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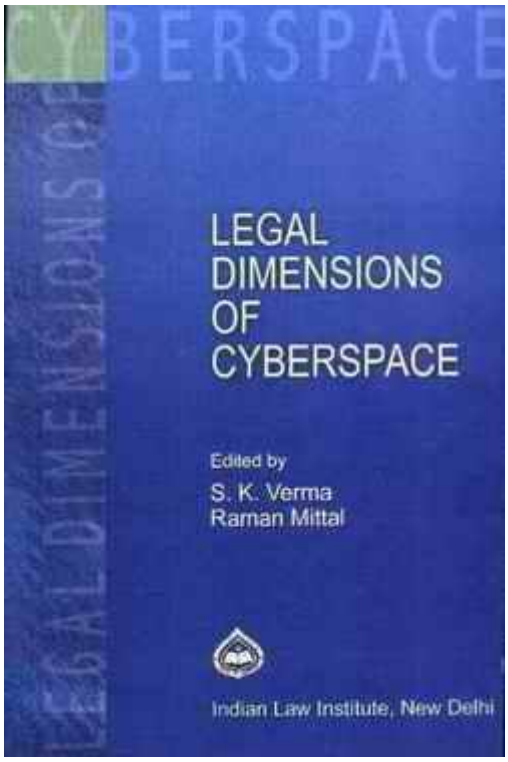
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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

A VERY GOOD EFFORT BY THE AUTHORS

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Legal Dimensions of Cyberspace, edited by S.K. Verma and Raman Mittal. Soft cover, 6" x 9.5" Indian Law Institute, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110 001. Web: www.ilidelhi.org; Email: ili@nde.vsnl.net.in. Publication Date 2004. xiv + 498 pages, ISBN - Not mentioned. Price Indian Rupees 380.00, US $ 25.00, Euro 18.00

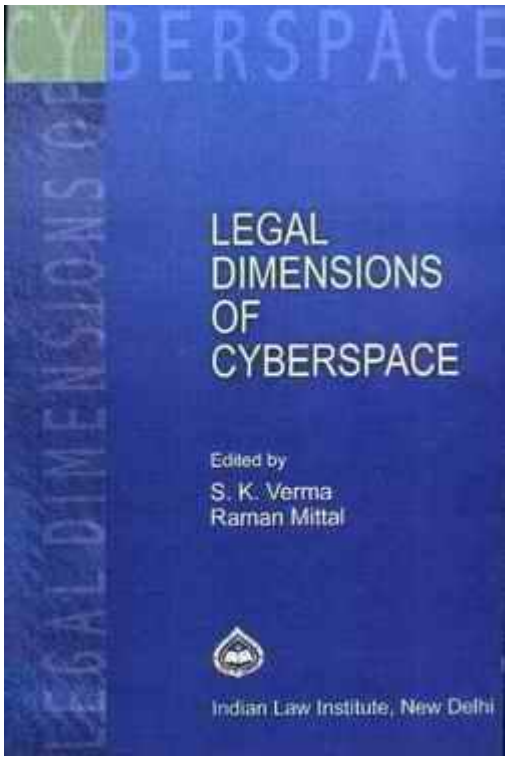


A few months back, there was a case in Delhi in which some video clips of a girl were circulated all over Delhi through MMS. These video clips were also converted into a CD and were available for sale, both in the market and through the internet. The way this case proceeded and was handled by the police exposed the strengths and (more importantly) the weaknesses of the Information Technology Act. At that time the need of a book that dealt with this topic was badly felt.

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The biggest strength of this book is its timing. It has come at a time when there is a debate going on all over the country about the validity and the usefulness of the Information Technology Act. At a time when everyone is talking about changing the said act, this book tells the reader about the act. it not only describes the act in detail, but also explains the various terms used in it. In addition the various amendments that have been made in relation to the present act have also been maintained. This gives the book the completeness that is required from any such venture. This, we feel, is the biggest advantage and strength of this book, one that is sufficient on its own to compel the reader to buy the book.

The first part of the book deals with the computer and its usage, including cyberspace (internet). The authors have started with the description of the computer (chapter 1). Here they have explained the structure and function of the computer, including the terminology used in computer world. Having described the computer in general and as an isolated thing, they go on to explain the ways in which the cyber world works (chapters 2-4). This makes the book a good buy for the beginners also as they can use the book to know about the computers, if not for the legal angles involved in it. That way, the authors have done a good job in including the chapters that may increase the readership. But more than mere inclusion, it's the deft handling of the topic that is most important. They have used an easy flowing language that is easy to understand for even a person who is not well versed with the functioning of computers. They have also explained the topics so thoroughly that the reader, after going through it once, feels that he has learnt quite a lot about the subject.



"...we would say that this book is a very good effort by the authors to make the readers aware of the various technicalities and legalities of cyber world. It is a very nice book and we hope the next one will be better than the present one. ..."

The last part of the book deals with the legal part of the cyberspace. Here the authors have described about the ways in which the legal situations can arise in cyberspace. Once again they have not restricted their discussion about one or two topics but have included the whole gamut of possibilities like trademark issues, cyber piracy, crimes related to computers so on and so forth. This gives the reader all the relevant information at one place and he is spared the trouble of going through different books for different topics. For lazy people like one of the reviewers, this is a very good incentive for buying this book.

In the appendix, the authors have given the *Information Technology Act 2000* and the rather archaic *Copyright Act 1957*. The inclusion of *Information Technology Act 2000* is obvious, but the inclusion of *Copyright Act 1957* tells about the thoroughness of the authors and their idea of giving the reader complete information. Nowhere is one more likely to be involved with the copyright as in cyber world as its boundaries are not present and the person does not know when he has gone against the law and when not.

To summarize, we would say that this book is a very good effort by the authors to make the readers aware of the various technicalities and legalities of cyber world. It is a very nice book and we hope the next one will be better than the present one.

-Puneet Setia and Avneesh Gupta



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Dr. Avneesh Gupta qualified as a forensic pathologist from India with honors and is now working as a fellow of forensic pathology in Wayne County, Detroit. He has to his credit a number of publications in leading journals around the world. His landmark thesis on "Cranial Cerebral Damage In Fatal Road Traffic Accidents With Special Reference to Circle Of Willis" can be accessed by clicking here. He is associated with Anil Aggrawal's Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology as a journal associate, writer and book reviewer. He can be contacted at avneeshgupta2000@yahoo.com. During his spare time, he enjoys meeting friends and traveling.

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