

INTRODUCTION

Since 1977, when the first edition of this directory appeared, many of the national bibliographies published in Commonwealth countries have undergone substantial changes and several new ones have appeared.

Among the most obvious of the changes are those resulting from the adoption of revised codes for both cataloguing and classification. Thus in 1977 the predominant cataloguing code in use in the Commonwealth was the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Code* 1967 (AACR67, now more usually known as AACR1) which existed in two versions - the British text and the North American text. The predominant code for classification was the *Dewey Decimal Classification*, eighteenth edition, 1971 (DDC18). The second edition of AACR (AACR2) was published in 1978 (in a single version only) and the nineteenth edition of Dewey (DDC19) in 1980.

Of the 25 Commonwealth national bibliographies currently stated to be using AACR, 17 have already adopted AACR2, five are still using AACR1 (three the British text and two unspecified) and the remaining three did not indicate which edition was being used. The situation with regard to DDC, which was more recently published, is more transitional. Again, 25 bibliographies are stated to be using DDC; and, of these, five have already adopted DDC19 (and three more claim to be using 'the latest edition'), seven are still using DDC18 (and one DDC16), and the remaining nine do not specify the edition in use.

Even without such major changes in existing national bibliographies, a revised directory would be desirable to accommodate the new ones. Seven national bibliographies are newly listed in this second edition of the directory and it is worth listing them (in alphabetical order of country): Fiji national bibliography; National bibliography of The Gambia; Kenya national bibliography (in preparation); Papua New Guinea national bibliography; Swaziland national bibliography; Tanzania national bibliography (in preparation); and Zimbabwe national bibliography.

The growth that this represents depends to some extent upon definitions. The *Zimbabwe national bibliography* is not new but there was no entry for Southern Rhodesia in the first edition; the *Tanzania national bibliography* is an outgrowth of *Printed in Tanzania* though the lapse of time since the last issue of the latter and the amount of reorganization justify considering it a new work (see *International cataloguing* vol. 11, no. 1, Jan./Mar. 1982, p.3 for an account of the setting up of a national bibliographic agency in Tanzania); the *Papua New Guinea national bibliography* supersedes, though it is not a continuation of, the *New Guinea bibliography*.

The 1977 edition of the Directory had a total of 37 entries (excluding three 'nil' entries) of which five were regional entries including an entry for the Commonwealth as a whole. Of the 32 'national' entries, 18 were true national bibliographies and seven unofficially national bibliographies

(i.e. serial bibliographies similar in scope to true national bibliographies but lacking in some degree their status); the remaining seven entries contained only 'one-off' bibliographies of the type now transferred to the companion volume for retrospective bibliographies. In this second edition there are 58 entries of which only two are regional; of the remainder, 25 are true national bibliographies, five are unofficial national bibliographies, and 26 consist of references to alternative sources to be found in the volume for retrospective bibliographies. The decline in the number of unofficial national bibliographies is due to the fact that no new ones have appeared and two have been upgraded or superseded by true national bibliographies - a trend which one would expect to continue. The decline in the number of regional entries is due simply to a redefinition of the scope of the directory. The 'Commonwealth' entry in the first edition was for 'Technical co-operation', a valuable listing of government publications of Commonwealth countries but in no way a parallel at the international level of a national bibliography and therefore now excluded. Most of the remaining regional entries in the first edition consisted of Library of Congress *Accession lists* for various regions. These cover many areas of the Third World (and not just Commonwealth territories) and are valuable bibliographic tools to researchers in areas where otherwise bibliographic control may be weak; but by definition, they cannot be 'national' bibliographies and have also been excluded. The one exception was the entry for 'Caribbean Community' where the *CARICOM bibliography* was a true parallel at the regional level of a national bibliography and consequently the entry (updated) has been retained. The remaining regional entry in this revised edition of the directory is a new one: under 'Pacific Islands' is described a project for a regional bibliography for that area very similar in many ways to the *CARICOM bibliography*. Though at the time of going to press this regional bibliography is not in being, its first fruits are apparent in two of the new national bibliographies: those for Fiji and for Papua New Guinea which will form major components for the regional bibliography. At its lowest level, if official and unofficial national bibliographies are taken together, the growth in the five-year interval between editions is 20 per cent (from 25 to 30 entries) but if a stricter definition of 'national bibliographies' is adopted then the growth is nearly twice that (from 18 to 25 entries).

The method of compiling this edition was similar to that used for the first and for the companion volume of retrospective bibliographies. The IFLA International Office for Universal Bibliographic Control, which undertook the task, sent draft entries (in this case the entries from the first edition) to appropriate bibliographic authorities in each country. The replies were then edited for consistency by the IFLA UBC Office which also undertook the remaining editorial work and correlated the whole with the companion volume on retrospective bibliographies.

Each entry is headed by the name of the country and this is followed by details of the national bibliography concerned in a set sequence - title, compiler, frequency, scope, contents, arrangement, cataloguing, notes, special features, subscription information and price. Where national bibliographic coverage is divided between two or more bibliographies, each is set out in this fashion and the whole entry is concluded by an authority statement for the entry in the form 'Information checked and approved by ...' followed by the name and position of the respondent and the date of reply.

In the rare instances where the information was obtained in Britain, or where an unrevised entry from the first edition has been retained, this has been stated. Where no national bibliographies exist but there are useful sources listed in the companion volume for retrospective bibliographies, a cross-reference has been made and a similar cross-reference has been made to the *CARICOM bibliography*.