

both a current awareness service and retrospective bibliographies prepared from various machine-readable data bases. In early 1974 the library began publishing a series of periodicals lists which would complement the computerized search service by providing library locations for journals indexed in specific data bases. These specialized lists will eventually be consolidated to form a full-scale union list of social science and humanities serials.

In addition, the library offers reference service on these subjects, and consultative services in such fields as library automation, Canadian library developments and rare books. It is developing a children's literature consultant service and a library service for the visually and physically handicapped. It provides to provincial library agencies loan collections of books in languages other than English and French, and assists Canadian libraries to develop their collections by redistributing library materials through a Canadian book exchange centre. It also plays an active co-ordinating role in attempts to develop national library and information networks, and is contributing to international efforts at universal bibliographic control.

A list of books about Canada, prepared by the national library, is published in Appendix 6.

Public libraries

7.10.3

Public libraries in Canada are organized under provincial legislation which specifies the method of establishment, the services to be provided and the means of support. Municipalities may organize and maintain public libraries or join together to form regional libraries according to provincial legislation. Provincial public library agencies advise local and regional libraries and distribute grants.

Table 7.10 gives summary statistics on nearly 753 public libraries providing over 2,660 service points. Book circulation was 112.2 million or 4.9 per capita in 1976. The operating payments of all public libraries amounted to \$156.6 million or \$6.81 per capita compared with \$5.80 in 1975. The full-time professional librarians numbered 1,607 in 1976.

Book publishing

7.11

Books hold a prominent place in the realm of communication. They are an important tool in spreading knowledge, they play a vital role in our educational system, and they are both the keepers and messengers of culture.

Book exports and imports. In 1975 sales of books published in Canada reached \$148 million, of which \$29 million resulted from exports. However, the imports of books and pamphlets surpassed the sales of domestically produced books, reaching sales values estimated at \$350 million. These imported books came mainly from the United States (76%), France (11%) and the United Kingdom (8%).

Publishing and sales. Referring to books produced domestically in 1975, there were 3,305 new titles published and 3,460 titles reprinted. Sales resulting from this production, along with backlist sales (sales of books previously published), were estimated at 107 million copies, which generated revenues of \$148 million. The major category of book sales was trade or commercial books, which showed sales of 85.6 million copies, or 80% of the books sold. Textbooks were the next most popular category, showing sales of 19.3 million copies (18%), followed by scholarly books, general reference books, and professional and technical books which together formed only 2% of all copies sold.

Excluding imports, most of the books sold were in mass market paperback form (74%), while hardcover books were 9%, other forms of paperback formed 16% and unbound printed material made up less than 1% of total copies sold. However, due to the relatively higher prices of hardcover books, they brought in 39% of dollar sales (\$57.7 million).

Of the total copies sold of books produced in Canada in 1975, 100 million (93%) were English, 6.4 million (6%) were French, and the rest in other languages; 342 titles