

multi-source based acquisitions system which attempts to place orders directly with the original publisher. The problems described have been experienced in most Canadian academic libraries, but it must be noted here that these are the same problems which academic libraries in other countries may expect to encounter when attempting to order books directly from a Canadian publisher. Obviously, books ordered by institutions in English speaking countries will avoid the language difficulties but many service problems will remain.

Canadian Suppliers and Their Services

Today most Canadian academic libraries use foreign agents to handle their book needs for titles published abroad. Such a system has numerous advantages. With a single vendor arrangement only one source is needed for virtually all the orders for books from a particular country. This results in one monthly (or at least regular) invoice which must be confirmed and paid. Outgoing orders can be batched and sent on a regular basis saving clerical time and postage costs. Larger single shipments from a single source cut down the likelihood of missing shipments in the mails.

Bibliographic searching and verification must still be done in house but missing details can be provided by the