

making facilities of the library available to the government and people of Canada and for co-ordinating federal government library services. He also administers legal deposit regulations, which require two copies of current Canadian publications to be deposited with the library.

A basic role of the national library is to support Canadian studies. Its collections and reference services are freely available to visiting researchers and to distant users through mail, telephone or telex. The library also facilitates the use of the nation's library resources through the co-ordination of a national system of interlibrary loan, with international interfaces, and the publication of union lists of the periodical holdings of Canadian libraries, and of inventories of research collections. Development at the library of a broad collection of foreign books, periodicals and government documents in the humanities and social sciences enables the library to give interlibrary loan service which supports research activities throughout the country.

The library's collection consists of more than 800,000 volumes of monographs, supplemented by microcopies of about 800,000 additional titles, over 9 000 metres of periodicals and the largest collection of Canadian newspapers in Canada. The library has holdings of Canadian, foreign and international official publications, and an extensive collection of Canadian music scores, recordings and manuscripts.

The national library assists other libraries in organizing their collections by making available current and retrospective bibliographic data in a variety of formats. Data for Canadian publications are created by the library itself, and data for foreign publications are provided from the international exchange of records in machine-readable form.

The Canadian bibliographic data are published in the national bibliography, *Canadiana*, which appears in tape, microfiche and printed editions and includes entries for Canadian trade publications, official publications of the federal government and the 10 provinces, theses, films and phonograph records produced in Canada, works by Canadians and material on Canada published abroad. More than 31,000 titles were included in 1979. Retrospective bibliographies are in progress; the first listings were scheduled for publication in mid-1980. The library is also co-operating in a project of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction to microfilm Canadian works published before 1900.

The library maintains a Canadian union catalogue, which provides a key to the main library resources of the country. This catalogue lists about 4 million volumes in almost 350 government, university, public and special libraries in all provinces. New accessions are reported regularly; these numbered about 850,000 in 1979-80. Since April 1980 incoming accessions have been entered directly on-line to the library's automated system, making it possible to cease filing cards and also to search by title and additional authors rather than by a single author only as before. The public services branch uses this catalogue to help it meet the requests sent in by Canadian libraries for location of materials. Automation of the union catalogue has facilitated the work of locating needed materials, as have the library's agreements with other systems.

The library provides for Canadian subscribers a computerized literature search service in the social and behavioural sciences and the humanities. This encompasses both a current awareness service and retrospective bibliographies prepared from various machine-readable data bases. A full-scale union list of social science and humanities serials was due for publication on microfiche in mid-1980.

The library also offers consultation in such fields as library automation, Canadian library developments and rare books, conservation and children's literature. 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 its Canadian book exchange centre. It has set up a group to study the development and co-ordination of national library and information networks in Canada. Implementation of an integrated library management system is enabling it to begin development of a network of federal government libraries. Internationally, it contributes to efforts at universal bibliographic control.

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