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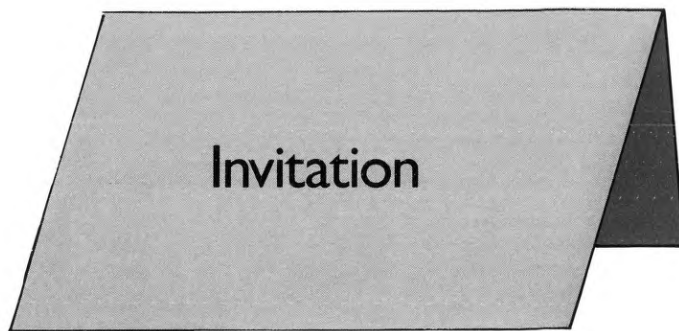
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## Library Services for Disabled People, National Library of Australia

### Braille User Study

How do braille readers fare in Australia? This question has been investigated by Beverley Johnson, formerly the Librarian in Charge of the Braille and Large Print Department of the Braille and Talking Book Library in Victoria. The results of her research, which was supported by a grant from the National Library, are now published — in print and braille — under the title *Braille reading trends in Australia*.

The study encompasses both children and adults as braille readers and includes a survey of braille transcription and braille library services in Australia. Beverley Johnson found that braille readers in Australia are not receiving anywhere near an adequate library service. 'With 29 agencies (educational institutions, transcription units and library services) offering braille services to just over 1000 clients, these braille users should be the best served readers in the country!' she said. Her recommendations call for an expanded and more unified service to braille readers.

The National Library invites comments on the conclusions and recommendations of the report from all interested individuals and organisations. It is available from the Library Sales and Subscription Unit and costs \$20 for print or braille version.

### NUC:H and WIP Online Through ABN

The National Library is to provide the *National Union catalogue of Library materials for the handicapped* (NUC:H) and the Works-in-Process system (WIP) online through the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). Conversion of the NUC:H file to ABN is scheduled to be completed in August 1986.

NUC:H and WIP together form a register of braille and audio books for print handicapped people held in Australian libraries. NUC:H is published in microfiche format cumulatively four times a year.

WIP records works in process of transcription to braille or audio format. The main function of WIP is to eliminate duplication of effort amongst producers. The WIP file is searched by National Library staff on request. Completed WIPs are entered in NUC:H.

The National Library's Advisory Committee on Library Services for Disabled People recommended that NUC:H and WIP should be made available through an online computer system that would be accessible in libraries remote from the National Library. The ABN system, already provided by the National Library for other library materials, was identified as the most suitable vehicle.

Chief benefits from providing NUC:H and WIP through ABN are:

- material produced specially for print handicapped people will be accessible through the same system as other library materials, which should make this material more widely accessible through libraries.
- there will be online access to both NUC:H and WIP data, so that producers will be able to search WIP data in particular for themselves.
- producers and holders of library material for print handicapped people will have the option of entering WIP and NUC:H data directly onto the ABN database.
- the NUC:H microfiche catalogue can be continued and its scope expanded to include WIP entries.