

Disability Resources

**SAMPLE ISSUE ONLY - CONTACT INFORMATION,
AVAILABILITY AND PRICES MAY HAVE CHANGED
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THE NEWSLETTER THAT MONITORS, REVIEWS AND REPORTS ON RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING • NO ADVERTISING



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Get Out the Vote!

Fifty-four million Americans with disabilities constitute a powerful voting block, yet people with disabilities vote at a rate 20 percent below nondisabled voters. According to the National Organization on Disability (NOD), "If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as the non-disabled, five million more votes would have been cast in the last presidential election." NOD's new **VOTE! 2000 Campaign** is designed to increase the voter turnout of people with disabilities. For more information about the campaign, including a manual (not seen by DRM), free bumper sticker, and organizational action pledge, visit the NOD web site at <http://www.nod.org/vote2000/vote2000.html> or contact Jim Dickson, NOD, 910 16th St., NW, Ste. 600, Washington, DC 20006; tel. 202-293-5960; tty 202-293-5968; fax 202-293-7999; e-mail vote@nod.org.

Visit us online at
www.disabilityresources.org

Work It Out: Employment Resources for People with Disabilities



Although America's unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in 30 years, the number of Americans with disabilities who are unemployed is staggering. In honor of "National Disability Employment Month," DRM presents three new resources for job-hunters and those who counsel them.

Dr. Daniel J. Ryan's **Job Search Handbook for People with Disabilities** (2000) is one of the best job-hunting guides DRM has ever come across. A vocational counselor, the author provides a wealth of practical, detailed guidance about preparing for a job search, marketing oneself to potential employers, applying and interviewing for jobs, and succeeding at work. Pertinent disability-related information, such as when and how to tell a potential employer about a disability and what kinds of reasonable accommodations can be provided, is integrated throughout the text. This 270-page paperback is available for \$16.95+\$4 p/h from JIST Publishing, 8902 Otis Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46216; tel. 800-648-5478; fax 800-547-8329; <http://www.jist.com>.

Self-employment is an important, and often misunderstood, work option for people with disabilities. Alice Weiss Doyel's **No More Job Interviews! Self-Employment Strategies for People with Disabilities** (2000) combines general information about entrepreneurship and business planning with information specifically related to people with disabilities, including case studies, interviews, and resources. Not a superficial "how to start your own business" guide, *No More Job Interviews* offers in-depth, practical guidance for vocational rehabilitation specialists, employment counselors, and serious consumers. This 183-page paperback can be purchased for \$29.95+\$4 p/h from Training Resource Network (TRN), PO Box 439, St. Augustine, FL 32085-0439; tel. 904-823-9800; fax 904-823-3554; <http://www.trninc.com>.

Self-employment also figures prominently in **if...magazine**, a new quarterly publication from the Canadian-based Disability Self-Esteem Council. Designed to "promote independent living, positive self-esteem and good practical employment related advice for people who experience life with various disabilities," the inaugural Summer 2000 issue featured a variety of profiles of people with disabilities, including a chocolate shop owner, a musician, and a writer. Articles on making career choices and starting a home-based business, a Q&A, and other regular columns are also included. The informal style is peppered with practical tips and ideas. Funded in part by HRDC, ODSP and the Trillium Foundation, *if...* is available at no charge through retail, government, and community support offices throughout Canada. U.S. readers can obtain a copy by sending \$1 U.S. to *if...magazine*, 28-380 Eramosa Rd., Ste. 234, Guelph, ONT N1E 7E1, Canada; tel. 519-855-6376; fax 519-855-6746.

The DRM WebWatcher

For online resources, check out <http://www.disabilityresources.org/EMPLOYMENT.html>.

New & Noteworthy

Free, Inexpensive, and Hard-to-Find Resources


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BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to class after a spinal cord injury (SCI) can be tough for kids. In **Take It From Us: Strategies and Ideas About Going Back to School** (2000), eight students with SCI share their thoughts and suggestions. This positive but realistic 20-page pamphlet is available from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Model SCI System Grant Office, Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital West, Rm. 5292 SCIC, 9200 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53226; tel. 414-259-2126; <http://www.mcw.edu/spinal>. Single copies are free; additional copies cost \$2 each. Alternative formats are available.

MOBILITY STATS

The use of mobility devices has grown in recent years. The number of people using wheelchairs and walkers doubled from 1980 to 1990; those using crutches and canes increased by 14 and 53 percent, respectively. **Mobility Device Use in the United States** (Disability Statistics Report No. 14, June 2000) by H. Stephen Kaye, Ph.D., Taewoon Kang, Ph.D. and Mitchell LaPlante, Ph.D. provides a detailed profile of the demographic characteristics of the population using these devices. It also addresses the accessibility of users' homes and larger environments. The 60-page document is available for \$5 p/h (payable to U C Regent) from the Disability Statistics Center, 3333 California St., Rm. 340, San Francisco, CA 94118; tel. 415-502-5210 (program info); 415-502-5217 (statistical info); tty 415-502-5216; fax 415-502-5208; e-mail distats@itsa.ucsf.edu; <http://dsc.ucsf.edu>. Alternative formats are available upon request.

