

The National Science Library.—The National Science Library has two closely related roles—it serves the staff of the National Research Council engaged in pure and applied research, and it serves the entire scientific and industrial community of Canada by supplementing local and regional resources and services.

Plans for developing a central scientific library were proposed as early as 1924 by the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, established in 1916 and now known as the National Research Council (see pp. 403-411). The Library grew slowly until 1928 when the Council's first research laboratories were set up. Since then it has been developed to parallel the growth and expansion of the laboratories and the national interests and activities of the Council with the result that in 1953, under an agreement with the more recently established National Library, the National Research Council Library formally assumed responsibility for national library services in the fields of science and technology. This responsibility was confirmed by Act of Parliament in 1966 (SC 1966-67, c. 26). In 1967, the President of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges recommended to the Government that responsibility for national services in the medical and health sciences be assigned to the National Science Library. This recommendation endorsed the proposals of a study group made up of the deans of medical schools, medical librarians and representatives from the Medical Research Council and other appropriate government agencies.

The Library's collection, which is doubling in size every ten years, comprised over 683,000 volumes by the end of the year Mar. 31, 1967. The bulk of this material, including journals and other serials, books, pamphlets, and technical and research reports (many in microform), is housed in the main Library with smaller and more specialized collections in seven branch libraries.

The resources of the Library are made available by means of an extensive inter-library loan and photocopying service. For purposes of current awareness, the Library issues twice a month its *Recent Additions to the Library*, and a list of *Serial Publications in the Library* is also issued at frequent intervals through the use of data processing equipment. Reference and research services include answering requests for scientific information, literature searches and the compilation of abstracts and bibliographies, and the identification and location of obscure publications.

The Canadian Index of Scientific Translations, a card index to the location of completed English translations in Canada and other countries, is maintained by the Library. Translations of scientific articles prepared by the Library's Translations Section are listed and made available in Canada and abroad. A complete English translation of the Russian journal *Problemy Severa (Problems of the North)* is also the responsibility of this Section.

The National Science Library is responsible for the publication of the *Union List of Scientific Serials in Canadian Libraries* and the *Directory of Canadian Scientific and Technical Periodicals*.

Public Libraries.—Provincial governments have jurisdiction over public libraries but these are generally administered and regulated by municipal authorities; exceptions are Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island where the provincial governments maintain the public library service throughout the province. Municipal libraries serve the urban population and provincial and regional libraries serve the more widely scattered population. Summary results of the annual public library survey for 1965 are given in Table 1, with comparable totals for 1964. Circulation of books was 4.0 per capita in both years and current operating payments were \$1.53, in 1966 and \$1.40 in 1964. The full-time staff of the libraries numbered 3,464 in 1965, of whom 742 or 21.4 p.c. were professional librarians.