

reviewed by advisory committees of specialists drawn from industry, the universities and provincial government. The activities of the Research Council of Alberta are financed by provincial government appropriations and by contract research for private industry and federal agencies. The main Council laboratories and offices are located on the University of Alberta campus in Edmonton. A pilot plant and laboratory facility is located in the Clover Bar area east of the city. The full-time staff comprises approximately 250 scientists, engineers, technologists and supporting personnel.

**B C Research** performs a technical function for the British Columbia Research Council, a non-profit industrial research society with offices and laboratories at Vancouver, BC. This function is to enable even the smallest firms to improve their competitive position in Canadian and world markets by the use of the most up-to-date scientific knowledge. B C Research carries out contract research for clients on a confidential basis, initiates in-house research programs designed to promote and utilize the resources of the province, and provides a free technical information service in collaboration with the National Research Council. B C Research is active in the areas of applied biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, ocean engineering, operations research, industrial engineering, industrial market studies and economic feasibility studies.

## 9.6 Scientific information

The National Research Council provides extensive scientific information services through the National Science Library, the Technical Information Service and the publication of scientific research journals as well as support of symposia and conferences.

**The National Science Library** serves as a focal point of a developing national scientific and technological information system. Through co-operative measures with both national and 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.

The library's collection of nearly 1 million volumes includes approximately 20,000 journal titles from all parts of the world. Many of its technical and research reports are in microfiche form from which copies can be provided. Its resources are made available by an extensive interlibrary loan service. This service includes the identification of obscure publications and, if necessary, a search for locations elsewhere in Canada, the United States and abroad.

Increasing use is being made of computers and related electronic data processing equipment to organize, retrieve and expedite the dissemination of information. One such service is CAN/SDI, a current-awareness service, by subscription, for the selective dissemination of information on a regular basis (weekly or bi-weekly). In SDI, a client's subject interests are put on a tape which is matched against each new computer tape of literature references as soon as it is received from the various data base services. The resultant print-out lists the most recent relevant articles which the client should see. Over 500 search editors across Canada have been trained at NSL by means of two-day seminars to assist with developing SDI interest profiles for members of their respective organizations. The National Science Library has now arranged for CAN/SDI output centres in three other government departments utilizing tapes of particular relevance, i.e. the Geological Survey of Canada Library for geology, Agriculture Canada Library for agriculture and the National Library for social sciences.

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 45,000 scientific and technical journals received by over 240 Canadian libraries. The data for this publication are stored on magnetic tape and updated regularly for computer print-out as new editions are required.

The library maintains the Canadian index of scientific translations, a card index to the location in Canada or elsewhere of translations of articles written in foreign languages. A complete English translation of the Russian journal *Problemy severa* (*Problems of the North*) is prepared by the Translations Section. The library also 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.

The NSL's computerized Information Exchange Centre for Federally Supported Research