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ABSTRACT

The bibliography lists books, articles, reports, and other materials on devices that convert print to speech, braille or other tactile output for use by blind persons. The material has been published since 1975. The bibliography is divided into three sections: (1) general works, including background information, history, works treating several types of reading machines, and bibliographies; (2) the development, use, and evaluation of specific reading machines (such as braille cassette recorders and braille word processors); and (3) names and addresses of companies involved in current development and distributions of such devices. (CL)

Literature March Carlotte



Reading Machines: Devices for Converting Print to Braille or Speech

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Library of Congress Washington, D.C. 20542

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Introduction

This bibliography is a selected list of books, articles, reports, and other materials on devices that convert print to speech, braille, or other tactile output for use by blind persons. Because this publication concentrates on current applications, research, and evaluations of reading machines, works published prior to 1975 are not included. Important materials written before that date, however, can be traced through references that are cited here.

The bibliography is divided into three sections: (1) general works, including background information, history, works treating several types of reading machines, and bibliographies; (2) the development, use, and evaluation of specific reading machines; and (3) names and addresses of companies involved in current development and distribution of reading machines and interface systems and programs for blind persons.

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GENERAL WORKS

BAUD (Blind Apple users discussion). Bimonthly. \$18.00/yr. Audio-Tech Laboratories, 1158 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714.

A newsletter covering information of interest to visually impaired persons who own or operate Apple computers or similar devices. Available on cassette only.

- Bekiares, Susan E. Technology for the handicapped: selection and evaluation of aids and devices for the visually impaired. Library hi tech, v. 2, spring 1984: 57-61.
- Blindness, visual impairment, deaf-blindness: annotated listing of the literature, 1953-75. Compiled by Mary K. Bauman. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. 537p.

Annotated bibliography covering virtually all aspects of blindness. Contains numerous references to sensory aids and reading machines.

- Brunken, Phyllis. Independence for the visually handicapped through technology. Education of the visually handicapped, v. 15, winter 1984: 127-133.
- Clark, Leslie L. Microprocessors, microcomputers, and braille readers.

 Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 71, Oct. 1977: 366-367.

Explains reasons for current sensory aids costs, especially second phase technologies such as paperless braille devices.

- Cotter, Eithne, and Emily McCarthy. Technology for the handicapped: Kurzweil and Viewscan. Library hi tech, v. 1, winter 1983: 63-67.
- Cylke, Frank Kurt, and Allen R. Deschere. Information and communication devices for blind and physically handicapped readers. Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science, v. 5, Apr. 1979: 9-11.
- Durre, Karl P., and Frank-Peter Schmidt-Lademann. Interactive computer interfaces for the blind: how the blind can interact with the computer using a mouse. In IEEE Computing Society Workshop on Computers in the Education and Employment of the Handicapped. Proceedings. Silver Spring, MD: IEEE Computing Society Press, 1983. p. 89-95.



Describes an experiment that utilizes the vibrotactile display of the Optacon with an Apple computer, and appropriate accessories.

Freiberger, Howard, ed. Sensory aids. Bulletin of prosthetics research, spring 1979: 146-155; fall 1979: 424-430; spring 1980: 229-231; fall 1980: 116-119; spring 1981: 192-200; fall 1981: 133-136; spring 1982: 63.

Summarizes reports of research on reading machines through December 1981.

Glaser, E. L. Modern technologies applied to communications for the blind.

<u>In American Association of Workers for the Blind.</u> Blindness annual,
1979-80. Washington: 1980. p. 51-59.

A hardware manufacturer discusses past and future developments of braille display and audio output devices. Provides nine guidelines for developers of future devices.

Goldhor, Richard S., and Robert T. Lund. University-to-industry advanced technology transfer: a case study. Research policy, v. 12, June 1983: 121-152.

Presents stages in a project that involved the development of speechoutput technology by university researchers and spin-offs from that technology which lead to the marketing of devices by Telesensory Systems, Inc.

