

international information agencies, its activities are designed to provide the Canadian scientific and industrial communities with direct and immediate access to resources and services not available locally. Increasing use is being made of computer and related electronic data processing equipment to organize, retrieve and expedite the dissemination of information. One such service is a selective dissemination of information (SDI) system available on a regular (weekly or bi-weekly) subscription basis to Canadian scientists and engineers. The Library's collection, which is doubling in size every ten years, constitutes one of the world's outstanding collections in its field. Most 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 eight branch libraries.

The resources of the Library are made available by means of an extensive inter-library loan and photocopying service. This service also identifies references to obscure publications and, if necessary, attempts to locate holdings elsewhere in Canada or abroad. For purposes of current awareness, the Library issues twice a month its *Recent additions to the library*. The *Union list of scientific serials in Canadian libraries*, prepared by the Library with the co-operation of other libraries in Canada, records the title, holdings and location of approximately 40,000 scientific and technical journals received by over 230 libraries in Canada. The data for this publication are stored on magnetic tape and updated regularly for computer print-out as new editions are required.

Librarians trained in science or engineering and subject specialists provide a reference and research service to meet Canadian needs for information. To reply to many inquiries, a literature search must be carried out and a list of relevant references prepared. Other requests for information may be answered from the staff's own knowledge or with advice from the scientific and technical personnel of the Council and other government departments and agencies.

The *Canadian index of scientific translations*, a card index to the location in Canada or elsewhere of translations of articles written in foreign languages, 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 prepared by this Section. The National Science Library publishes the *Directory of Canadian scientific and technical periodicals*, *Conference proceedings in the health sciences*, *Scientific and technical societies of Canada*, *Scientific policy, research and development in Canada* (a bibliography), and other publications related to its own activities.

9.2.1.7 Associate committees

NRC's associate committees provide an important instrument for studying, co-ordinating and promoting research on problems of national significance. The members of these committees are experts in the different aspects and disciplines related to the problem and are drawn from university, industry and government laboratories. The committee studying a particular problem collects and collates the necessary information, delineates research problems, co-ordinates research and may initiate new research necessary to the solution of the problems. Each committee has defined objectives and when these are accomplished the committee is disbanded. Currently, more than 40 associate committees are operating in such diverse fields as aerodynamics, bird hazards to aircraft, protective coatings research, plasma physics, and soil and snow mechanics. Some associate committees also function as national committees for an international scientific union.

An Associate Committee on Scientific Criteria for Environmental Quality has been established by the Council to collate and publish an integrated set of scientific requirements on which an evaluation of the quality of the environment can be based. The criteria will be designed to assist those at the federal, provincial and municipal levels who are responsible for formulating and enforcing environmental quality standards. A more detailed account of the work of the Committee will be found in the description of the Division of Biological Sciences in preceding pages.

9.2.1.8 International relations

NRC maintains a scientific liaison office in London, England, for the exchange of information and maintains exchange programs with the Soviet Academy of Sciences (USSR);