Living Space: Universal Design “Know How”

Being able to get around the house, office, and public places is something that most nondisabled people take for granted. Not until they become disabled themselves or have a family member or friend who has a disability do they consider how to make the world we live in a little more architecturally friendly. The universal design movement has been quietly revolutionizing homes, workplaces, and other spaces in which we live, however, making them negotiable and workable for all of us, no matter what our ability or age. Realizing this, DRM has rounded up three recent resources that help shape the spaces we inhabit.

Since bathrooms and kitchens are the rooms in your house that are most often modified to meet the needs of family members who are aging or who have become disabled, DRM was pleased to come across *Universal Kitchen & Bathroom Planning: Design that Adapts to People* (1998). This oversized 382-page hardcover offers readers a good general overview of what universal design is and how to design and adapt bathrooms and kitchens to maximize functional independence and safety. Selling for $79.95+p/h, *Universal Kitchen & Bathroom Planning* by Mary Jo Peterson can be ordered from McGraw-Hill, PO Box 548, Blacklick, OH 43004; tel. 800-262-4729; fax 614-759-3641; web www.books.McGraw-Hill.com.

If you are in the market for something a little more decorative or for designs that incorporate an entire home, you will want to check out *Gracious Spaces: Universal Interiors by Design* by Irma Laufer Dobkin and Mary Jo Peterson (1999). In this 240-page hardcover, Dobkin and Peterson take the concept of universal design one step further. Rather than focusing on one specific room, the authors provide real-life examples of homes that were adapted to meet the needs of the owners. Costing $49.95+p/h, this book can be ordered from McGraw-Hill as noted above.

For a more clinical and academic view of adaptations helpful to older people, turn to *Aging in Place: Designing, Adapting, and Enhancing the Home Environment* (1999), edited by Ellen D. Taira and Jodi L. Carlson. Published simultaneously as an issue of *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*, this 162-page softcover is a collection of scholarly articles dealing with concerns such as universal design, sensory and mobility changes, and environmental modifications. At $49.95+p/h hardcover or $24.95+p/h softcover, this book can be purchased from Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904-1580; tel. 800-HAWORTH (342-9678); fax 800-895-0582; e-mail getinfo@haworthpressinc.com; web www.haworthpressinc.com.

– Sally Rosenthal, MSLS, OTR/L

For additional publications and audiovisual materials on this topic, see “Accessible Homes,” a special 4-page insert in the September 1998 issue of DRM. Back issues are available for $3.50, prepaid, from the address below. For online resources, go to www.disabilityresources.org/ARCHITECTURE.html.
What’s in a Word?
Language is a powerful tool. **Disability Awareness: Terminology & Interactions** (2000) offers common sense suggestions on communicating with people who have disabilities. This 12-page booklet is available for $1 from the National Center on Accessibility, Indiana University, 2805 E. 10 St., Ste. 190, Bloomington, IN 47408-2698; tel. 812-856-4422; tty 812-856-4421; fax 812-856-4480; e-mail nca@indiana.edu; web www.ncoaonline.org.

**Pedestrians on Wheels**
Electric scooters and power wheelchairs allow people to enjoy activities that they may have discontinued years ago, but they also present numerous potential hazards. **Safety Travel & Etiquette Tips for Pedestrians on Wheels** (2000) by Michael Creurer provides tips for negotiating crosswalks, sidewalks, streets, pedestrians, construction sites, curb cuts, parking lots, access ramps and electronic doors, and the like. This 20-page booklet is available for $5+$0.80 p/h (US funds) from SFC inc., Box 5664, Victoria, BC, V8R 6S4, Canada; tel. 250-598-7914; fax 250-598-7957; e-mail changing@pacificcoast.net; web www.pacificcoast.net/~changing. It can also be ordered from amazon.com. Discounts are available for quantity purchases.

**Juvenile Justice and Special Ed**
Youth in the juvenile justice system are much more likely than youth in the general population to have both identified and undiscovered disabilities. **Special Education and the Juvenile Justice System** (Pub. No. 179359, July 2000) by Sue Burrell and Loren Warboys examines special education in the context of juvenile and adult institutions, and discusses how the special education process and information about disabilities may be useful in juvenile delinquency proceedings. Directed to judges, attorneys and advocates, probation officers, educators, institutional staff, mental health professionals, and service providers, this 16-page bulletin is available at no charge from Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000; tel. 800-638-8736; fax 410-792-4358; e-mail puborder@ncjrs.org; web www.ncjrs.org.