Goodrich, Gregory L. Applications of microcomputers by visually impaired persons. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 78, Nov. 1984: 408-414.

Discusses strengths, weaknesses, and specific applications of computer aids adapted for visually impaired individuals.

Grossner, Clifford P., T. Radhakrishnan, and Andy Pospiech. An integrated workstation for the visually handicapped. IEEE micro, v. 3, June 1983: 8-16.

Engineers at Concordia University in Montreal describe braille- and speech-output components of a workstation they designed for a blind individual.



Harrison, Elizabeth A. Blindness: a bibliography with abstracts. Springfield, VA: National Technical Information Service, 1981. 247p. (PB 81-808305).

Contains 241 abstracts of government-sponsored research reports on blindness and blind persons, specifically in relation to reading machines, rehabilitation, and similar topics.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Division of Libraries Serving the General Public. Section on Libraries for the Blind. Expert Meeting, Marburg (Lahn), Aug. 17-19, 1983. The blind and the new technologies: paperless braille and reading machines. Presented by Harres Manfred. The Hague: IFLA, 1984. 5p.

Lauer, Harvey L. Reading aids for the blind: information for consumers and teachers. Braille monitor, Jan. 1975: 1-8.

Lauer, Harvey L., and Leonard Mowinski. Communication aids for the blind.

In American Association of Workers for the Blind. Blindness annual,
1979-80. Washington: 1980. p. 60-72.

Describes the development of several communication devices from the perspective of users and service providers. Calls for manufacturers to learn from the experiences of past researchers and to cooperate and share technology to assure more useful devices.

Mann, Robert W. From concept to commercial use: a history of aids for the visually in paired. In Technology for independent living workshops on science and technology for the handicapped, 1980. Proceedings. Washington: American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1982. p. 62-73.

Mellor, C. Michael. Aids for the eighties: what they are and what they do. New York: American Foundation for the Blind, 1981. 36p.

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Michaelis, Paul Roller, and Richard H. Wiggins. A human factors engineer's introduction to speech synthesizers. In Directions in human/computer interaction. Edited by Albert Badre and Ben Shneiderman. Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing, 1982. p. 149-178.

Describes speech synthesizers, addresses two major limitations of these devices, and presents techniques for improving intelligibility and aesthetic qualities of synthesized speech.

National Technical Information Service. Computers for the visually handicapped: aids for personal development and research. Springfield, VA: 1984. 91r. (PB83-872515).

Citations from the INSPEC database for the period 1975 to 1984.

Random access. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 78, Nov. 1984: 444-448.

The first appearance of a new department featured in each issue of this publication. Reports on the availablity of reading devices and accessories such as software for use with speech synthesizers and braille printers.

Ruconich, Sandra. Evaluating microcomputer access technology for use by visually impaired students. Education of the visually handicapped, v. 15, winter 1984: 119-125.

Scadden, Lawrence A., and Frank Schmidt. New technologies and the visually impaired. In American Association of Workers for the Blind. Blindness annual, 1982-83. Alexandria, VA: 1982. p. 17-28.

Two-part article. Scadden reviews characteristics of auditory, visual, and tactile information displays. Schmidt discusses the impact of new technology from a Canadian perspective.

Schneider-Maunoury, Pierre. Reading machines. Review of the European blind, v. 5, Jan. 1976: 20-23.

A brief historical overview of reading machines from the Anoculoscope of 1880 to the Optacon and other machines currently being developed.

Sensory aids technology update. Monthly. \$37.00/yr. Sensory Aids Foundation, 399 Sherman Avenue, Suite 12, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



Suen, Ching Y., and Michael P. Beddoes. Spelled speech as an cutput for the Lexiphone reading machine and the Spellex talking typewriter. American Foundation for the Blind research bulletin, no. 29, June 1975: 51-66.

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Weisgerber, Robert A., Bruce E. Everett, and Claudette A. Smith. Evaluation of an ink print reading aid for the blind: the Stereotoner; final report. Palo Alto, CA: American Institutes for Research, 1975. 162p.

