

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

Children's librarians and service to disabled children

Guidelines for establishing specialist children's library services in libraries and in schools are offered in a helpful publication written by Helen Stough, Children's Librarian, Winnetka Public Library District, Winnetka, Ill. 60093 (USA). For details write to the author or read 'Let me hear your hand - Library service for handicapped children'. *Illinois Libraries* Dec. 1980, 62, 10, 878-883.

Joanne Clarke

Which machine for Braille?

Acceptance, reliability, versatility and the capability of several cassette-Braille devices were examined by the NLS for Blind and Physically Handicapped as part of a survey for future planning. The cassette-Braille devices evaluated included the Digicassette, VersaBraille and the Braillocord.

Further information from *Education for the Visually Handicapped*, XIII, 1, Spring 1981; or from National Library Services for Blind & Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington 20542.

Information services for disabled individuals

A special edition of *Drexel Library Quarterly* (Drexel University, Phil., PA., 19104) aims at assisting librarians and information specialists to meet the needs of disabled persons. Topics treated include architectural and program access, information and referral, information service aids, innovative technology and improving information access, international developments, and bibliotherapy. The various topics are contributed by specialists in their field. (*Drexel Library Quarterly*, Apr., 1980, 16:2:1-108).

Barry Scott

Resource centres ill-named

The 14 regional centres of the Government's Micro-electronic Education Program are failing to meet the needs of special schools according to Mary Hope, of the Council for Educational Technology.

'Only £64,000 has been set aside for four special education micro-electronic resource centres in Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle and London, which were expected to cover the whole of England and Wales', said Mrs Hope. 'Schools should not expect too much of the resource centres,' she added. They were being set up partly because the regional centres could not be trusted to deal with the needs of special education.

A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers said the Department of Education and Science had taken a consistently poor attitude to the problems of special education. 'When the MEP issued its draft strategy in 1980 it was very generous towards special schools but when the DES finally approved the costings special education was given lowest priority'. *The Teacher*, March 26, 1982, p2.

Hearing impaired helped in church

A number of Melbourne parish churches have installed audio loop equipment for the hard-of-hearing. A special logo is displayed to mark churches which have installed the equipment and seats equipped with it. The equipment is used in conjunction with tele-

phone switches fitted to hearing aids.

Advice and help on how to aid those with hearing disabilities can be obtained from the Victorian branch of the Australian Association for Better Hearing at 28 High St., Windsor. The Association also conducts lip-reading classes.

Sr. Marea Cox

Care for elderly

Selecting special accommodation for an elderly or disabled parent, relative or friend needs care and attention to important details. The Outer East Regional Housing Council has produced leaflets with guidelines to help make a decision.

They cover location, access, type of care, environment, medical attention, finances, recreation and services.

For copies write to the Outer East Regional Housing Council, 3 Suda Avenue, Ringwood, 3134, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Frank Job

Early detection of vision problems

A booklet has been distributed to Victorian schools by the Australian Optometrical Association entitled, *A Teacher's Guide to Vision Problems in Schools*. The Association has also produced a *Parent's Guide to Children's Vision*.

Both booklets aim to assist parents and teachers to recognise early signs of vision deficiency. Prompt attention to a vision problem would minimise the emotional distress for the child, and prevent interference to academic progress.

Erika Dunstan

Contributions to 'Project MIND' are welcomed. Send them to Lloyd Junor, Melbourne State College, 757 Swanston Street Carlton, 3053.

10 YEARS

BIOSIS AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA CELEBRATE TEN YEARS OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATION SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA

This year marks the tenth anniversary of computer-based information service offered from magnetic tapes produced by BioSciences Information Service (BIOSIS) and available through the National Library of Australia and the Department of Health.

To observe this significant event, BIOSIS, publisher of **Biological Abstracts** and its companion services, is offering Australian users a new MED/BIOSIS training course **free of charge**. Sites, dates, and contacts are listed below. Come join us for professional development and a surprise gift!

DATES	LOCATION
April 28 & 29 (Thurs./Fri.)	Canberra
May 2 & 3 (Mon./Tues.)	Melbourne
May 5 & 6 (Thurs./Fri.)	Sydney
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May 12 & 13 (Thurs./Fri.)	Perth
May 16 & 17 (Mon./Tues.)	Brisbane

Each course lasts 1½ days. For further details, and/or to register for a MED/BIOSIS course in the location of your choice, please contact:

Sandra Henderson
Life Sciences Section
National Library of Australia

Telephone: (062) 621 524
Telex: 62100