Finding Funding
Like its predecessors the 11th edition of the **Directory of Grants for Organizations Serving People with Disabilities** (2000), ed. by Richard M. Eckstein, provides a good starting-off point for nonprofit organizations in search of potential sources of grants for their disability-related programs. Following some general information about applying for grants, the main body of the text is state-by-state listing of foundations that have a history of funding disability-related projects. The brief entries include contact information, disability and/or geographic focuses, recent projects funded, and typical funding ranges. Alphabetic and topical indexes are included. This 148-page paperback is available for $59.50+$6 p/h from Research Grant Guides, PO Box 1214, Loxahatchee, FL 33470; tel. 561-795-6129; fax 561-795-7794.

Understanding Disabling Conditions
While DRM focuses on living with disabilities rather than on their causes and treatments, we recognize that many of our readers are also interested in the medical perspective. The University Press of Mississippi’s **Understanding Health and Sickness Series** is a series of compact, affordable paperbacks that offer sound, concise, and readable patient information. Titles we’ve seen include **Understanding Crohn Disease and Ulcerative Colitis** by Jon Zonderman and Ronald S. Vendor, MD (2000, 128 pp.), **Understanding Cystic Fibrosis** by Karen Hopkin, Ph.D. (1998, 128 pp.), **Understanding Depression** by Patricia Ainsworth, MD (2000, 120 pp.), and **Understanding Panic and Other Anxiety Disorders** by Benjamin Root, MD (2000, 140 p.). The books cost only $12+$4 p/h each (paperback), or $28+$4 p/h (hardcover) from University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Rd., Jackson, MS 39211-6492; tel. 800-737-7788, 601-432-6246 or 601-432-6205; fax 601-432-6217; e-mail Press@ihl.state.ms.us; web www.upress.state.ms.us. 

= DOWNLOADABLE DOCUMENT
Assisting People with Vision Loss

It’s difficult enough to cope with everyday living activities when you lose all or part of your the people around you don’t have a clue about what to say or what to do, it can add insult to injury. These new resources provide guidance for people with blindness or visual impairments and their relatives, friends, colleagues, service providers, and the general public.

When DRM’s editor did disability awareness training in the early 1970’s, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) videotape What Do You Do When You See a Blind Person was a mainstay of her presentation. The informative tape featured a street encounter between a sighted man and a blind man, highlighting the do’s and don’ts of assistance with a sense of humor that made the audience feel comfortable. She ceased using the video during the past few years, however, when the dated clothing and ambiance made the program funnier than intended. DRM is happy to report that the new What Do You Do When You See a Blind Person? (2000) is ready for action. In addition to more current attire, the new version incorporates updated messages. The hero, for example, works in a professional position and uses a high tech braille notetaker to jot down information. Our only objection to this resource is that it focuses on total blindness and braille usage; information about assisting people with low vision, or about providing information in large type or on audiotape, would have been helpful. This 16-minute video costs $39.95+p/h from AFB Press, PO Box 1020, Sewickley, PA 15143; tel. 800-232-3044; fax 412-741-0609; e-mail afbinfo@afb.net; web www.afb.org. Open-captioned and audiodescribed versions are also available.

Also updated this year, the Jewish Guild for the Blind (JGB) Assisting People with Vision Loss is a handy pamphlet that will complement the AFB video or serve as a simple substitute when a video is not available or appropriate. The 12-page, cartoon-illustrated guide offers practical do’s and don’ts, such as “do introduce yourself” and “don’t shout.” It is available at no charge from the Public Relations Dept., JGB, 15 W. 65 St., New York, NY 10023-6601; tel. 212-769-6237; fax 212-769-6343; e-mail info@jgb.org; web www.jgb.org.

People who have low vision and their family members will want to obtain a copy of What You Should Know About Low Vision (EY-110, 2000). The 20-page booklet describes what low vision is and how people with low vision can get help and live more safely and independently. It is available at no charge from the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, 2020 Vision Pl., Bethesda, MD 20892-3655; tel. 301-496-5248; e-mail 2020@nei.nih.gov; web www.nei.nih.gov.

Order NEHEP materials online at web www.nei.nih.gov/publications/publications.htm or contact the NEI Information Office at the National Eye Institute (address and telephone in main article at right).

E N A T I O N A L  E Y E H E A L T H  E D U C A T I O N  P R O G R A M

A project of the National Eye Institute (NEI), one of the Federal government’s National Institutes of Health, the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) conducts public and professional education programs that encourage early detection and timely treatment of common vision disorders. Current programs focus on glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, and low vision.