Report of a study designed to develop instructional materials, coordinate an instructional program, evaluate training, and disseminate course materials developed during the study.

Young, Michael F. Constraints on microcomputer access for visually impaired persons. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 78, Nov. 1984: 426-427.



SPECIFIC READING MACHINES

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- Dalrymple, George F. Development of hardcopy braille. Aids and applianced review, no. 11, winter 1984: 60-65.
- Docrlag, Deanne M., and Donald H. Doorlag. Cassette braille: a new communication tool for blind people. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 77, Apr. 1983: 158-161.
- Evensen, Richard H. Cassette braille evaluation. Education of the visually handicapped, v. 13, spring 1981: 12-15.
- Gilbertson, Conchita M., and Betty Krolick. Tech talk. NBA Bulletin, v. 18, fall 1983: 8.

First issue of a regular column featuring information on electronic braille for transcribers. Provides pointers for individuals using home computers to transcribe braille, compares text editor software for braille transcription, and lists referral sources.

- Gill, J. M., and L. L. Clark, eds. The BRS 76 Braillocord system. Braille research newsletter, Oct. 1977: 74-77.
- Gore, George V., and S. C. Ashcroft. Portable braille recorder: implications for braille suppliers. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 72, May 1978: 189, 191.

Explains the systems that convert text to speech in the Kurzweil reading machine and gives a detailed account of how the user controls the machine.

Homiak, Cheryl. The ELINFA Digicassette: a user's comments. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 74, Mar. 1980: 112.



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- McGillivray, Robert, ed. Braille and computers. Aids and appliances review, no. 11, winter 1984: 2-67 (entire issue).

Addresses braille output as computer technology for visually impaired individuals. Covers hardcopy and paperless braille technology. Includes a resource guide.

- Melrose, Sue. VersaBraille. Aids and appliances review, no. 11, winter 1984: 14-15.
- Papenmeier, F. H. The Braillex system. Braille research newsletter, Mar. 1978: 3-17.
- Raeder, William M. Electronically controlled braille machines. Aids and appliances review, no. 11, winter 1984: 55-60.
- Reynolds, Michael. The economic feasibility of adopting a cassette braille system. Palo Alto, CA: Telesensory Systems, Inc., 1978. 16p. (3408 Hillview Avenue, P.O. Box 10099 94304).
- Ruconich, Sandra. The Cranmer Modified Perkins Brailler: description, initial research, advantages, and limitations. Aids and appliances review, no. 11, winter 1984: 10-11.
- Stepp, Robert E. Braille word processing. Medical electronics, v. 14, Feb. 1983: 93-95.
- Townsend, Alex H. ELINFA portable braille cassette recorder. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. /1, Sept. 1977: 324.



Speech Output

- Allen, Scott I., and others. A voice output module developed for a blind programmer. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 75, Apr. 1981: 157-161.
- Anderson, John. Talk is getting cheaper. Creative computing, v. 8, Dec. 1982: 137-138, 142, 144, 147.
- Bell, Trudy E. Talk to me. Personal computing, v. 7, Sept. 1983: 120-131, 203, 206.

Describes the features of fifteen speech synthesizers.

- Burgess, Sonia. Reading machine helps blind: electronic camera translates print into speech. Library Association record, v. 82, July 1980: 315.
- Cooper, Franklin S., Jane H. Caitenby, and Patrick W. Nye. Evolution of reading machines for the blind: Haskins Laboratories' research as a case history. Journal of rehabilitation research and development, v. 21, May 1984: 51-87.

A comprehensive, historical account of research dating back to the 1940s that led to the development of speech-output machines currently available to blind persons.

- Cote, Michael P. The Echo II speech synthesizer. Robotics age, v. 6, Aug. 1984: 18-19.
- Cowan, Les, and Larry McClain. Talking with your computer. Popular computing, v. 3, Feb. 1984: 142-147, 148, 150.

