

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Commonwealth there are libraries seeking to expand their holdings of Commonwealth literature. There are scholars wishing to refer to Commonwealth research in their fields of special interest. There are booksellers anxious to acquire Commonwealth titles and fill special orders for them. And there are many educational and research institutions that depend for their effectiveness on ready access to publications dealing with the economic, social, cultural and other developments taking place in their own country and in fellow members of the Commonwealth.

For all these individuals and organizations, the basic source of information they need about the publishing output of a country is to be found in that country's national bibliography. The Commonwealth is well served with national bibliographies. Most member states and some dependencies already produce them, and others are planning to do so. However, not all of them are well known, perhaps because there has been no single, up-to-date source of information dealing with Commonwealth national bibliographies and their contents.

This small booklet sets out a limited way to fill the gap. Its preparation took place in four stages. First, in order to ensure a fairly standard format, those bibliographies that were readily available in Britain were examined, and a draft of each directory entry was prepared. Second, the draft of the Australian entry was sent for correction to the National Library of Australia. Third, the draft entry for each country was sent - together with the corrected Australian entry to serve as a model - to what

was considered to be the most appropriate institution to prepare the final entry. Fourth, the booklet was edited and prepared for publication, using the most reliable information that could be obtained in this way.

Replies were received from most countries, but not from all. Where draft entries were completed and returned, the fact is recorded by the words, "Information checked and approved by..." Where no reply was received, the words "Information obtained in Britain" appear. This information may in some cases seem to be out of date, but nothing more recent could be traced in Britain at the time that the directory was being prepared. Other sources of information are quoted in a few instances.

Most of the bibliographies appearing in the directory have been produced nationally, but some regional publications have also been included so as to cover those Commonwealth states and dependencies that are too small to warrant their own national bibliographies. In addition, the Accessions Lists produced by Library of Congress Offices for the use of librarians in the U.S.A. have been included so as to supplement inadequate bibliographic coverage in some regions.

The project was supervised by a small working party which met on three occasions. The members of the working party were Mrs. Susan Kennedy (who undertook the preliminary research and the preparation of the entries), Mrs. Dorothy Anderson (Director, IFLA Office for Universal Bibliographic Control), Mrs. C. Keane (Assistant Librarian, Commonwealth Institute), Mrs. P. Larby (Librarian, Institute of Commonwealth Studies), Mr. K. C. Harrison (past President, Commonwealth Library Association), Mr. D. H. Simpson (Librarian, Royal Commonwealth Society), a representative of the British Council, and two members of staff of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Commonwealth Secretariat is most grateful to these individuals and to the many others throughout the Commonwealth who contributed to the preparation of this directory.