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Review of the book Information Services for People With Developmental Disabilities: The Library Manager's Handbook

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**Information Services
for People with
Developmental
Disabilities: The Library
Manager's Handbook**

*Edited by Linda Lucas
Walling and Marilyn M.
Irwin. Greenwood Library
Management Collection.
Westport, Conn.: Greenwood,
1995. 344p. \$65 (ISBN
0-313-28780-5).*

When most people hear the phrase "developmentally disabled," they probably think "mentally retarded." But as the editors and authors of this volume (all of whom are practitioners) stress, mental retardation is just one of the many disabilities encompassed by the phrase.

Some readers might say that individuals with developmental disabilities do not come into their libraries, but that supposition is false because librarians do not always recognize, or understand, these numerous and complex disabilities.

As defined in this useful book, developmental disabilities share common characteristics, including difficulties with: language and communication; perception, learning, and cognition; and emotional and social development. Thus, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and Tourette's syndrome are all developmental disabilities as are Down's syndrome and mental retardation.

Advocacy and inclusion are common themes throughout these essays. Information is provided on both the disabilities and the system(s) available to people with those disabilities. Suggestions are made, guidelines are offered, and examples are shared regarding the information and referral needs of both the developmentally disabled and their families—a group usually neglected in the literature. Among the topics discussed which stress the library role are: education, employment, outreach, older disabled adults, and recreational reading for mentally retarded adults.

The book contains a wealth of information about the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and about the many other laws that affect both the disabled and those who serve them, for example the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The authors and editors give phone numbers and addresses for many publishers, resource centers and clearinghouses, and private and public sources for information relevant to the disabled.

Most books dealing with libraries and the disabled concentrate on the deaf, the blind or persons in wheelchairs. Thus, this volume is a welcome addition to the professional literature.—*John A. Drobnicki, York College Library, City University of New York* ■