Examines principles involved in speech synthesis and recognition.

Cushman, Ruth-Carol. The Kurzweil reading machine. Wilson library bulletin, v. 54, Jan. 1980: 311-315.



Fender, Derek H. Reading machines for blind people. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 77, Feb. 1983: 75-85.

In an article based on a survey of approximately forty people knowledgeable about reading machines, the author describes ten stages related to the problem of providing spoken-output machines for blind people.

Goodrich, Gregory L., and others. Kurzweil reading machine: a partial evaluation of its optical character recognition error rate. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 73, Dec. 1979: 389-399.

Kamentsky, Lee. The Kurzweil reading machine: current developments.

In IEEE Computing Society Workshop on Computers in the Education and Employment of the Handicapped. Proceedings. Silver Spring, MD: IEEE Computing Society Press, 1983. p. 97-100.

Kimbrough, B. T., and Paula Oto. Computerized speech unscrambled. Dialogue, v. 21, winter 1982: 64-75.

Describes software and hardware needs of individuals who might connect low-cost speech synthesizers to personal computers.

Kurzweil, Raymond. The Kurzweil reading machine. Braille monitor, Sept. 1975: 421-427.

A speech presented at the 1975 national convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Provides an overview of the Kurzweil reading machine, how it works, and why the inventors used the approaches they did.

Kurzweil, Raymond. The Kurzweil reading machin: a technical overview.

In Science, Technology, and the Handicapped. Proceedings. Edited
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Kurzweil, Raymond. Reading machine for the blind. Medical electronics, v. 14, Feb. 1983: 81-83.

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Lauer, Harvey L., and Leonard Mowinski. The quandary: selecting computer aids. Raised dot computing, v. 2, Nov. 1984: 1-2.

Discusses resources needed to encourage effective utilization of special technology currently available.

McComb, Gordon. Speech, speech. Creative computing, v. 8, Dec. 1982: 120, 124, 126, 129-130.

Describes Type-N-Talk, the Echo II, and a Texas Instruments model speech synthesizer.

McGillivray, Robert, ed. Voice output for computer access by the blind and visually impaired. Aids and appliances review, no. 9/10, summer/fall 1983: 2-59 (entire issue).

Melton, Louise. Mister impossible: Ray Kurzweil. Computers and electronics, v. 22, July 1984: 41-45, 84.

Ritchie, David. Talking software for the visually impaired. PC magazine, v. 4, Mar. 5, 1985: 148-152.

Describes Freedom I, text vocalizer software for the IBM PC.

Roatch, Mary A. Kurzweil-plus. American libraries, v. 15, Nov. 1984: 699.

Describes speech-output, braille-output, and other high technology aids available to visually and physically handicapped readers in the Phoenix Public Library Special Needs Center.

- Selvin, Hanan C. The Kurzweil reading machine: false hopes and realistic expectations. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, y. 75, Feb. 1981: 76-77.
- Songco, David C., and others. How computers talk to the blind. IEEE spectrum, v. 17, May 1980: 34-38.
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Teja, Edward R. Teaching your computer to talk: a manual of command and response. Blue Ridge Summit, PA: Tab Books, 1981. 208p.

Illustrates and describes limitations and applications of devices that incorporate voice technology.

Vincent, A. Thomas. Microcomputers and synthetic speech. New beacon, v. 67, Sept. 1983: 225-227.

Weinberg, Belle. The Kurzweil machine: half a miracle. American libraries, v. 11, Nov. 1980: 603-604, 627.

Wise, Deborah. Speech-synthesis unit speaks to blind. InfoWorld, v. 3, Nov. 16, 1981: 12-14.

Describes the Orator speech-synthesis device designed by Peter Duran of Arts Associates, Inc.

Wood, Lamont. DECtalk: computer speech that's almost human. Popular computing, v. 3, Oct. 1984: 121, 123.

