safety – why, what and how?. *ACM Computing Surveys* **18**, 125–163 (1986).
3. D. Longley and M. Shain, *Data and Computer Security: Dictionary of Standards, Concepts and Terms*. Macmillan, New York (1987).
4. J.-C. Laprie, Dependability: a unifying concept for reliable computing and fault tolerance. In *Dependability of Critical Systems*, edited T. Anderson, pp. 1–28. Blackwell, Oxford (1988).
5. G. Singh and G. Kiangi, *Risk and Reliability Appraisal on Microcomputers*. Chartwell-Bratt, Bromley, Kent (1987).
6. J. L. Mackie, Causes and conditions. In *Causation and Conditionals*, edited E. Sosa. Clarendon Press, Oxford (1975).
7. J. E. Dobson and J. A. McDermid, Security Models and Enterprise Models. In *Database Security: Status and Prospects II*, C. E. Landwehr, pp. 1–39. Elsevier Science, Amsterdam (1989).
8. S. J. Clarke, A. C. Coombes and J. A. McDermid, Methods for developing safe software. *Proceedings of the SafetyNet '90 Royal Aeronautical Society, London, 1990)*, pp. 6:1–6:8.
9. J. A. McDermid, Safety arguments, software and system reliability. *Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering* (IEEE, Austin, Texas, 1991).

Book Review

K. V. RUSSELL (Ed.)
Yearbook of Law Computers and Technology,
Volume 5
Butterworths, Sevenoaks, 1991
£29.50. ISBN 0-406-18704-5

This international yearbook's general aim is to publish work arising from a variety of disciplines and perspectives which reflect on the law's concern with new technologies. Has it succeeded? Each issue now concentrates on a major theme. Here it is 'Technology and the Courts'. Clearly this ties up the disciplines. In the two principal sections, the theme section 'Technology and the Courts' and 'Current Developments', certainly the perspectives of the judiciary, academics and I.T. specialists are well represented. The experience of practising solicitors who, after all, are in direct touch with the courts' consumers, would also have been relevant.

The introduction reminds us that effective use of technology enhances the *quality* of justice, making the system more accessible and more accurate, and providing more benefits. Yet this is not the rationale employed in marketing the new technologies. Efficiency and economy, particularly the latter, are the keywords, so that the vested interests in the politics of achieving justice can safely hold their own.

The theme section provides interesting descriptions of what is happening with the use of computers in courts, both in the UK and abroad, and glimpses of the exciting developments to look forward to, heralding the transformation of our legal institutions in what Ronald Madden epitomizes as the 'post-Gutenberg' era. The content is rooted in the practicalities of what has already been achieved.

Mark Tantam's approach is thought-provoking, not only because of the analogy between international conflict and adversarial conduct at court, but on the ways of presenting cases effectively to jurors who are not used to concentrating for long.

In a fascinating account of promoting the LEXIS service, Kyle Bosworth points out that, contrary to conventional wisdom, lawyers do not in fact typically spend their time looking things up. This has meant the consideration of new ways of encouraging the use of computer-assisted legal information retrieval.

In contrast to the first section, there is a lack of balance in the 'Current Developments' section. Two articles about data protection, two on education, one straightforward analysis of the EC Telecommunications Services Directive, and one article which could have been included in the theme section, comprise a miscellany without a coherent focus on selected topical trends and their implications. In this section, Roy Freed's controversial article, on teaching and practising computer law effectively, stresses the nature and scope of the subject in an idiosyncratic way. His extended definition of 'computer law', going far beyond his initial quotation of the 'substantive legal aspects of the availability of computer technology', is so wide as not to be entirely meaningful. The authoritative reviews of significant books published and the discussions of major cases during the year are useful.

It is unfortunate that a book with such informed content, which is well produced, on good-quality paper, backed by a distinguished Advisory Board, should suffer from so many misspellings, particularly such a book, where knowledge of electronic remedial techniques should have been taken for granted.

This book is refreshing in bringing innovative insights and ideas to the fore, as well as in the actual reports of what is taking place in the courts.

RACHEL BURNETT
London