

The Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Library

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"My child isn't receiving the proper care at his school. Who can I complain to and get something done about it?", a parent calls and asks. "I want to know about the family's role in caring for a child with a handicapping condition. What journals and books can I turn to for information? It's for a paper I'm writing for a special education class." "I work in a group home and I need to teach appropriate social skills to one of the residents. What curriculum guides do you suggest?" These are representative of typical questions handled by the Library of the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities (ISDD), (formerly the Developmental Training Center). This is a small, specialized library concerned with the dissemination of information and materials about developmental disabilities. Public Law 95-602 defined developmental disabilities as:

a severe, chronic disability of a person which—(A) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental or physical impairments; (B) is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two; (C) is likely to continue indefinitely; (D) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (1) self-care, (2) receptive and expressive language, (3) learning, (4) mobility, (5) self-direction, (6) capacity for independ-

ent living, and (7) economic sufficiency; and (E) reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Mainstreaming and deinstitutionalization have resulted in greater integration of people with disabilities into the community, but they have also resulted in decentralization of sources of information for families of people with disabilities and for the professionals who serve them. The ISDD Library serves as a resource to those seeking information related to substantial disabling conditions. Professionals who may be interested in the collection would include those who provide services to persons with disabilities: teachers (particularly those in special education), speech and language pathologists, psychologists, social workers, and adapted physical educators, to name a few.

Since the parents and siblings of people with disabilities have special roles in the lives of those individuals, an attempt is made to meet the information needs of family members at the ISDD Library. Materials are available for the families of individuals with substantial handicapping conditions including items on specific

disabilities as well as those to assist the family with coping skills, financial planning for the future of the child, and specialized parenting skills.

There are no specific requirements for use of the Library. Anyone wishing information in the area of developmental disabilities is encouraged to make use of the facility. Since the Library's collection is not listed on OCLC or any other network, the staff will develop a bibliography of a specific topic on request. Materials can be requested directly by telephone or through the mail. The Library is a member of the Stone Hills Area Library Service Authority (SHALSA); therefore, materials can also be obtained through the ALSA system.

The Library collection focuses on materials for and about moderately and severely handicapped people. Areas of emphasis include community integration, supported employment, early intervention programs, aging persons with developmental disabilities, legislation and advocacy, and parental involvement. The resources include:

- * Instructional materials and curriculum guides for use with children and adults with disabilities.
- * Multi-media training materials for teachers, parents, paraprofessionals and others.
- * Reference and background information about developmental disabilities.
- * Bibliographies.
- * Directories of organizations and services.
- * Documents published by the ISDD.
- * Newsletters and periodicals.

- * Catalogs from publishers and distributors.

Located on the Bloomington campus of Indiana University, the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities was built in 1969 from funding provided by Public Law 88-164, the 1963 Developmental Disabilities Construction Act. Along with Riley Child Development Center in Indianapolis, the Institute forms the Indiana University Affiliated Program, one of approximately 50 such programs across the country. The mission of these centers is to provide interdisciplinary training, research, exemplary services, and information in the areas of developmental disabilities.

The staff of the ISDD Library also serve a public relations function for the Institute. Tours of the ISDD originate in the Library and are led by Library personnel. In addition, a brochure and an information packet describing the Institute's various programs were developed by the librarian and are available from the Library.

The Library is also responsible for selling the publications written by the staff of the Institute and published by the ISDD. Among the titles available are *Recognizing and Enhancing the Communication Skills of Your Group Home Clients*, by Beverly Vicker and *Vocational Programming for Students with Autism*, by Patricia L. Sitlington, Nancy J. Dalrymple, and Anthony W. Dewees. All of the publications are available at cost. A complete catalog of publications and their prices is available from the Library.

As stated earlier, the mission of the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities is to provide interdisciplinary training, research, exemplary services, and information in the areas of developmental disabilities. Though the Library was originally established

to serve the information dissemination portion of that mission, research and training are becoming integral concerns as well. The librarian, Marilyn Irwin, is working with Dr. Shirley Fitzgibbons of the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) on various projects related to library services to persons with disabilities. In addition, numerous masters students from SLIS have worked part time in the library and learned about developmental disabilities, about the needs of those who are

disabled, about the role of professionals from other disciplines who serve people with disabilities, and about the role of the librarian in working independently or with an interdisciplinary team to provide services to the people with developmental disabilities.

The address for the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Library is 2853 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47405; (812) 335-9396.