

August 1993

Electronic Media Reviews

Ron Buchan

Follow this and additional works at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews>

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)

Recommended Citation

Buchan, Ron (1993) "Electronic Media Reviews," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 47: Iss. 3, Article 14.

Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol47/iss3/14>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in *Sci-Tech News* by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA REVIEWS

RON BUCHAN, EDITOR

ANIMAL LIFE

The secret world of animals: Below and above ground; In the air; On the Earth; and Under the water. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (American distributor for Canadian Museum of Nature); 1991, 4 audiocassettes, \$9.95 each.

Although primarily meant for a popular audience, these tapes contain much information for the naturalist. The sounds on the tapes are not just those of the narrator, but of whales and birds and gorillas and other sounds of nature. The presentations are coherent and well organized, conveying much valuable information on each topic. For example, the tape subtitled *Under the Water* gives expert presentations by five authorities on topics ranging from The Song of the Humpback Whale, to Fish Sounds and the Electric Sense in Fish. The tape subtitled *Below and above the Ground* presents five topics on insects.

These tapes are well presented and informative and could well serve as

models for audiotapes on other science topics.

Ronald L. Buchan
NSAS Scientific and Technical
Information Program

OPTICAL FIBERS

Materials Research Society briefing. *Frontiers in materials research—a case history of materials development: optical fibers.* By J. B. MacChesney. VCR Tape. Running Time approximately 45 minutes. VHS-8, \$46.00.

A collection of view graphs is used to present information on the history, development, production, and applications of optical fibers for long distance communication. The increased capability of communication systems through carrier telephony, coaxial cable, microwave frequency, and communication satellites is discussed to set the background for optical waveguide transmission. The characteristics of optical waveguides as affected by frequency and cross section

are examined to show optimum conditions with respect to single mode and multi-mode propagation. Emphasis is placed on the various methods of vapor deposition to obtain specific optical waveguide performance and the chemical reactions to obtain silica glasses. The causes for wave attenuation and signal dispersion are identified, and methods for eliminating undesirable conditions are explained. This is a highly technical report on a technology which is just beginning to provide the eventual communication systems which are predicted for the future.

Philip N. French
NASA Scientific and Technical
Information Program

PHYSICS

Genius: the life and times of Richard Feynman. James Gleick. Read by F. Murray Abraham. New York: Random House Audiobooks; 1992. 2 cassettes, USA \$17.00, Canada \$19.50 (Available in hardcover from Pantheon Books).

There are few scientific audio biographies available, but this is a good one. Today many people are more apt to listen to an "audiobook" as they commute, not having the time to read an entire book. The subject of this book deserves attention, and hearing the biography of Richard Feynman gives one a personal encounter with a famous physicist. More than a winner of a Nobel Prize, Feynman made physics understandable through his three-volume Lectures. Many readers of this review will want to give the "audiobook" a second hearing.

Ronald L. Buchan
NASA Scientific and Technical
Information Program

The **IMPACT** of the Special Library on Corporate Decision Making

by Joanne Marshall, Ph.D.

An exciting summary of results from this recent research study will help you convey the value and importance of your library/information center to upper management! The book includes:

- a brief, detailed executive summary
- detailed tables
- a background of the study
- a quick-reference fact sheet

Use this fact-filled book as tool to show how your services can help management avoid poor decisions, prevent loss of time and funds, and even improve client relations and the image of your institution.

Also included: "The Impact of the Special Library," a complete presentation featuring a monologue, possible questions and answers, and overhead screens!

ORDER NOW!!

ISBN 0-87111-410-0 121 pp. List price \$28.00, SLA Members \$22.50
Shipping/Handling: US, Canada, Mexico & Central America add \$5 plus 5% of subtotal. Send to: Order Dept., SLA, 1700 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009-2508. Ph. (202)234-4700; fax (202)265-9317