

of library services nationwide; and to support resource sharing among libraries. The library was created in 1953 and is under the direction of the National Librarian.

The collections of the National Library number approximately 8 million items, consisting of works written by, about, or of interest to Canadians, published in Canada and abroad, with some non-Canadian materials in the social sciences and humanities. In addition to books, the collections also include periodicals, microforms, sound recordings, sheet music, manuscripts, conference proceedings, government documents, university theses, educational kits, newspapers, and pamphlets. Works in recently developed formats, such as compact discs, are also being added to the holdings.

The National Library acquires these items through the legal deposit provisions of the National Library Act of 1969. The National Library has developed specialized collections, such as Canadian theses, newspapers, music, rare books, literary manuscripts, children's literature, multilingual publications, the rights of native peoples, and information for the needs of the Canadian library community. These focused collections, which complement the general collection of *Canadiana*, enable the Library to support Canadian studies.

The National Library offers a wide variety of services to those in the library and information community to better serve their users. The children's literature service, the multilingual biblioservice (supplying books to ethnocultural communities) and the advisory program on library services for disabled Canadians are several examples of the programs aimed at improving library services throughout Canada.

The National Library compiles and publishes *Canadiana*, the national bibliography. *Canadiana* is available in print, microfiche, machine-readable tape, and on-line in the Library's bibliographic system, DOBIS. To further promote Canada's published heritage, the library publishes bibliographies, guides and directories and has an active cultural events program which includes lectures, readings, concerts, tours and both in-house and travelling exhibitions.

The National Library offers a reference service equipped to handle a wide range of enquiries. A location service, that draws on the library's union catalogue of books, serials, newspapers and works for print-handicapped readers, assists libraries in trying to locate items not in their own collections. Applied research and development activity explores the use of computers and telecommunications in improving

library services and in exchanging bibliographic information.

The National Library's collections and services assist researchers who require information or materials to supplement their own resources. The library also helps Canadian authors and publishers by making their works better known. The National Library of Canada serves all Canadians, by ensuring the preservation of the nation's published heritage.

**Public libraries** 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 15.8 gives preliminary statistics of Canadian public libraries from annual surveys. In 1986, approximately 3,100 public library service points indicated that they held about 57 million books, reported around 167 million direct circulations, employed 2,089 full-time professional librarians, and spent over \$464 million for their total operations.

## 15.8 Canadian films

### 15.8.1 National Film Board (NFB)

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1939 to "produce and distribute . . . films designed to interpret Canada to Canadians and to other nations". Since it was established, the NFB has produced 17,000 audio-visual documents, including more than 6,500 original films. Nearly 100 new productions are added to this national repertoire annually. The NFB has received, over the years, more than 3,000 international awards, which have earned it an enviable world reputation.

The NFB's documentary, animated and feature films are shown in theatres and on television. They are also available through the NFB's offices across Canada to members of the public, educators and community associations wishing to rent or purchase them in 16 mm or on videocassettes. The NFB also produces slide presentations, filmstrips and other documents to meet the needs of the education sector.

Recently, the NFB has been especially interested in research and development in the area of film and video technology, and in the establishment of training programs for young film-makers. In addition, the NFB is establishing 12 Canadian