NEHEP offers a wealth of free program materials on these topics, including policy statements, fact sheets and brochures, public services announcements, and reproducible art. Its community education kits, which are geared for professionals, are packed with these and other useful resources.

Order NEHEP materials online at web www.nei.nih.gov/publications/publications.htm or contact the NEI Information Office at the National Eye Institute (address and telephone in main article at right).

Occupational therapists and related professionals seeking to incorporate low vision rehabilitation into their practices can take a continuing education course (1.8 CEUs) through the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) “Self-Paced Clinical Course,” Low Vision: Occupational Therapy Intervention with the Older Adult. The course provides the foundation for understanding low vision rehabilitation and the role of occupational therapy, eye conditions that cause low vision in adults, and the evaluation of visual function. It includes specific evaluation and treatment techniques, including assistive technology, and valuable resource information on the scope of services that assist persons with low vision and for starting low vision rehabilitation programs within other treatment settings. The boxed program costs $270 for AOTA members and $370 for nonmembers from AOTA, PO Box 3800, Forrester Center, WV 25438; tel. 877-404-2682; tty 800-377-8555; fax 800-525-5562; e-mail cedep@aota.org; web www.aota.org.
Looking for one-handed cutlery? A talking watch or calculator? A device that flashes or vibrates when the doorbell rings? A switch-operated toy? There are dozens of mail order companies that sell these and many other products that can help people with disabilities live more independently. The following sampling is intended to help DRM readers identify a variety of resources for holiday (and everyday) purchases. The companies listed focus is on nonmedical, “low tech” devices for daily living, and distribute products from a variety of different manufacturers. Their Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement by Disability Resources, Inc. or Disability Resources Monthly.

**GENERAL**

**DAILY LIVING AIDS**

**Ableware from Maddak**
- Tel. 973-628-7600
- Fax 973-305-0841
- Web www.ableware.com

**Access With Ease**
- Tel. 520-636-9469
- Tel. 800-531-9479
- Fax 520-636-0292
- Web www.store.yahoo.com/capability

**Adaptability**
- Tel. 800-288-9941
- TTY 800-688-4889
- Fax 800-566-8678
- Web www.adaptability.com

**Independent Living Aids**
- Tel. 800-537-2118
- Fax 516-752-3135
- Web www.independentliving.com

**LS&S Group**
- Tel. 800-468-4789
- Fax 847-498-1482
- Web www.lssgroup.com

**Sammons Preston /Enrichments**
- Tel. 800-323-5547
- Fax 800-547-4333
- Web www.sammonspreston.com

**SPORTS & RECREATION**

**Access to Recreation**
- For outdoorsmen and women.
- Tel. 800-634-4351
- Fax 805-498-8186
- Web www.accessstr.com

**Freedom Rider**
- For equestrians.
- Tel. 888-253-8811
- Tel. 781-320-9953
- Fax 888-253-8811
- Web www.freedomrider.com

**Sportime Abilitations**
- Sports and therapeutic products.
- Tel. 800-850-8602
- Fax 800-845-1535
- Web www.abilitations.com

**TOYS**

**AbleNet**
- Tel. 800-322-0956
- Fax 612-379-9143
- Web www.ablenetinc.com

**Dragonfly Toy Company**
- Tel. 800-308-2208
- Tel. 204-453-2222
- Fax 204-453-2320
- Web www.dragonflytoys.com
- Note Print catalog not available at press time

**Enabling Devices**
- Tel. 800-832-8697
- Tel. 914-478-0960
- Fax 914-479-1369
- Web www.enablingdevices.com

**Kapable Kids**
- Tel. 866-527-2253
- Fax 631-563-7179
- Web www.kapablekids.com

**Kaye Products**
- Tel. 919-732-6444
- Fax 919-732-1444
- Fax 800-685-5293
- Web www.kayeproducts.com

**T.F.H. (USA)**
- Tel. 800-467-6222
- Tel. 724-444-6400
- Fax 724-444-6411
- Web www.tfhusa.com

A catalog of off-the-shelf toys that are appropriate for children with differing abilities; it is available from local Toys R Us stores or:

National Parent Network on Disabilities
- Tel. 617-471-1570
- Fax 617-847-1593
- Web www.npnd.org

For assistance in choosing toys for children with disabilities, contact the National Lekotek Center, tel. 800-366-PLAY (7529) or visit www.lekotek.org.
BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

DAILY LIVING AIDS

Ann Morris Enterprises
Tel. 800-454-3175
Tel. 845-227-9659
Fax 845-226-2793
Web www.annmorris.com