Other Tactile Output

American Foundation for the Blind. The Richard King Mellon Foundation Optacon training and purchase subsidy program (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area); final report. New York: 1975. 90p.

Report and evaluation of the RKMF program through which Optacons were provided for a group of blind students and adults in Western Pennsylvania.

Freedman, Eric. PC eyes and ears. PC magazine, v. 3, Dec. 25, 1984: 305-306.

Describes SEE, a low-cost hardware and software system that uses Morse Code and a hearing aid to translate the PC's characters into vibrations for deaf/blind users.

Gadbaw, Patricia D., Mary L. Dolan, and William R. De L'Aune. Optacon skill acquisition by blinded veterans. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 71, Jan. 1977: 23-28.



- Gutknecht, Karl S. Optacon: a tool for independence. American education, v. 16, Jan./Feb. 1980: 8-13.
- Hall, Amanda. Recommendations for evaluating innovative products for the visually handicapped. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 74, Mar. 1980: 89-92.

Reviews formal evaluations of the Optacon and suggests directions for the design of future evaluations of innovative products for visually impaired persons.

- Hislop, David W., B. L. Zuber, and John L. Trimble. Characteristics of reading rate and manual scanning patterns of blind Optacon readers. Human factors, v. 25, Aug. 1983: 379-389.
- Koenig, A. J., and E. J. Rex. Assessment of Optacon reading. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 77, 2eb. 1983: 56-60.
- Levinson, Sandra, and Kenneth E. Bruscia. A curriculum for teaching Optacon music-reading. Philadelphia: Louis N. Cassett Foundation, 1983. 75p. (Available from Tenbrook Press, 23 Copper Beach Drive, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444).

Sequential lessons to help blind individuals read music with the Optacon. Addresses rhythmic and melodic notations, discritical marks, chords and counterpoint on one staff, and piano measures.

- Link, Harry J. The Optacon: its possibilities and limitations. <u>In Hoehne</u>, Charles W., John G. Cull, and Richard E. Hardy, eds. Ophthalmological considerations in the rehabilitation of the blind. Springfield, IL: Charles Thomas, 1980. p. 100-113.
- Moore, Mary W. Guidelines for the preparation of teachers of reading with the Optacon. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, 1976. 96p. (Available from ERIC Document Reproduction Service, ED 126 672).
- Moore, Mary W., and James C. Bliss. The Optacon reading system. Education of the visually handicapped, v. 7, Mar. 1975: 15-21; May 1975: 33-39.

Discusses the teacher's role in training students to use the Optacon. Parts two and three of a three-part article.



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Muranaka, Yoshio, and Kazuko Homma. Music reading with the Optacon. Bulletin of the Tokyo Metropolitan Rehabilitation Center for the Physically and Mentally Handicapped, Mar. 1976: 9-20.

An analysis of problems in reading music by Optacon, based on experience with one eight-year-old child.

- Poss, Dorothy. Optacon teaching of a bilaterally hand-injured student. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 74, Jan. 1980: 33-37.
- Schoof, Loren T., II. An analysis of Optacon usage. American Foundation for the Blind research bulletin, no. 29, June 1975: 33-50.

Groups Optacon users by occupation, analyzes factors affecting performance at the end of a training course, and describes uses of the Optacon in job situations.

- Terzieff, Ivan, Vaughan Stagg, and S. C. Ashcroft. Increasing reading rates with the Optacon: a pilot study. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 76, Jan. 1982: 17-22.
- Thurman, Dennis, and Sharon Weiss-Kapp. Optacon instruction for the deaf/blind. Education of the visually handicapped, v. 9, summer 1977: 47-50.
- Zuckerman, Dan. Use of personal computing technology for deaf/blind individuals. SIGCAPH newsletter, no. 33, winter 1984: 14-17.

Describes the Vibrotactile Morse code, a system that enables deaf/blind persons to obtain information from a computer screen via Morse code.



