

Project MIND . . . a column on Meeting the Information Needs of the Disabled

A FORUM COMPOSED OF disabled students, student union, evangelical union, representatives from counselling services, the Library, the Vice-Chancellor's Committee and other interested groups was held at the University of Queensland on 11 August. In order to provide an opportunity for past students, part-timers and evening students to make suggestions regarding MIND activities a repeat forum will be held on 9 September at 6pm in the Relaxation Block. A videocassette from WAIT describing what they are doing for physically disabled students was used as a stimulus for discussion.

A regional MIND meeting is scheduled for Friday, 3 October, 10-30-noon in the Library Lecture Theatre at Queensland University. (Contributed by Maira Turaidis, MIND Contact Panel, University of Queensland.)

Planned helplessness?

In a recent address to a gathering at St Clair Youth Centre in Adelaide, Mr Richard Llewellyn, Convener of Club of Physically Disabled drew attention to the need for disabled people to be actively involved in the improvement of their position. Such activity, he maintained, would demonstrate to their peers and to the wider community their determination to frustrate the 'planned helplessness' described by scientists such as Illich, Goffman, Zola and Seligman as the hidden agenda of the health/rehabilitation industry.

With the increased emphasis brought on by IYDP, libraries should find it easy to recruit disabled persons who can provide suggestions aimed at improving services. (Contributed by Cliff Law, Qld State Library.)

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The responsibility for International Year for Disabled Persons activities in Australia rests with Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle. Each State and Territory is represented through local committees. Known contact people are: NSW: David Roden, Handicapped Persons Bureau, 323 Castlereagh St, Sydney, (02) 217 7100. Vic: Judy Haskins, Hospital Division, Health Commission, 555 Collins St, Melbourne, (03) 616 7922. Qld: Laurie Longland, PO Box 153, North Quay, (07) 224 6094. SA: Jan Belchamber, GPO Box 464, Adelaide, (08) 227 4387. WA: Barry Lefort, Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital, Shenton Park, (09) 381 2333. Tas: Joan Spencer, 12 Ellerslie Road, Hobart, (022) 30 2973. ACT: Ron Johns, Dept of the Capital Territory, Canberra, (062) 46 2501.

Publications for disabled

IYDP publishes a newsletter which can be obtained by writing to 'Breakthrough', Box 33, Woden, ACT 2606.

In South Australia, *Link*, a monthly newspaper for people with handicaps, for parents and the public is available \$5 pa subscription by writing to Box 909, GPO, Adelaide. It contains a wealth of information specific to SA.

The National Library of Australia publishes *Link-up*, a bi-monthly newsletter concerned with library services for handicapped people in Australia and overseas. To obtain copies write to Principal Librarian (Social Sciences), ANSOL, National Library of Australia, Canberra 2600, (062) 62 1604.

Book bounty and braille books

Recently the Industries Assistance Commission recommended changes to book bounty

entitlements in the printing industry, which led to removal of assistance to those publishing braille.

Prime Minister Fraser has announced (30 June 1980) that the national government will reinstate the bounty under an interim assistance arrangement pending a review of the effect of the new criteria for bounty eligibility. ACROD has been asked to help provide input on the basis for aid to braille publishers. For details, see *Commonwealth Record*, 30 June 1980, p979. (Contributed by C. Reid, Sydney.)

Giftedness

It is a truism that libraries can either support or disadvantage extremely able people, especially children, who may have intellectual demands well in excess of the norm for their age. Does your library have different sections for Children and for Adults? What is the basis of and for that division? Is it a valid distinction?

In most Australian states there is an Association for Talented and Gifted Children. Contacts are: NSW - Len Maydwell, 28 Haughton St, Lane Cove 2066; Vic - c/o Box 523, Camberwell 3124; SA - May Cuthbert, 21 Fourth Ave, Klemzig 5087; Qld - The Gap

State School, The Gap 4061; WA - Bill Helm, 7/28 Tyler St, Joondana 6060; Tas - Mr Wood, Mole Creek Primary School 7304; NT - Ray Pohl, Education Dept, Box 4711, Darwin 5790.

