

# Library materials for the handicapped

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY has announced plans to conduct a six-month pilot study of a Works-in-Process system (WIP). A number of agencies who produce library materials for the handicapped will participate in the pilot study.

It is envisaged that as a result of the pilot scheme a system will be developed as an ancillary to the National Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped (NUC:H).

WIP'S major function will be to provide up-to-date information to the producers of materials for the handicapped about works in production in Australia. The system will provide a complete coverage of works in progress, encompassing not only those actually in production but also those in the planning stage.

Five organisations are taking part in the study: Braille and Talking Book Library, Melbourne, 'Hear a Book' Service, Hobart, Royal Blind Society of NSW, Sydney, Royal NSW Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, Sydney, Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, Melbourne.

The proposed system will be evaluated by the participating organisations, thus allowing the National Library to assess the system and make any necessary revisions before inviting all producers of library materials for the handicapped to report works in process.

During February Cliff Law, Chief Librarian of Library Services for the Handicapped at the National Library has been working closely with the organisations concerned and the pilot study is expected to get under way in early March.

A progress report will appear in *InCite* as soon as possible.



**Braille: gaining insight by touch**

Photography by courtesy of Royal Blind Society

used to claim his guitar killed fascists, the Trade Practices Act prevents us making such extravagant claims about this book. But hopefully it will, at a minimum, make them uncomfortable; it might even alert them to some injustices they have chosen to ignore; and at best it might help them to re-examine their position.

It would appear that the Northern Territory is breaking fresh ground in the field of copyright. The amount of material published commercially in the Northern Territory is small but can be expected to grow in the future. I can only hope that all publishers and authors will adopt the policy that John Tomlinson has adopted.

*Ron Davis*

Director NT Library Service

different countries, no agent ever tried to persuade me or my colleagues to subscribe to a particular title. Some agencies are also involved in promotion on behalf of publishers, but the librarian considers promotional material, and selects according to established criteria. Since librarians also select agents, they may and do choose to purchase a title through a different agent from the one whose name is on the advertisements. Reputable agents are there to serve their customers – to provide what the customer chooses. I am now employed by a subscription agency, but it is no part of my brief to persuade librarians to purchase particular titles because of the size of the discount received.

As for indexes, again *Dally Messenger* appears to have been unlucky. When revising lists of subscriptions, librarians may cancel one title in favour of another because the latter is indexed in a reputable index, but no responsible librarian will condemn a new title because it is not indexed. They may take the time to recommend a title for indexing, but most indexes have an editorial policy, and choose to index or not according to their own criteria. Indexing does increase the sales of certain types of magazines, which is why most publishers are happy to provide free copies to indexes. The index, if reputable, will advise the publisher if it is decided not to index, or continue indexing, a title, so that the index's name is removed from the free mailing list. I also shudder to think of the quality of an index if its coverage depended entirely on busy librarians, with their own prejudices, making the time to write with recommendations.

I know my colleagues in reputable agencies, while grateful for all discounts received, would never indulge in the kind of intimidation implied in his letter.

*Elizabeth Carvosso*

Bennett-Ebsco Subscription Services,

## Letters

### Copyright

I thought you might be interested in the statement which appears in a book recently published in Darwin entitled *Betrayed By Bureaucracy* written by John Tomlinson and published by The Wobbly Press, Darwin. The copyright statement is as follows:

#### Copyright

No part of this book is copyright, no contributor has been paid, the cartoonists have been ripped off. The Wobbly Press does not want to be part of the monopoly of knowledge game. If you can reproduce copies of this book cheaper than we can we'd be interested in hearing from you.

If you can use this information it's yours, we hope you'll use it in the struggle of worker against capital. Woody Guthrie

### Agencies and indexes

*Dally Messenger* – Agencies to avoid – *InCite* vol 3 (1), 22 Jan 1982, has been unlucky in his subscription agency, or, I hope, misunderstood its representative. While the amount of discount given to an agent by a publisher does affect the price the agent charges the customer, no responsible librarian chooses titles on the basis of price alone (though if they do not consider services, they may choose *agents* on price alone.) Librarians buy many titles which have no discount through their usual agencies for the convenience of bulk handling and the administrative economy achieved.

The reasons for choosing to subscribe or not subscribe are too many to be discussed here, but I would like to say that in many years as a librarian handling thousands of orders through a great number of agents in