

## PREFACE

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 member countries of the Commonwealth. For all these individuals and organisations, the basic information they need about the publishing output of a country is generally to be found in that country's national bibliography.

In 1977 this Division produced **Commonwealth National Bibliographies: an Annotated Directory** - the first single sourcebook on Commonwealth national bibliographies and their contents. Because it soon proved its usefulness, the Eighth Commonwealth Education Conference held at Colombo in 1980 recommended that an updated edition should be published.

This new edition, following five years after the first, is timely. It records both the appearance of a number of new national bibliographies and many changes that have taken place in existing ones. It also takes account of the fact that some of the "one-off" or non-serial bibliographies appearing in the first edition have been transferred to the companion volume, **Commonwealth Retrospective National Bibliographies: an Annotated Directory**, published in accordance with the same Conference recommendation in 1981.

Our thanks go to the staff of the IFLA\* International Office for Universal Bibliographic Control for their sterling contribution in undertaking the preparation of this **Directory**. With the publication of the companion volume last year, and this new edition of the **Directory** now, there exists in two volumes a comprehensive and up-to-date record of all the major general bibliographies, current and retrospective, covering all Commonwealth countries, regions and territories.

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\* International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions