

**T**he library is the focus of the activities of the Information Services section. It provides Institute staff the services of a specialized information resource, essential to the creation of high quality work. The library is also open to the public, who are using it with increased frequency because it provides easy and detailed access to peace and security materials, many of which are not easily found elsewhere in North America.

### The Electronic Library

In order to carry out more effectively that part of the Institute's mandate to collect and disseminate information to the Institute staff and to the broader public, the Information Services section has devoted much of its energy this year to the structuring and implementation of its new computer system, a super-micro-

computer with MINISIS software originally developed by the International Development Research Centre.

The added computer capabilities and storage allow for sufficient flexibility to manage the database of library holdings, as well as the day-to-day library functions. The computer supports the bilingual in-house thesaurus, as well as the creation and maintenance of bibliographic databases and of text databases of information such as directories, inventories and abstracts.

With the Institute's previous level of computerization, it was impossible to reach the broader community effectively. Now the Institute has the facility to prepare printed products and computerized products (compact disks, tapes, diskettes) that can provide a much wider distribution of the library's holdings. At the same time it is now equipped to augment its own database with computerized products from other organizations.



### INFORMATION SERVICES

*From left to right, Susan Connell, Katherine Laundy, John Wright, Michael Mayer, Marilyn Miller, Sylvain-Mario Lemieux.*

### Building the Collection

The library's collection continues to grow, with the help of approximately fifty selected exchange agreements with other research and policy institute libraries analogous to our own worldwide. The collection now stands at approximately 7,000 items, with increasingly significant and sophisticated use of computer-