 <http://dsc.ucsf.edu/UCSF/pdf/REPORT14.pdf> (forthcoming)

PARA LAS MAMAS

Mamá—Su Guía para un Embarazo Saludable is a new Spanish-language publication that focuses on topics of special concern to Hispanic women. The first issue features articles on the importance of folic acid, breastfeeding, communicating with your health care provider, exercise and pregnancy, and nutrition for a healthy baby. It also includes an 8-page fold out of the popular March of Dimes pamphlet *Teresa Presencia el Milagro de la Vida* (How Your Baby Grows). *Mamá* is not a direct translation of the English *Mama*—it was created in Spanish to meet the specific needs of the Hispanic audience. Published annually, single copies are free; 10 copies cost \$20. Contact the Resource Center, March of

Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, 1275 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605; tel. 888-MODIMES (663-4637); publications 800-367-6630; <http://www.modimes.org>.

KUDOS!

Kudos to the staff of National Braille Press (NBP), who managed to translate, emboss, and collate a braille edition of the bestselling **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** (2000) 20 days after the print book was released. The largest in the 4-book Potter series, *Goblet* runs 734 pages in print and 1,184 pages in braille. All four books in the Harry Potter series are available from NBP in braille or on PortaBook (for reading on a refreshable braille notetaker); prices range from \$17.95 to \$25.95. For more information or to order, contact National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen St., Boston, MA 02115; tel. 800-548-7323; fax 617-437-0456; <http://www.nbp.org>.

 = DOWNLOADABLE DOCUMENT

Disability Information at Your Fingertips Updated



The revised and expanded third edition of "Disability Information at Your Fingertips," DRM's handy guide to toll-free telephone and online resources for and about people with disabilities, is now available. This highly acclaimed, inexpensive and easy-to-use guide has quadrupled in size since it was first published in 1994. The new edition lists the toll-free phone numbers and world wide web addresses of over 500 national nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Special phone numbers for telecommunications devices for the deaf (tdd/tty/tt) and bilingual services are included when available.

Arranged alphabetically by subject, the 70-page guide covers a wide variety of topics, such as accessibility, arts, assistive technology, children, employment, legal rights, and recreation, as well as hundreds of specific disabilities. The new edition is spiral bound so that it will lie flat for easier handling. Single copies cost only \$10 (including shipping and handling), and must be prepaid. Significant discounts are available for bulk orders.

To order or obtain additional information, contact Disability Resources at the address and phone below.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Resources for Adaptive Driving

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Driving is a key to independence for many people, whether or not they have a disability. In some communities, it is the *only* reasonable way to get to work, to a store, on a date, or to the doctor. People who cannot operate a motor vehicle because of a disability can often get behind the wheel if a vehicle is adapted to meet their needs.

Purchasing and modifying a vehicle with adaptive equipment is a major undertaking, and advance research is necessary to avoid costly mistakes. **Adapting Motor Vehicles for People with Disabilities** (Dec. 1999) explains how to evaluate your needs, select the right vehicle, choose a qualified dealer to modify your vehicle, be trained, and maintain your vehicle. This 13-page brochure is available at no charge from Auto Safety Hotline, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20590; tel. 888-DASH-2-DOT (327-4236); <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>.

 <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/adaptive/brochure/brochure.html>

For more in-depth information, check out **The Disabled Driver's Mobility Guide** (2000). Compiled by the Automobile Association of America (AAA), this 168-page paperback provides a wealth of information and resources about adaptive vehicle equipment selection and use. The bulk of the book is a state-by-state directory of adaptive vehicle companies, training facilities, organizations, and related services. Information about other travel services, such as air and bus, is also included. The guide costs \$7.95+\$3.25 p/h for nonmembers (members should check with their local AAA office for price). Contact your local AAA office or AAA Traffic Safety, 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746-5063; tel. 407-444-7961; fax 407-444-7956.

Government agencies and professional associations can also be useful sources of information and assistance.

Car Manufacturers That Offer Rebates or Reimbursements for New Vehicle Modifications

Daimler Chrysler Corporation - Automobility

tel. 800-255-9877
tty 800-992-3826

Ford Motor Company

tel. 800-952-2248
tty 800-833-0312

General Motors Corporation

tel. 800-323-9935
tty 800-tdd-9935 (833-9935)

Saturn

tel. 800-553-6000, #3
tty 800-833-6000



CyberSightings

Adaptive Driving

http://www.infinitec.org/driving_intro.html

Infinitec's excellent web site covers driving assessments, vehicle modifications, equipment dealers, and related topics.