Carolyn's
Tel. 800-648-2266
Fax 941-739-5503
Web www.carolynscatalog.com

Easier Ways
Tel. 303-290-0987
Fax 303-290-6446

The Lighthouse
Tel. 800-829-0500
Fax 212-821-9727
Web www.lighthouse.org/prodpub_products.htm

MONS International
Tel. 800-541-7903
Tel. 404-551-8455
Fax 770-551-8460
Web www.magnifiers.com

National Association for the Visually Handicapped
Tel. 212-889-3141
Fax 212-727-2931
Web www.navh.org

Science Products for the Blind
Tel. 800-888-7400
Tel. 610-296-2111

See also general daily living aids catalogs such as Independent Living Aids and LS&S Group.

TOYS

Daily Living Aids Catalogs
Adapted toys for children who are blind or visually impaired are featured in most of the daily living aid catalogs in the preceding column.

The Guide to Toys for Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired
An annual guide to off-the-shelf toys that are especially appropriate for children who are blind or visually impaired. It is available from:

American Foundation for the Blind
Tel. 800-232-5463
TTY 212-502-7662
Fax 212-502-7777
Web www.afb.org

American Toy Institute
Tel. 212-675-1141, #7
Web www.toy-tma.com
(under industry publications)

Computer Games
For online information about computer games for children with visual impairments, including links to commercial products, check out Entertainment – Computer Games on Betsy Walker’s “V.I. Guide” at www.viguide.com/entgames.htm.

IMPAIRMENTS

DAILY LIVING AIDS

HITEC Group International
Tel. 800-288-8303
TTY 800-536-8890
Fax 888-654-9219
Web www.hitec.com

SoundBytes
Tel. 800-667-1777
TTY 800-667-1777
Fax 212-371-7318
Web www.SoundBytes.com

See also general daily living aids catalogs such as Independent Living Aids and LS&S Group.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

AUGMENTATIVE DEVICES

Communication Aids Manufacturers Association (CAMA)
A consortium of companies that offers a free package of catalogs from its 21 members.
Tel. 800-441-CAMA (2262)
Fax 847-869-5689
Web www.aacproducts.org

ABLEDATA

Can’t find the products you need in any of these catalogs? Contact ABLEDATA, a federally funded project that provides information on assistive technology and rehabilitation equipment to consumers, organizations, professionals, and caregivers in the U.S. ABLEDATA maintains a database of information on more than 25,000 assistive technology products (17,000 of which are currently available), from white canes to voice output programs. The database contains detailed descriptions of each product, including price and company information. It also has information on noncommercial prototypes, customized and one-of-a-kind products, and do-it-yourself designs. Contact ABLEDATA, 8630 Fenton St., Ste. 930, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel. 800-227-0216 or 301-608-8998; tty 301-608-8912; fax 301-608-8958; e-mail abledata@macroint.com. You can also search the ABLEDATA database yourself online at www.abledata.com.
On A Roll

On A Roll - Talk Radio About Life and Disability
www.onarollradio.com
Greg Smith is the founder of On A Roll, a live weekly syndicated commercial radio talk show on life and disability. Check out this website to listen to the live show or archives of previous shows, to find your local affiliate radio station, to read Smith’s column, or to subscribe to his weekly e-mail newsletter.

Native Americans

American Indians with Disabilities
ruralinstitute.umt.edu/rtcrural/Indian/AmI.htm
American Indians experience the highest rate of disability of any group in the U.S., yet the Americans with Disabilities Act specifically excludes tribes from coverage. This site from the Montana University Affiliated Rural Institute on Disabilities offers research abstracts, fact sheets, a newsletter, legislative information, and other resources about Native Americans with disabilities.

Technology in Education

National Center to Improve Practice (NCIP)
www.edc.org/NCIP
NCIP promotes the effective use of technology to enhance educational outcomes for students with disabilities. Its web site includes a collection of resources about technology and special education, videos of students using assistive and instructional technologies, tours of exemplary early childhood classrooms, a section on the use of voice recognition technology to address writing difficulties, archives of NCIP’s online workshops and events, and related links.

Parents With Disabilities

Parents with Disabilities Online
www.disabledparents.net
This site bills itself as “The Internet’s One-stop Resource for Parents with Disabilities” - and it’s pretty darn close. Trish Day, a mom with cerebral palsy, provides information about the Parent Empowerment Network (an e-mail group for parents with disabilities), lots of resources, adaptive parenting aids, medical resources, family stories, and links.

