

## Miscellany

### **Series “Special Bibliographies” from the library and documentation service of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office**

The Library and Documentation Service of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (CSO) possesses a most significant special collection of statistical and demographic literature. The library, established in 1867 simultaneously with the CSO, has been collecting since its foundation all Hungarian statistical and demographic literature, and also related foreign publications to the extent possible. The stock of the library includes at present about 600 000 units, out of which 130 000 belong to the special collection of statistical-demographic publications.

For the past 10 years, a computerized bibliographical data base has been operating including at present more than 90 000 bibliographic, mostly annotated items. The data base is increasing by about 1000 titles per month. The data base, *inter alia*, is used for the purpose of compiling various bibliographies.

A few years ago, the library started publishing the series “Special Bibliographies”. Their issues are prepared on the most up-to-date themes of the Hungarian and world economics and statistics. The bibliographies on, for instance, environment protection and statistics, on reform of Soviet economic management, or on the development of the socialist economy stimulated a great deal of interest.

A recently prepared issue wishes to help in the work on the next population and housing census. The special bibliography is compiled from the computerized bibliographic data base, completed manually. It contains the annotations of books, statistical publications and articles of journals dealing with methodological questions of the latest (mostly of 1980–81) censuses of nearly 40 countries of the world.

The main target for the bibliography was to cover the widest possible spectrum of methods and practices followed, as well as to show the utilization of the data obtained. This bibliographic selection includes 285 items. In the first part, the general methodological and international papers (United Nations recommendations, general works referring to various groups of countries) can be found. This is followed by items referring to individual countries covering all phases of population and housing censuses (conceptual definitions, questionnaires, methods of collecting and processing the data, sampling methods, error control, computerization, problems of publication, etc.). Legal and ethical questions are occasionally touched upon.

The bibliography reviews most intensely the censuses of the socialist and developed capitalist countries, but it also refers to literature concerning countries of the third world. As the bibliography is likely to meet with interest not only in

Hungary but also abroad, the Library and Documentation Service of the CSO publishes it also in English. It can be obtained as of the end of 1987, also in the framework of publication exchange relations.

Hungarian Central Statistical Office