

PREFACE

Ministers of Education at the Eighth Commonwealth Education Conference in Colombo recommended the development of practical handbooks covering areas of education which are of interest to member countries. In pursuit of this initiative the Commonwealth Secretariat has devised a common format for a series of Commonwealth Educational Handbooks of which the present publication is one. This volume is designed to assist teachers and their colleagues with suggestions about facilities and services that can be offered through teachers' resource centres.

The present handbook originates from a meeting of experts held in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1982 and organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in association with the Government of New Zealand through Auckland Secondary Teachers' College. The workshop was in two parts: the first dealt with teachers' resource centres, and the second with equipping small-scale printing units which may be incorporated in teachers' resource centres, curriculum development units or wherever a quick, reliable and inexpensive printing service is required.

The group which examined the role and operation of a teachers' resource centre consisted of the following specialists, who contributed to the exercise a wide range of material and experience:

Dr H O Ayot (Kenya)

Mr H Kahn (Britain)

Mr C Percy (New Zealand)

Mr D S Prasad (Fiji)

Mrs F Salt (New Zealand)

Mr A Swallow (Botswana)

Mr T Tio (Kiribati)

Miss T Tuita (Tonga)

The final draft was arranged and edited by Harry Kahn. The publication seeks to provide guidance for persons who may be charged with responsibility for setting up or developing teachers' resource centres in widely differing social, economic, and educational conditions. It is offered to teachers, inspectors and organisers of teachers' centres in the belief that it will assist their efforts to improve the quality of teaching both in the developing Commonwealth and in the more developed member countries.

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