Genetic Disorders

GeneClinics
www.geneclinics.org
Developed at the University of Washington and funded by the National Institutes of Health, “GeneClinics™ is an expert-authored, peer-reviewed clinical genetic information resource consisting of concise descriptions of specific inherited disorders and authoritative, current information on the role of genetic testing in the diagnosis, management, and genetic counseling of patients with these inherited conditions.” This site is an excellent starting point for disease-specific information; the links to Medline resources are particularly useful for serious researchers.

Self-Employment

The Small Business and Self-Employment Service (SBSES)
janweb.icdi.wvu.edu/SBSES/index.htm
A project of the President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, this site contains resources and links related to self-employment and small business options for people with disabilities.

E-Books

Recently reviewed by DRM, these two books are now available online, at no charge.

Journey of Love: A Parent’s Guide to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
Reviewed by DRM in Dec. 1999, this book is a comprehensive guide for parents of children with this form of muscular dystrophy. The 170-page guide provides a rich variety of information, including sections on medical, social, educational and emotional issues, and more.

Adaptive Technology for the Internet: Making Electronic Resources Accessible to All
www.ala.org/editions/openstacks/insidethecovers/mates/mates_toc.html
Reviewed by DRM in May 2000, this is a hypertext edition of Barbara Mates’ practical guide to making the Internet and other library resources accessible to people with disabilities. Kudos to Ms. Mates and the American Library Association for making this work so accessible.
Books about disability come in all shapes and sizes; while some are memoirs or self-help manuals, others are books that look at disability from a sociological or medical perspective. Whatever the viewpoint, each book lends its voice to the others in making lives with disabilities more manageable and better understood. This month, DRM examines three recent books with three very singular viewpoints.


Readers wanting an academic study of the life of one woman who has a disability might want to take a look at **Venus on Wheels** by Gelya Frank, a cultural anthropologist who collaborated for over twenty years with Diane DeVries. DeVries, born without arms or legs, should be the star of this 284-page paperback, but the book focuses more on the author than on her subject most of the time. Of possible interest to academic audiences, this book can be ordered for $50 hardcover or $19.95 paperback from the University of California Press, California-Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing, NJ 08618; tel. 800-777-4726 or 609-883-1759; fax 800-999-1958; e-mail orders@cpfs.pupress.princeton.edu; web www.ucpress.edu.

— Sally Rosenthal, MSLS, OTR/L
Please Note

This is an actual issue of Disability Resources Monthly (DRM) that has been converted to Adobe Portable Document (PDF) format so that potential subscribers can get an idea of what the newsletter looks like and what kind of information it contains.

It’s important to remember that DRM is a newsletter. It is designed to provide timely, up-to-date information about books and other resources. Back issues of DRM are NOT always reliable sources of information, since the availability of materials, prices, and contact information changes frequently.

If there are any materials in the sample issues that interest you, be sure to contact the publisher or producer to make sure that they are still available, and that the purchasing information is still accurate. Please do not contact Disability Resources for this purpose. Disability Resources Monthly is informational only; unless otherwise indicated, we do not sell, distribute, or give away any of the resources covered.

Readers should note that DRM is generally four pages long. The November issue, which contains required postal information, and the July issue, which contains the annual index, are generally eight pages long.

Readers Ask

Technology Funding

Where can I get funding to purchase a computer for someone who is blind?

A: There are a wide variety of potential funding sources, depending upon where you live and what the intended use of the equipment is. For example, a public school may be required to provide an adaptive computer for a student who is blind, while a state office of vocational rehabilitation may purchase one to support an individual’s post-secondary education or vocational training. Fraternal organizations and private foundations may also provide assistance.

DRM recommends starting with your state’s Tech Act program. To locate the program in your state, contact the RESNA Technical Assistance Project, 1700 N. Moore St., Ste. 1540, Arlington, VA 22209; tel. 703-524-6686; tty 703-524-6639; fax 703-524-6630; e-mail resnata@resna.org; web www.resna.org. A complete list of the state programs can be found on RESNA’s web site at www.resna.org/tap/.

Disability News Online

What web site provides the best disability news?

Though it depends on the kind of information you’re seeking, DRM’s favorite news site is “Yahoo World Full Coverage - Disabilities and the Disabled.” Updated daily, this page features links to disability-related news articles from AP, Reuters, the New York Times, Washington Post, and other major news sources. You can link to it — and to many other good news sources — on Disability Resources’ News page at www.disabilityresources.org/news.

Send us your questions about disability resources. We’ll try to answer as many questions as possible.