

The role of Information Services is to collect and disseminate information on issues of international peace and security. This work centres on the Institute library and the computer database detailing the library collection.

Computerization

A crucial aspect of the continuing growth of the library's in-house database of its holdings is the optimal functioning of the computer system. Over the past year, significant advances have been made in the development of an automated bilingual thesaurus and the format of bilingual records. We are exploring the best ways to provide various computer-generated products from the database to meet the different needs of the communities the Institute serves. For example, before Christmas we sent out a questionnaire worldwide to get views on the market feasibility of an Institute compact disc product, soliciting views on the library services at the same time.

As an incidental benefit, there has been a positive reaction to the Institute's incorporation of bilingual capabilities into its computer environment; and the library is often consulted by various other libraries and non-governmental organizations seeking advice on introducing an automated system into their environment.

The Library Collection

The library has developed a number of unique tools to improve access to relevant peace and security information. The *Newspaper Clippings File* dates back to 1985 and contains information from major Canadian newspapers and a select number of foreign papers. The files are housed chronologically by subject. The *Organizations File* contains annual reports, brochures and other general information

on over 300 groups around the world. A *Biography File* of those involved in the field of international peace and security provides quick information on invited speakers, writers and visitors.

The library now has a selected and specialized collection of approximately 1,350 books and 270 periodical titles. With the addition of government documents, publications from international bodies, newsletters, speeches and conference papers, the total number of items is approximately 12,000. There are 52 exchange agreements with other research institutes around the world.

After his death, the estate of General E.L.M. Burns donated a portion of his book collection to the library. These have recently been displayed in the newly refurbished Burns Room.

Information Services Publications

During 1990-91, Information Services published a number of resource materials:

- 1) *Canada and international peace and security : a bibliography, 1985-1989* – an annual bilingual bibliography culled from both Canadian and non-Canadian sources, and composed primarily of references to articles in periodicals in the library's collection. Also included is literature usually only available outside the regular publication and distribution channels, such as many government documents, theses, conference papers and organizational newsletters.

- 2) *Peace and security thesaurus* – the first bilingual edition of the in-house thesaurus of peace and security terminology. There has been a great demand for this tool worldwide.

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*"A small committee
of teachers will be meeting
soon to develop a
plan to promote the
collection, and a plan to
integrate peace and
security issues into
more courses."*

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