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## Distribution of U.S. Scientific Literature

There is growing recognition that English has become the language of science. A related development is an increasing foreign demand for U.S. scientific publications. On page 617 of this issue are printed statistics on the foreign distribution of *Science*. Our circulation is about 112,000; 9804 of these copies are sent outside the continental United States. The journal has subscribers in most nations, including China. Canada tops the list, the United Kingdom is second, and Japan is third.

The circulation of *Science* abroad is expanding. During the last year it increased 30 percent, while the domestic circulation was up 10 percent. In the past, the AAAS has concentrated on seeking membership in this country; in the future, citizens of other nations will be made aware that they too are welcomed as members or subscribers.

Publications of other American scientific organizations are also distributed widely abroad. The *Journal of Geophysical Research* is sent to about 7000 domestic and 2100 foreign members and subscribers. The growth rate of the non-U.S. component is three times that of the U.S. component.

The American Institute of Physics publishes 14 journals as well as translations of ten Russian periodicals. About 30 percent of the circulation of fundamental journals is foreign. Ranked by number of subscribers per million of population, the top five countries are as follows: United States, Israel, Canada, Switzerland, and Sweden. Figures for the U.S.S.R. are not meaningful, since the Russians make many copies of U.S. publications.

Distribution of the publications of the American Chemical Society is particularly significant. No nation can hope for a strong economy without an adequate base in chemistry. Fully a third of the copies of the fundamental publications of ACS are distributed abroad. Membership in the American Chemical Society is worldwide; in 1963 it totaled 86,249 domestic and 6545 foreign. The leading foreign countries on the basis of total membership were Japan (1413), Canada (893), the United Kingdom (524), and Italy (458). Leaders on the basis of membership per million inhabitants were Israel (59), Switzerland (58), Canada (45), and Sweden (25). In contrast, the continent of Africa outside of the Union of South Africa had a membership of about 0.3 per million.

Subscriptions to *Chemical Abstracts* provide an interesting measure of a nation's industrial potential. This publication covers the literature, from all parts of the world, that might be of interest to chemists. This includes pure and applied chemistry and much of physics, biology, geology, and technology. In overall performance, *Chemical Abstracts* is the best publication of its kind. Few first-rate research establishments can afford to be without it. The cost, however, (\$1200 to industrial organizations) is such as to discourage frivolous subscriptions. The total circulation of *Chemical Abstracts* in 1963 was 6759, of which 3866 were foreign. The major users include Japan (1016), the United Kingdom (524), and France (357). In terms of copies per million inhabitants the United States (15) is first and Israel (12.5) is second; the figure for the other major industrial nations, except for the U.S.S.R., is about 10. The underdeveloped nations have a subscription rate of about 0.15 per million.

The world is in the midst of great changes in the distribution and use of scientific literature. The utilization of U.S. publications abroad is increasing. Through distribution of our literature we are making important contributions to the industrial development of those nations capable of using it.—PHILIP H. ABELSON