

technical. They provide useful links to various web resources for finding, using and disseminating clinically useful information. The next two chapters discuss important legal and security issues to prevent these useful professional tools turning into a legal and disciplinary nightmare. Chapter 14 is a very interesting description of health information systems, a very topical issue indeed with the current debate about the National Health Service-wide patient information system. Psychiatrists need to be aware of these issues because of our direct role in using these systems and providing feedback to developers and administrators.

Any gripes? The introductory chapters assume prior technical knowledge without which terms such as modem and ISP could flummox the novice. An introduction, a glossary and a discussion of other operating systems was required. Chapter 2 is too brief and omits specifics such as connectivity and the weighting one should

give to hardware components in buying a computer. For example, it would be helpful to have a suggestion of the minimum RAM required for the efficient running of the common software packages.

Overall, this is a very good and useful book, well-written in a light, discursive style and amply illustrated with useful diagrams and screenshots. It should be a useful addition to any psychiatrist's library (and that of other clinicians too!) and we would heartily recommend it

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