In Victoria the Primary School Division has set up a Gifted Children Committee to recommend policy with respect to a definition of giftedness, identification procedures and program and organisation alternatives. The Committee's immediate aim is to investigate funding, materials, resources and methods to raise teacher and community awareness to the needs of the gifted, and any input is welcomed. Contact Mrs Thorn, Executive Officer, GCC, Cremorne St Primary School, Richmond, 3121.

It has been brought to our notice that many readers wish to file each MIND column. To help you keep track, this is number 4.

Contributions to this column should be sent to Lloyd Junor, Lecturer in Media Studies, Department of Librarianship, Melbourne State College, 757 Swanston St, Carlton, 3053. Phone: (03) 341 8111.

New service for disabled children

DIANELLA PUBLIC LIBRARY, WA, opened a special service for disabled children on Wednesday, 13 August.

This pioneer venture aims to introduce a wide range of songs, stories and folk tales through the medium of cassettes and sound filmstrips to the disabled child.

Displays of artwork from Balga and Koondoola Special Schools were on show for the children and guests representing the City of Stirling, Library Board of WA, educational institutions, voluntary organisations and members of parliament.

In his opening remarks, the State Librarian, Mr Sharman, acknowledged the work of the Advisory Council on Library Services for the Handicapped through whose efforts the International Year of the Child Committee made a federal grant of \$10,000 to the Library Board of WA enabling the project to be launched.

The service was formally opened by the Deputy Mayor of Stirling, Cr D. Hoffman. The deaf mime artist, Rae Gibson from Children's Activities Time Society (CATS) responded on behalf of the children, reminding all present that effective communication can be achieved by more than one method.

While all children who visit the Dianella Public Library will have access to the collection, borrowing rights are restricted to the disabled child. In this way social interaction between all children can be fostered and encouraged.

A poster advertising this service was designed by the children of Balga Special School and was distributed to special schools, hostels, voluntary organisations, infant health centres, etc in the Dianella area. The motif is again repeated on a pamphlet introducing the service. Both the poster and pamphlet were printed by Para-Quad Industries, a sheltered workshop for the physically disabled. Another sheltered workshop for the intellectually disabled, Active Industries, printed the *Catalogue of Audio Visual Materials for Handicapped Children* which also features the poster motif on the front cover.

This 72-page catalogue is arranged al-

phabetically, by author, and has a title index. Ranging from pre-school to secondary, the 330 items contain bibliographical details, followed by an annotation indicating the content of the cassette or filmstrip, and some evaluation in terms of its suitability for a particular age range or disability. An appendix gives author, title and publisher for about 120 items that finally arrived from the United States just a few days before the opening. The catalogue is unique in that it is believed that this is the first time in Australia that children's cassettes and sound filmstrips from a wide range of publishers are listed together, and evaluated for the four major areas of disability.

The printed catalogue is being distributed to all the public libraries within the network of the Library Board of WA and to all special schools belonging to the Special Education Branch of the Education Department.

Only sufficient copies of the catalogue were printed to meet the needs of the project; however, should there be a demand for copies of the catalogue, send your order marked Catalogue of Audio Visual Materials for Handicapped Children, Advisory Council on Library Services for the Handicapped, c/o Library Board of Western Australia, Henley House, 102 Beaufort Street, Perth 6000, with a cheque for \$9.00 (incl postage), so that arrangements can be made for a reprint if sufficient orders are received.

Negotiations are already under way for the opening of a second project at another metropolitan library and children, parents and teachers throughout the State will be able to borrow from a central collection held in the Circulation Division of the Library Board of WA.

Through the provision of this service the Advisory Council on Library Service for the Handicapped in Western Australia is looking ahead to 1981 International Year of Disabled People in providing access for the disabled child to a treasure trove of stories from the world's best storytellers.

Jenny Woodroffe