

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

Easy-to-read resources for families with handicapped children

A very real problem for parents with disabled children, especially in the early days of diagnosis (and pre-diagnosis) is a lack of knowledge and information on their child's disability and resources to help them cope with it. In many cases medical practitioners may not give sufficient help. Parents often turn to libraries as sources of information.

Four up-to-date, easy to read, constructive resources are:

- (i) *Handicapped children and their families.* A selected booklist compiled on the basis of titles held at AWCH (Australian Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital) Library as at 1/1/1981. (NSW).

This is an annotated bibliography of some 70 monographs held by AWCH on disability, including books for children to help them come to terms with disability. Information about AWCH and its facilities is well set out and is excellent reference aid for families with hospitalised children. Holdings include video cassettes, motion picture films, A/V materials.

- (ii) *My child was born disabled.* A report by the National Women's Advisory Council. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1980.

This is a report to the Commonwealth Government by the National Women's Advisory Council of its national conference convened in Brisbane, May 1980 for mothers with disabled children.

The aims of the report are:

- to urge the Commonwealth Government to upgrade its services and attitudes to the handicapped, and
- to help break down the sense of loneliness and social isolation experienced by mothers of the disabled which can result from society's lack of understanding of the needs of the disabled and those who care for them.

- (iii) *New Directions for parents of persons*

who are retarded Robert Perske, Abingdon, Nashville (U.S.A.) 1973. (5th printing 1978).

This book is written in a simple, direct, easy-to-read manner for parents of retarded children who seek to face the situation and deal with it in a creative way. It is a book on attitudes, on coming to terms with the grief of having a handicapped child and helping him reach his maximum potential within the family setting.

- (iv) *New Life in the Neighbourhood.* Robert Perske, Abingdon, Nashville, 1980.

This companion volume to *New Directions for parents of persons who are retarded*, describes ways in which people, especially individuals within local neighbourhoods, can relate to handicapped people for their mutual benefit.

Judith Feiglin

Bibliography on the handicapped

In the last Project MIND column (*InCite*, 10 June 1983) there was an item about the 1983 Bibliography on the Handicapped produced by Mildura Regional Library Service.

Mention was made of the fact that neither *InCite* nor *Link-up* was included in the list, but we are pleased now to report that the compilers are aware of the omission and an errata sheet has been mailed to all who had received the bibliography (with an apology and explanation) and that all subsequent copies supplied included the errata sheet.

As the compilers say, 'even if by a circuitous route, every user of our Bibliography on the Handicapped has had their attention drawn to LINK UP and PROJECT MIND in no uncertain manner . . .'

Handy hints

Oops, My Crutch is Slipping is a booklet published by the Disabled Motorists (Victoria) containing handy practical hints for people with physical disabilities. It was paid for by the Rotary Club of Balwyn. The booklets are available free from South Melbourne Public Library and Disabled Motorists Victoria, 7/42 Northcote Ave., Balwyn, 3103.

Helen Burrage

New from the LAA!



Directory for the Disabled: Tertiary Library Services in NSW

Compiled by the NSW Contact Panel of Project Mind

LAA, Sydney 1983.
ISBN 0 86804 025 8

Price: \$7.50, \$5.00 LAA members, postage 50c.

As a special project for the International Year of Disabled Persons, the NSW Contact Panel of Project Mind resolved to compile a directory of services and facilities for disabled users in tertiary libraries in NSW.

Available through the LAA, 376 Jones St.
Ultimo NSW 2000, Mannings and Bennetts.

Braille to print research in Australia

The National Federation of Blind Citizens has advised that a project to enable a very young Braille user to communicate in print with her teachers has been undertaken by Mr Norman Wilson of Webb Street, Stafford, Queensland, phone (07) 356 6176. The device consists of a Perkins Braille, a 6802 micro-processor, and a printing terminal. When the Braille is used the keys' functions are detected and information is sent to the micro-processor, stored, and manipulated and formatted, and transmitted to the printer.

Enquiries can be made to Mr Wilson or to MVBC offices, 45 Waverley Road, East Malvern 3145. Phone (03) 572 1044 (contact Mr Chris Stewart).

News and information for publication in this column may be sent to: Lloyd Junor, Department of Librarianship, Melbourne College of Advanced Education, Carlton, 3053.

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