

The importance of this tool to the Francophonie was evident at the International Seminar on Distance Learning in Conarkry when participants established the Francophone Africa Association for Distance Learning (ASAFFAD).

#### *International Data Bank on Francophone States*

The creation of the International Data Bank on Francophone States (BIEF) was supported by Canada at the first francophone summit (Paris 1986) and since 1991 has been a decentralized program of the ACCT, administered and managed by Canadian Heritage. Developed primarily as a bibliographical database listing documents on all member states of the Francophonie, the BIEF quickly expanded to become a network of human, documentary and technological resources focussing on communication, liaison, and transfer of information and documentation.

The BIEF is involved in organizing, modernizing and consolidating national information and documentation policies and systems in the countries of the South and the East. It also contributes to developing professional and technical personnel in leading-edge technologies; and it participates in organizing and conserving heritage documents and national corporate memories.

#### *North-South Co-publishing, Co-production and Partnership Program*

Under the sponsorship of the National Association of Book Publishers, this program has made it possible to carry out exploratory work for co-publishing, co-productions and partnerships between publishers in the countries of the South and the North.

#### **Environment**

##### *Francophone Network of River and Lake Ecosystem Managers*

The goal of this project, which was carried out by Environment Canada's St. Lawrence Centre, was to facilitate exchanges of information and experience among agencies and managers responsible for management of river and lake ecosystems in the ACCT member states. The project also established training programs to meet the needs of managers working in national, regional and international organizations.