PRODUCERS

Following is a selected list of producers of reading machines and accessories for speech, braille, or other tactile output for blind persons. A majority of the companies listed publish newletters with information about enhancements to their products and current data about related services and products that will interface with their equipment.

Arts Computer Products, Inc. 145 Tremont Street Suite 407 Boston, MA 02111 (617) 482-8248

Hardware for braille output; software for speech output.

Clark and Smith International Ltd.
Melbourne House
Melbourne Road or
Wellington, Surrey SM6 85D
ENGLAND

(U.S. representative) Clark and Smith Technologies 16205 Fantasia Drive Tampa, FL 33624 (813) 962-1477

Hardware for braille output.

Computer Aids Corporation 124 West Washington Boulevard Fort Wayne, IN 46802 (219) 422-2424

Software for speech output.

Computer Conversations 2350 North 4th Street Columbus, OH 43202 (614) 263-4324

Software for speech output.



F. H. Papenmeier GmbH & Company Braillex Division Postfach 1620 D-5840 Schwerte FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Hardware for braille and speech output.

Intex Micro Systems Corportation 725 South Adams Road Birmingham, MI 48011 (313) 540-7601

Interface device for speech output.

Kurzweil Computer Products, Inc. 185 Albany Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 864-4700

Hardware for speech output.

Mark Enterprises P.O. Box 1532 Westford, MA 01886 (617) 692-8570

Software for speech output.

Maryland Computer Services 2010 Rock Spring Road Forest Hill, MD 21050 (301) 879-3366

Hardware and software for braille and speech output.

Raised Dot Computing 408 South Baldwin Madison, WI 53703 (608) 257-9595

Software for braille output.



Street Electronics 1140 Mark Avenue Carpinteria, CA 93013 (805) 684-4593

Interface device for speech output.

Telesensory Systems, Inc. P.O. Box 7455 Mountain View, CA 94039 (415) 960-0920 (800) 227-8418 (tol1-free)

Hardware and software for speech, braille, and other tactile output.

Triformation Systems 3132 S.E. Jay Street Stuart, FL 33494 (305) 283-4817

Hardware for braille output.

Votrax, Inc. 1394 Rankin Troy, MI 48083 (313) 566-2050

Interface device for speech output.

Vtek 1625 Olympic Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90404 (213) 829-6841 (800) 345-2256

Hardware for braille output.

Revised by: Linda Redmond Reference Section April 1985



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Additional copies of this bibliography or any of the bibliographies listed below are available free on request from:

Reference Section
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Accessibility: Designing Buildings for the Needs of Handicapped Persons, 1983

Attitudes toward Handicapped People, Past and Present, 1984

Braille: History and Recent Developments, 1982

Gardening for Handicapped and Elderly Persons, 1981

Library and Information Services to Handicapped Persons, 1983

Mobility and Mobility Aids for Visually Handicapped Individuals, 1984

A series of reference circulars is also published by the Reference Section. The following titles are available free on request:

REFERENCE CIRCULARS

Becoming a Volunteer: Resources for Individuals, Libraries, and Organizations, 1981

Bibles and Other Scriptures in Special Media, 1983

Braille Instruction and Writing Equipment, 1982

Building a Library Collection on Blindness and Physical Handicaps: Basic Materials and Resources, 1985

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Educational, Professional, and Self-Development Materials, 1983

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Foreign Language Literature and Instruction, 1982

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: General Nonfiction, 1983

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Literature, 1982

Information for Handicapped Travelers, 1982

Magazines in Special Media: Subscription Sources, 1985



National Organizations Concerned with Visually and Physically Handicapped Persons, 1983

Parents Guide to the Development of Pre-School Handicapped Children: Resources and Services, 1984

Reading Materials in Large Type, 1983

Reading, Writing, and Other Communication Aids for Visually and Physically Handicapped Persons, 1981

Reference Books in Special Media, 1982

Sports, Games, and Outdoor Recreation for Handicapped Persons, 1983

