

microcomputer and MINISIS software (developed by the International Development Research Centre). This purchase will enable us to make the database more accessible to the public within the next few years.

The Institute has been pursuing direct and active linkages in the library community in Canada and abroad, in order to promote cooperation and information sharing. To this end, we have formed a consultative group with other librarians in the field, organized conferences, given grants to public libraries, contributed to library association programmes, and established working contacts with a range of organizations similar to our own.

In 1986 and 1987, we held conferences in Ottawa which brought together information professionals from Canada and other countries to learn what resources were available and to look at the possibilities for cooperation. We also thought it was important to move across the country, developing contacts and providing the opportunity for people in all regions to learn about local resources and expand their networks. To do this we began a series of mini-conferences.

At these mini-conferences we focus on our activities and future plans, review information resources in the fields of peace and security, and discuss access to information in the field and how groups can cooperate in sharing information. This past year, mini-conferences have taken place in Halifax, Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver and Whitehorse. Response to them has been very positive.

For the past two years, we have given grants to public libraries to enable them to purchase literature to enrich their collections in the areas of peace and security. This project contributes to the dissemination of information across Canada.

As a member of various library associations in Canada and the United States, we keep abreast of the latest developments and trends in the world of information, and let our activities be known. This year Institute staff founded an "Action for Peace and Security Interest Group" at the Canadian Library Association. The purpose of this group is to involve librarians in the task of developing tools to make materials related to peace and security issues accessible to the Canadian public.

Direct contacts with information centres overseas, specifically in Great Britain and France, have resulted in the beginnings of cooperation that will facilitate the exchange of information in this field at an international level.

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