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Serial statistics were prepared in the Section from the printed lists of serial holdings for the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. The University of Victoria provided serial statistics for July 1972. The Sub-group on the Processing of Serials of the Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards has recommended the following definition of a serial:

"A publication issued in successive parts bearing numerical, chronological or other sequential designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. Serials include, for example, periodicals, newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, etc.), the journals, memoirs, proceedings, transactions etc., of societies, numbered monographic series, serially published technical reports and government documents, etc."

The definition of a serial as understood by Miss O'Rourke and adhered to throughout the survey is much narrower and does not include the following categories: annuals, memoirs, proceedings, transactions of societies, numbered monographic series. This material has been included with the statistics for books, except in cases where statistics were provided by the library itself, and the above categories are counted as serials. The problem of standardization in the counting of library materials as encountered in this survey will be discussed further in Volume 6.

Notes on special collections are from the field notes assembled by Miss O'Rourke, and have been supplemented by correspondence with the three university libraries.

Further information regarding the statistics by subject may be found under Guide to Subject Tables.