

INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Commonwealth Education Conference in Canberra drew attention to the need for the training of personnel to produce books locally, and for information about existing training facilities to be made available through the Commonwealth Secretariat. Because the concept of formal training is comparatively new even in developed book industries, this document outlines what is involved in and what is meant by the various functions that need to be exercised in the preparation, production, publication, distribution and promotion of books. Its object is to develop a greater understanding of what facilities need to be offered, and what personnel are required in order that an indigenous book industry can be strengthened or established.

The first major step after Canberra in the Commonwealth Book Development Programme was the appointment to the Secretariat in 1972 of a full-time officer with special responsibilities in the development of local book industries and in the training of personnel for them. The second step was the organisation in Delhi, in collaboration with the Government of India, of the Commonwealth Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on "Priorities and Planning for the Provision of Books". This document on "Training for Book Development", prepared in draft from first-hand observation of the needs and resources of a number of countries, was presented at the Delhi Seminar as a background working paper. It has now been revised for publication in this form and takes into account the findings and recommendations of the Seminar, to the Final Report of which references have been incorporated throughout.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is grateful to those Governments who have made the offers of assistance in training personnel from other countries listed in the Directory of Training Opportunities which forms Chapter 4. It is hoped that the publication of this document will help these and other Governments to review their training facilities so that the Directory can be expanded, and that countries with developing book industries will gain a better knowledge of whom to approach for the help that they need.