

ized databases for access to the very best sources of public information on issues of peace and security.

Over the past year we have been building up the collection in various areas, still specializing in the invaluable "grey literature" not easily accessible elsewhere. Following careful consultations, we have also concentrated on improving the quality of French-language holdings. The collection was further supplemented with donations from a number of groups and individuals.

Decisions as to how to make purchasing choices from the many thousands of items available are based on several criteria. All materials must have some Canadian content, or cover subjects of particular interest to Canadians; they must be published in either of the two official languages; they must deal with one or more of the areas of the Institute's mandate – arms control, disarmament, defence and conflict resolution – with special attention to fields of concentration in the Institute's work.

A singular strength of the Institute's library holdings is in the detailed computer records which give access by subject to articles in periodicals, chapters in books, conference papers, speeches and government reports. Documentation from organizations around the world, not easily found elsewhere in Canada, also contributes to the uniqueness of the collection.

Reaching Out

Information Services also carried out activities away from the library. Two conferences were held in June 1989, one in Yellowknife, the other in Calgary. These conferences, similar to those held earlier in other Canadian centres and attended by librarians and others involved

in the communication of information in their communities, reviewed information resources in the fields of peace and security. Participants discussed access to information in the field, and ways in which groups can cooperate in sharing information.

The first Action for Peace and Security Interest Group workshop took place in Edmonton in June. The event was part of the Canadian Library Association's annual conference, attended by librarians from across the country. The Interest Group was founded by Institute staff, to raise the awareness of librarians about issues of peace and security, inform them of information in this field, and produce reference tools and promotional materials. Three speakers at the workshop – a representative from the Department of National Defence, a peace activist, and a librarian – commented on the opportunities, choices and risks they saw in libraries playing a role in the conveying of peace and security materials to the public.

The 1989 offer of a \$1,000 Bookshelf Grant to public libraries to purchase, and then publicize, peace and security materials for their collections, was taken up by twenty-eight public libraries in nine provinces and both territories. (See Annex I for the complete list of recipients.) Approximately the same level of funding will be available for next year's Book Shelf Grant programme, and additional promotion will encourage participation in all regions and in both official languages.

KATHERINE LAUNDY

Director of Information Services

"... The ongoing programme, begun in 1986, of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security that makes costly resources available to selected public libraries across Canada, is highly commendable..."

CANADIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL
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