Other Driving Resources

<http://www.disabilityresources.org/DRIVING.html>

- **State rehabilitation agencies** (often called offices of vocational rehabilitation) may provide information, assessment, training, and sometimes funding for adaptive equipment and vehicle modifications. Check the state government section of your local telephone directory for the office nearest you.
- The **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Driver Rehabilitation Program** offers over 40 driver rehabilitation centers nationwide. These centers provide eligible veterans with driving assessments, patient and family education, behind the wheel instruction, and vehicle and equipment evaluation and prescription. For more information, contact your nearest VA medical center or see the Program's web page at <http://www.va.gov/health/Rehab/dvrehab.html>.
- The **National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA)**, a membership organization for dealers and manufacturers of transportation equipment for people with disabilities, can provide referrals to local mobility equipment dealers. Contact NMEDA, 11211 N. Nebraska Ave., Ste. A5, Tampa, FL 33612; tel. 800-833-0427 or 813-977-6603; fax 813-977-6402; <http://www.nmeda.org>.
- The **Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED)** supports professionals concerned with driver education and transportation equipment modification. The association can help people with disabilities find driver evaluation and training programs throughout the U.S. Contact ADED, PO Box 49, Edgerton, WI 53534; tel. 608-884-8833; <http://www.driver-ed.org>.

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Do the Disability-Dot-Coms

There has been a spate of disability-dot-coms lately, commercial web sites trying to be the ultimate in one-stop shops for disability information online. Some of them, like *AccessLife.com*, *CanDo.com*, *HalfthePlanet.com* and *WeMedia.com*, are pretty good, offering current disability news, articles, forums, and, of course, their raison d'être, advertising and/or marketing products. What they lack, however, is the authority, objectivity, and depth available from good government and nonprofit web sites. This month, DRM looks at two of the best general interest disability web sites around.

The relatively new **disability.gov** (<http://www.disability.gov>) is devoted to bringing information on U.S. federal programs, services, and resources to Americans with disabilities and their families. Developed by the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, this "Access America" site includes sections on children and youth, self-employment, transportation, health choice and self-determination, employment, recreation and travel, civil rights and protections, college and adult education, housing, technology, income support, tax credits and deductions, emergency preparedness, and disability statistics. Each section includes brief descriptions of the resources available and links to authoritative information about them. For other good general interest web sites, see <http://www.disabilityresources.org/DISABILITIES-GENERAL.html>.

For online information relating to children with disabilities, we favor **nichcy.org** (<http://www.nichcy.org>), the web site of the National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY). Of interest to families, educators, and other professionals, NICHCY's web site features online editions of its excellent fact sheets, resource guides, and other publications about specific disabilities, disability resources, and disability-related issues. Many of the materials are available in Spanish. The site also includes a searchable database of selected national disability organizations, and a database of disability-related conferences. For other good web sites about children with disabilities, see <http://www.disabilityresources.org/PARENTS-OF.html>.

If you are looking for information about a particular disorder or disability issue, then you are better off seeking an authoritative web site on that specific topic. To find one, go to **DisabilityResources.org** (<http://www.disabilityresources.org>) and select "subjects." To locate disability-related government agencies and nonprofit organizations in your state or community, select "states."

..... Disability Resources Monthly

DISABILITY RESOURCES, INC. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established to promote and improve awareness, availability and accessibility of information to help people with disabilities live, learn, love, work and play independently.

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Information about resources described in DRM is as current as possible; however, we cannot be responsible for changes or errors. Readers are advised to check with publishers or producers before ordering.


Subscriptions are \$30 (one year), \$55 (two years), \$75 (three years). Outside the U.S., the rates are \$40 (one year), \$75 (two years), \$105 (three years). Back issues are \$3.50 each (\$4.50 outside the U.S.). DRM is available in standard print or on audiotape.

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Readers Ask


Books for Kids

 Where can we find books about disabilities for our library's youngest readers?

A: One convenient source is **Roots & Wings**, a small book distributor whose catalog features a nice selection of "inclusion" books (including several in Spanish) for younger readers. Contact Roots & Wings, PO Box 19678, Boulder, CO 80308-2678; tel. 800-833-1787 or 303-776-4796; fax 303-776-6090; e-mail books@rootsandwings.com; <http://www.rootsandwingscatalog.com>.

For bibliographies of recommended children's books, see "Guides to Children's Resources" in the March 1999 issue of DRM.

Online Donations

 I'm a little overwhelmed by the number of disability-related organizations that are soliciting donations online. How can I tell if they are "legitimate"?

A: You're smart to be cautious! The Internal Revenue Service has a searchable online database where you can find out if an organization is exempt from federal taxation. There are also a number of organizations and web sites that report on charities, such as the Philanthropic Advisory Service of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Guidestar, and Idealist. (DRM readers representing nonprofit organizations might want to see if their organizations are listed on these sites.)

You can find an article on **Ascertaining an Organization's Legitimacy**, with links to these and other sites, on DRM's web site. Go to <http://www.disabilityresources.org> and select "FAQs."

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