

2007

Encyclopedia of Gender and Technology

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Repository Citation

Finley, P. (2007). Encyclopedia of Gender and Technology. *Choice*, 44(5), 1. American Library Association.
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Encyclopedia of gender and information technology, ed. by Eileen M. Trauth. Idea Group Reference, 2006. Reviewed in 2007Jan CHOICE

This encyclopedia compiles 213 four- to five-page entries making observations about the role of gender in human interaction with information technology and the IT profession. Intended as a preliminary research agenda encompassing essays on gender and IT education and the workplace, the volume contains many essays that simply survey struggles faced by women in many parts of the world who interact with the Internet or telecommunications technology. The majority delve into complexities in very specific geographic or industrial situations, such as "Gender and the Use of DSS in the Australian Cotton Industry." Others offer necessarily superficial overviews of topics that have already generated substantial research, such as women's online life and many variations on the topic of girls and computing. Entries like "Boards Need Women with IT" and "Checking Female Foeticide in the Information Age" take a polemical approach that is unusual for an encyclopedia. Although a map of potential areas of study in this field would be valuable, the editors did not integrate the work of their many contributors, instead printing an idiosyncratic, overlapping, and overpriced set that offers little value to a reference collection.

Summing Up: Not recommended.

-- P. Finley, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*