

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

WILLOUGHBY Municipal Library in Chatswood, NSW, has a flourishing service to print-handicapped members, having about 1200 talking-book titles available both in two-track and four-track cassette format.

These are borrowed by housebound members of the Home Library Service, and by personal visits to the Library. A special effort is made to encourage personal access to the collection by the users themselves, with the help of staff, and to solicit and record comments about the books when they are returned, including opinions about the readers of the stories, the technical reproduction and the suitability of the titles available.

Willoughby has found that a major problem is the storage of the cassettes themselves. For some time they have been seeking a standard book-like container for cassettes which would include the following features: Durability; Standard size suitable for conventional shelving; Capacity suitable for the average talking book; Instant visual check on contents; Fixed place for each cassette; Blank fillers for cassette space not used; Easy removal and replacement of cassettes by disabled users; Avoidance of use of cassette cases; Facilities for labelling and description on front and spine; Reasonable price.

In consultation with one of their disabled users, the Library has attempted to design a

vinyl folder with foam inserts to hold cassettes firmly in place. The folder holds a maximum of six cassettes, although three-up and 12-up models are also possible.

At present they are interested in a New Zealand product which would cost around \$1.70 for an initial run of 5000. Presumably a larger order would cut the cost per unit. Those interested can contact Mrs Jewel Pels, Willoughby Municipal Library, 407 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, NSW 2067, (02) 419 7816.

Rotary scholarships

Since 1973 the Rotary Foundation has awarded 643 scholarships to enable teachers of the handicapped from over 60 countries to broaden their international perspectives and professional skills.

During 1981-82, 85 men and women from 32 countries will join the program, studying new teaching techniques in their host country for one academic year.

Recipients of the Teachers of the Handicapped Scholarships are selected on the basis of their academic and professional qualifications and their potential as ambassadors of goodwill. Applicants must have at least two years of full-time experience as teachers of the handicapped and be aged between 25 and 50 years.

Information on the Scholarship Program can be obtained from local Rotary clubs or The Rotary Foundation, 1600 Ridge Ave, Evanston, Ill, 60201, USA. (From Margaret Willimott, Melbourne State College.)

Special people — books and AV kit

Librarians will be interested in a series of books released by publisher Franklin Watts to support the IYDP.

Five titles each discuss a different disability including blindness, deafness, cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

An audiovisual kit, produced by Julian Padowicz and consisting of four sound film strips each focusing on a different exceptional young adult who is functioning successfully in society, is also available.

The *Special People AV Kit* aims to provide adult role models for children who suffer from a disability.

Both the kit and the books are available from: Bluebird Educational Distributors Pty Ltd, 20 Helen Street, Heidelberg West, Vic 3081. Books are \$6.95 each plus postage and packing. The kit is \$88 plus postage and packing. (From Margaret Willimott, Melbourne State College.)

Computer equipment for the disabled

I would like to suggest that there is a need for a national register of terminals and related equipment suitable for handicapped people (library customers and staff) wishing to use services such as AUSINET and ABN.

Ways and means that spring to mind include:

- a national current awareness bulletin produced partially by searching AUSINET, DIALOG, etc;
- a regular circular letter to known manufacturers and researchers asking for up-to-date information, brochures, prices, etc;
- a request to 'Library Technology Reports' or similar bodies to do an annual survey.

All these could most easily be done by whatever secretariat has been established by the National Advisory Committee in Library Services for the Handicapped; however, if this is not possible the work could be farmed out. I am making this suggestion because I am

not aware that the topic has ever been raised in relation to AUSINET, ABN or similar facilities. It will become even more significant as we move closer to the on-line catalogue. (From Glenn Sanders, Library Co-ordinator, CAVAL Limited, Ampol House, 792 Elizabeth St, Melbourne, 3000, Tel. (03) 347 0464.)

Responses to this item should be directed to the writer or to Don Schauder, 49 Ayr St, Doncaster, Vic.

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 no 10).

Library buildings

THE August 1980 issue of *The Australian Library Journal* contained a Building Review of projects completed in 1979. It was announced at that time that the Building Review would become an annual feature in the *AustLibJ*. The Editorial Board has decided that this should now be a biennial feature. The next Building Review will be published in August 1982 covering projects completed between 1 January 1980 and 31 December 1981.

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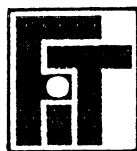
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