

INTRODUCTION

The rich and varied publishing tradition of the Commonwealth has not been fully exploited by scholars, researchers or educational institutions or by the libraries or booksellers that aim to serve their needs. This is due to an imperfect awareness of the range and scale of publications that exist. Four years ago the Commonwealth Secretariat sought to rectify the matter for current or recent material by producing a small directory of national bibliographies of Commonwealth countries⁽¹⁾ as national bibliographies, when they exist, are a prime source for tracing publications. However, current national bibliographies are a comparatively recent phenomenon. Of the 23 listed in the 1977 publication, the earliest were Canadiana and the British national bibliography which both date from 1950⁽²⁾. By the end of the 1950s only the Indian national bibliography in the Commonwealth had joined these two. However, five more started in the early 1960s; no less than 15 began in the decade to 1975, and several more have been issued since then.

The present work is intended to be a companion volume the earlier directory. Its title requires some explanation. "Commonwealth" is defined as the Commonwealth as presently constituted - the sum of all the present member states, special members and dependencies of members (including associated states or protected states). No bibliographies are included for former Commonwealth territories even for periods when they were within the Commonwealth. Thus (to go no further back than the first world war) there are no entries for Pakistan, the Trucial States, Qatar, Bahrain, Aden Colony and Protectorate (the Federation of South Arabia), the Kuria Muria Islands, the Maldives, the Southern Cameroons, Kuwait, the Union of South Africa and South West Africa, British Somaliland, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Muscat and Oman, the Irish Free State, Palestine, Burma, Transjordan, Iraq, Wei-Hai-Wei and Egypt.

"Retrospective" should in general be understood as meaning pre-1960 but this cut-off date has not been rigidly adhered to (several territories existing at present were not even constituted then), and it refers to the coverage of the bibliographies and not to their dates of publication. Current bibliographies flourishing in the period have been included if they have ceased publication but not those still being published even if they started well before 1960. These were included in the companion volume already noted.

The term "national" bibliographies, in the context of the present directory, should be understood as meaning bibliographies of national scope rather than

1. Commonwealth national bibliographies: an annotated directory. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, [1977]. [2], 98p. ISBN 0-85092-125-2. A new and revised edition is under consideration.

2. It should perhaps be added that some superseded bibliographies such as the Annual catalogue of Australian publications predate this.

the "authoritative and comprehensive records of the national imprint of a country ... made by a responsible organisation"⁽¹⁾ though, of course, it does not exclude the latter (cf. particularly the entries for Canada, New Zealand, and Zimbabwe). It does exclude bibliographies restricted in subject matter or restricted in territorial coverage to subdivisions of countries, although a few bibliographies covering the principal divisions of federal states (e.g. Australian states) may be included at least in a note. Certain general bibliographies cover areas more extensive than a single territory, and these have been placed in one of seven regional entries (for Antarctica, the Caribbean, Central Africa, East Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific, and Southern Africa). Bibliographies devoted predominantly to theses, manuscripts or to non-book material have been excluded, though some bibliographies of more general scope may contain references to such material. In general only separately published bibliographies have been included but if, for a given territory, the only, or principal, bibliography traced was unpublished (e.g. a thesis) or contained within a larger work (e.g. a journal article), then such a work is included.

Entries have been provided for all independent and dependent members of the Commonwealth together with an entry for the Commonwealth as a whole and seven regional entries in a single alphabetical sequence. For those territories for which no suitable bibliographies have been found, cross references have been provided to other entries, usually to regional entries, and such references have also been made where appropriate even if there are specific bibliographies for a particular territory. No cross references have been made to the heading for the Commonwealth as a whole but it should be recognised that the published library catalogues which constitute this entry may well contain reference to works which appear nowhere else. In this respect, the analytical entries to be found in the catalogues of the Royal Commonwealth Society are particularly valuable. Regional entries have been established only where bibliographies exist which cannot be listed under one territory.

The procedure for compiling the directory was broadly similar to that followed for the Commonwealth national bibliographies: an annotated directory. Draft entries were first compiled in London using the resources of specialist libraries there which are considerable. To begin with some half-dozen major libraries in London are devoted predominantly to the Commonwealth or to a major part of it: the Commonwealth Institute Library, the main (Great Smith Street) library of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (formerly the Colonial Office Library), the India Office Library and Records of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library of the University of London, the library of the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (more useful, however, for contemporary affairs), and the Royal Commonwealth Society Library. To these should be added the libraries of the various Commonwealth High Commissions, some of which (such as that for India) have a very considerable stock. There are also a number of other major libraries with strong Commonwealth holdings, but which are in no way confined to Commonwealth material. Of particular value are the library of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) of the

1. Guidelines for the national bibliographic agency and the national bibliography. Paris: Unesco, 1979 (PGI/79/WS/18) para. 4.1.

University of London (the British Library of Political and Economic Science), the Royal Asiatic Society Library, the library of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House Library) and the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London. Finally there is the British Library Reference Division (formerly the British Museum library) which is in a special position, not only because of its sheer size but also because it was entitled over many years to deposited copies of colonial publications under local copyright or press registration ordinances.

Using the resources outlined above, research was undertaken within the IFLA International Office for UBC* by Patricia Farquhar and Richard Cheffins, and the entries were edited by the latter. One of these entries, that for Australia, was checked by a member of the National Library of Australia based in London. This draft, revised in the light of comments received, then served as a model for other entries. These were sent to appropriate authorities in each country together with the model Australian entry and a covering letter explaining the project and requesting co-operation in revising the draft entries. The response was gratifying, as can be seen from the "authority statement" at the foot of each entry, and replies often contained valuable amendments or additions. The resulting material was then further edited for consistency for publication by Richard Cheffins.

This procedure has had two effects (apart from the intended one of adding authority to the directory). Firstly there is a certain unevenness in the depth of coverage between one entry and another. In some smaller territories reference is made to virtually all the bibliographies of relevance, while in other countries - notably Britain and India - much more selection has been exercised. Secondly there is some variation in bibliographical citation. As few of the bibliographies were actually available at the stage of final editing, minor inconsistencies have been left to stand. In no case should this cause the use any difficulty in identification.

Each entry is headed by the name of the territory in English in both its short and (where it exists) its long form. There follows a brief note on the territory which explains its constitutional development, any complications of its former administration (e.g. both Saint Helena and Singapore were originally parts of British 'India'), and any change of name. Then come the entries themselves - the bibliographies, additional notes, and references to other entries, and finally (except for entries consisting only of a cross reference) an authority statement. Each entry that has been checked by an appropriate authority in the territory has the name and position of the person who did the checking appended together with the date when the entry was checked and approved. Regional entries follow a similar pattern except that the note on the territory is replaced by a list of the territories within the region. In a few cases the entry was not sent for checking locally or was not returned when sent, and in these cases it is stated that the information was obtained in Britain. As the entries are arranged alphabetically by territory they are not indexed as such, but an index of former or alternative names is included as out-of-date names may well be sought for in a directory precisely concerned with non-current bibliographies.

* IFLA = International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions;
and UBC = Universal bibliographic control.