

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

Cassette tape service

Blind and handicapped persons may be interested in obtaining copies of *Audio Magazine*, a monthly 90 minute cassette on a wide range of topics, taken from local and overseas print. Some of the regular features are finance, a cookery segment, technology, news on government activities relating to the handicapped and selections from journals of international status. Individuals and libraries may subscribe to *Audio Magazine* for \$9. Other taped magazines, such as *Choice* and *Motor Magazine* are available by contacting Mrs Jeanette Miller at the Royal Blind Society, 4 Mitchell Street, Enfield, 2136; telephone (02) 747 6622.

More talking machines

The Sharp Corporation of Osaka, Japan, has released three new products which will be of interest to the blind and print-handicapped. Their Talking Calculator Model CS 6500 has 12-digit display, and can handle a wide range of calculations, eg constant multiplication and division, repeat addition and subtraction, power calculation, percentages, add-on/discount, memory, total memory, first factor accumulation, averaging, and is advertised as having a playback maximum of 100 items.

The Talking Clock, which has recently been reviewed in some Australian newspapers, is a pocket-sized unit which announces the time on demand or at set intervals. It includes a synthesised music alarm, plus speech output of the time and an admonition to 'hurry up'.

Sharp's Talking Cash Register offers spoken confirmation of entered prices, total cost, amount tendered and change required. All machines are being promoted as 'no need to look at them' devices for the entire population rather than as aids for the visually limited.

Microfiche for visually handicapped

Microfiche could become more universally acceptable than the print media for satisfying information needs because its physical format is suitable for both normal readers and the visually handicapped, according to T. Bialkowski, reader services librarian of Canberra Public Library. It is suggested that an improved way of helping large print readers read microfiche is to use a 48x lens with a 24x reduction microfiche and, say, a 96x reduction microfiche. Although the 96x lens doesn't seem to be readily available, perhaps some *Incite* reader can suggest a source of supply.

Education and physically disabled

The Western Australian Institute of Technology is to host a conference entitled 'Education for the Physically Disabled'. Details of the conference to be held 29 June - 3 July 1981 from Mr J. Winfield, WAIT Counselling Service, Hayman Road, Bentley, 6102.

Information handbook

A comprehensive summary, and assessment of the role of the library's relationship with the physically handicapped is contained in *Serving physically disabled people: an information handbook for all libraries* by Ruth A. Velleman (R.R. Bowker, NY, 1979). Topics treated include attitudes and understanding physically disabled people, defining disability, the law, barrier-free designs, the blind, the deaf, a core collection, special rehabilitation libraries, and school and university libraries. (Information from Shirley Jones, Librarian, National Guide Dog and Mobility Centre, Kew, Vic.).

Petrol cost for voluntary drivers

The tax situation in regard to voluntary drivers working in specific areas is that the Taxation authorities will allow taxation concessions if the following are observed:

- (a) The person must produce a statement of the duties undertaken with a particular responsible body on the letterhead of that body, showing in any one area the precise mileage done, a record of each particular trip in regard to a visit or transporting someone or attending a meeting, the purpose of that trip, the cost in regard to the petrol which was consumed and receipts supporting that;
- (b) also a statement showing that they did not receive any monetary return from the body at all or allowance from that body. (From Norm Pressey, Victorian Advisory Council on Recreation for the Handicapped Newsletter no2 Sept, 1980).

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. (MIND column no5).

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