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A Guide to Developing Braille and Talking Book Services

Edited by Leslie L. Clark
in collaboration with
Dina N. Bedi and John M. Gill

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Chapter I

Dedicated
To the Memory
of
Pieter Jan Albertus de Villiers

Pieter de Villiers died on October 15, 1980. Known as a natural leader who motivated his associates to produce their best work, Pieter will be long remembered by his colleagues as a co-founder of the Round Table of Libraries for the Blind, International Federation of Library Associations, and as co-author of the first international standards for bibliographic control of materials produced for use by blind individuals.

Pieter's kindness, understanding, patience, and modesty endeared him to individuals of varying backgrounds from all countries of the world. While he has passed from us, his work will live on.

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Chapter I

Introduction

This book results from a collaborative effort, both in its planning and in its content. It evidences the willingness to share experience and knowledge by libraries and producers of reading materials for the blind and visually impaired all over the world. That information was gathered from a variety of sources, but one of the most important was an international survey of producers of braille and talking books.

Our purpose is threefold: First, to provide an overview of current practice in producing braille and talking books. Second, to describe some typical systems for producing reading materials. Third, to provide guidance to those wishing to establish new facilities for producing reading materials, or to update older facilities.

The sponsors of this study included a number of organizations with an international perspective on the process of producing and deploying books in forms other than ink print (blackprint).

They include:

1. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Round Table of Libraries for the Blind (now an IFLA Section);
2. The Subcommittee for Talking Book Distribution of the Committee on Cultural Affairs of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (WCWB);
3. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress (NLS), U.S.A.;
4. The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), U.S.A.;
5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

The book was reviewed by the Section of Libraries for the Blind of IFLA and approved for publication.

The study was directed by Peter E. Hanke of the Talking Book Department of the American Foundation for the Blind, with the cooperation of Frank Kurt Cylke, National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, (U.S. Library of Congress); D. Roskilly, Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB); and D.S. Zharkov, Republican Central Library for the Blind, U.S.S.R.

Part of our reason for this study was to find out what libraries and

