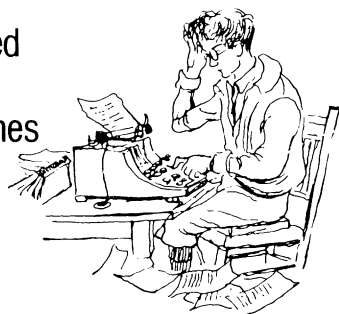


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



More voice indexing

A SECOND voice-indexed cassette book has been produced by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress.

The book, *Cooking for myself*, has been indexed section by section, recipe by recipe. With voice indexing, key words are audible as normal speech in the fast-forward mode. The tape is then stopped by the user and is played at regular speed to hear the relevant entry. NLS first used voice indexing with *Access National Parks: a guide for handicapped visitors*.

Long-term plans include a voice-indexed cassette version of the *American heritage dictionary* and the first segment of this, words starting with 'a', is under way. NLS estimates that the complete dictionary will consist of more than 50 cassettes.

This and other news of interest to the print-handicapped and those who serve them, is from the NLS publication *News*, available from the Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542, USA. (ISSN 0160-9211).

Dodging ditches

WRITTEN with 'warmth, humour and understanding'. Arthur Wilkins' *Dodging ditches* is a guide to rehabilitation for blind people and is also intended to help their families and friends.

Wilkins offers practical advice to blind and visually handicapped people, drawn from his own experience. He covers many aspects of daily living, including orientation, mobility, social customs, communication and personal care. The book is in large print.

Bernadette Selleck, Librarian of the Association for the Blind (Victoria), says it will be of interest 'not only to the blind and their families, but also to health workers in the rehabilitation field.'

Copies of *Dodging ditches* by Arthur Wilkins (Belmont, Vic: Neptune Press, 1979) are available from the Librarian, Association for the Blind, 7 Mair Street, Brighton Beach, Vic 3188, at \$4.25 plus 80c postage. (ISBN unknown).

Talking terminals . . .

KURZWEIL Computer Products of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is famous for its Kurzweil Reading Machine for the blind.

It now makes a talking terminal which translates computer information into synthetic speech and can be attached to any standard terminal. It has an unlimited vocabulary. The terminal was originally designed to open computer careers to the blind, but it also has potential for many other uses, including reservation systems and financial transactions.

. . . and chatting calculators

THERE is now at least one talking calculator on the market. The new Canon model SP1260-D calculator incorporates a speech synthesiser which can be used when the user

needs to check entries.

At US\$399 it's not cheap, but it can eliminate the need for two people to cross-check lists of numbers. It should have uses for the visually handicapped too, with adaptation. The calculator can store up to 128 items of data, including final totals.

The talking calculator is a product of Canon USA Inc, 10 Nevada Drive, Lake Success, NY 11042, USA.

The sounds of Social Security

THE State Library of Queensland service to the print-handicapped now includes a range of cassettes describing services and benefits offered by the Department of Social Security.

The cassettes are available in Vietnamese, Turkish, Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Serbo-Croatian, Greek and English. Topics covered include aged, invalid and rehabilitation pensions, rights of appeal, unemployment and sickness.

Copies of the cassettes are available for loan in Queensland from the State Library, and from some offices of the Department of Social Security. Copies may also be obtained from the Library for the production cost of \$2.00 per cassette.

For further information contact State Library of Queensland, 189 Stanley Street, South Brisbane, Qld 4101, phone (07) 221 8400.

Getting it taped

The Breaker, narrated by Kit Denton himself, and the autobiography of Sir Robert Mark are among the many cassettes available for loan from the State Library of Queensland. The Taped Book Service is available to all readers unable to hold or to read standard print material.

News of new acquisitions is given in *New taped books* (ISSN 0156-4552) which, incidentally, is also available on tape. Further information on the service is available from the Co-ordinator, Library Services to the Print Handicapped, State Library of Queensland, 189 Stanley Street, South Brisbane, Qld 4101, phone (07) 221 8400.

Sounds interesting

NOW in its second year of production, *Audio magazine* is a monthly 90-minute cassette tape for the blind and visually handicapped. It contains a wide range of feature articles from the Australian and world press on science, current affairs, travel and the arts. There is even a cookery section.

Audio magazine is distributed nationally by the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales and subscriptions cost \$9.00 per year. For further information about *Audio magazine* and other cassette series contact Mrs Jeanette Miller at the Royal Blind Society, 4 Mitchell Street, Enfield, NSW 2136, phone (02) 747 6622.

O for a second childhood

THE Toy Libraries Association in Britain has produced an excellent guide to toys for libraries or indeed for parents and generous relatives.

The good toy guide, which was published jointly by the Association and Inter-Action Inprint last year, has helpful hints on buying toys for various age groups and critiques of specific toys, giving English prices and suppliers, dimensions and three or four lines of descriptive and evaluative notes. Some of the toys are illustrated. Those which the advisory panel responsible for this work would recommend are clearly indicated.

There is an excellent section dealing with toys which will be particularly helpful for children with varying degrees of handicap.

Many of the toys listed are available in Australia, and those which are not may be obtainable by mail order from suppliers listed in the *Guide*.

Highly recommended for toy libraries, playgroups and kindergartens. Is anyone working on an Australian equivalent?

The good toy guide is published by the Toy Libraries Association and Inter-Action Inprint and is available locally for \$9.95 from Second Back Row Press, PO Box 43, Leura, NSW 2781. (ISBN 0 904571 35 1).

Happy families

ONE of the provisions of the Family Law Act 1975 established the Institute of Family Studies, which began life in earnest in February last year.

The primary function of the Institute is the promotion of the 'protection of the family as the natural and fundamental group unit in society'. To this end the Institute encourages and promotes research into factors which affect family life and family structures. Within the Institute is the Family Information Centre, which will disseminate information about past, present and future research about the family in Australia.

The Centre, headed by Mari Davis, Research Bibliographer and with Judy Newbold as Librarian, is available for consultation by researchers, teachers and other professionals who require information about family research.

The Institute's *Newsletter* (ISSN 0159-9143) is the best way of keeping in touch with developments there, including the publications (discussion papers, working papers and major reports) which will be produced. The Institute of Family Studies is at Lewis House, 766 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000, phone (03) 347 0166.

Children's authors speak

A SERIES of cassette tapes has been produced by Educational Media Australia 'designed to motivate students to read the works of important modern Australian writers'. Each tape contains an interview with the writer interspersed with excerpts from the writer's work. Available in the series so far are Colin Thiele, Nance Tonkin, Joan Phipson, Lilith Norman, Max Fatchen and Eleanor Spence. Further information about this series is available from Educational Media Australia, 237 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne, Vic 3205, phone (03) 699 7144.

— JUST PUBLISHED —

Proceedings of the first national workshop on Librarianship for Handicapped Users

Ed. C. Lloyd Junior

Published by Melbourne State College and the Library Association of Australia, 1980.

A collection of fact and opinion on the present and future roles of libraries and their service to the handicapped in Australia.

Cost: \$13 (plus \$2.20 postage); overseas: A\$15 (plus \$5 postage, \$7.50 airmail).

Available from: Department of Librarianship (Publications), Melbourne State College, 757 Swanston Street, Carlton, Vic 3053.

Cheques to be made payable to 'MIND Workshop'.