Contents

Preface to the sixth edition ........................................ ix

Introduction The information society: myth and reality ........................................ xiii

Part 1 The historical dimension ........................................ 1

1 From script to print ........................................ 3
The origins of writing ........................................ 3
The alphabet ........................................ 7
Images, sounds and numbers ........................................ 9
The first media ........................................ 10
The development of the book ........................................ 12
Printing: the first communications revolution ........................................ 14
The trade in books ........................................ 17

2 Mass media and new technology ........................................ 21
The pictorial image ........................................ 21
The recording and transmission of sound ........................................ 22
Mass media: radio and cinema ........................................ 23
Television ........................................ 25
Computers: the second communications revolution ........................................ 27
Part 2 The economic dimension

3 The information market-place

The publishing industry: a paradigm of information transfer
Authors and publishers
The diversity of publishing
New directions in publishing
The evolution of the e-book
The interdependent media: convergence and change
The market: definition and size
Fragmentation or competition?

4 Access to information

The price of books and the cost of broadcasts
The cost of libraries
Public good or private profit?
Electronic communications: access and costs
The world wide web
Networks: an electronic democracy?
Electronic publishing: towards a new paradigm?
The cost of access: issues and problems

Part 3 The political dimension

5 Information rich and information poor

The value of information
Information in developing countries: an issue defined
Wealth and poverty: information and economic development
Information delivery systems: some contrasts
North and South: the world publishing industry
Eastern Europe: a different poverty?
The limits of wealth: information poverty in the West
6 Information, the state and the citizen . . . . . . . . . 135
   The role of the state: an introduction . . . . . . . . . . 135
   The role of the state: the protection of intellectual property . . 136
   The role of the state: data protection and personal privacy . . 145
   The role of the state: freedom of information . . . . . . . . 150
   The role of the state: censorship . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 159
   Contemporary dilemmas: the issues redefined . . . . . . . . 164

Part 4 The information profession 173

7 The information profession: a domain delineated 175
   The role of the information professional . . . . . . . . . . 178
   The work of the information professional . . . . . . . . . . . 181
   Librarians and libraries: archetypes in transition . . . . . . . 185
   From archivist to records manager . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 193
   Information managers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 195
   Managing knowledge . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 198

Afterword: An information society? 201
   Studying the information society . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 204

A note on further reading 207

Index 211