

*Miscellaneous***Commonwealth Forestry Institute
Library, Oxford****— Microfilming Project**

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THANKS to a very generous grant from the Ford Foundation of New York, it will now be possible to make the contents of the library of the Commonwealth Forestry Institute, Oxford, available internationally.

This library has existed since 1908 and through its continuing policy of collecting the forestry literature of the world, is now probably the most complete library of its kind in existence. Its holdings of literature on tropical forestry are particularly extensive.

In close co-operation with the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau the library has built up a comprehensive card catalogue of world forestry literature classified and cross-referenced under the "Oxford Decimal System" which is now the internationally accepted classification for the documentation of forestry knowledge.

The library is not a lending library and hitherto its resources have only been available to students, research workers and others able to visit Oxford. The purpose of the grant from the Ford Foundation is to make these resources more generally available and particularly in order that developing countries may have access to the contents of the library and its indexes.

It is intended to put all important literature in the library on to microfilm within three years. The first task will be to microfilm the bibliographical card indexes which could form the basis for requests for microfilm copies of specific items. This will be followed, to the extent that copyright clearance can be obtained, by all the more important and less accessible periodicals and serial publications. Books, unless specially asked for, will be done later on.

The grant from the Ford Foundation will provide the capital equipment for the unit and will also cover the cost of the first negative and positive copies for record purposes. The supply of microfilm copies will be made on request at the bare cost of production. To start with, this will only be available in standard (35 mm. unperforated) microfilm form and in order to use it, microfilm reading equipment will be necessary. Later on it is hoped to supplement it by a photo-printing service on paper working from microfilm negative, but the cost of this will be much higher than for microfilm (probably three to five times as much). It is expected that microfilm will cost less than

2.8 pence per "frame" covering two book pages or ten index cards,—minimum charge 7/6d.

The unit commenced operating at the middle of February, and orders for the card index and for the Commonwealth (formerly Imperial) Forestry Institute Papers and Memoirs can now be accepted.

It is felt that a great debt of gratitude is due to the Ford Foundation for making possible this wide dissemination of literature in forestry hitherto hidden away in the Commonwealth Forestry Institute Library. It is hoped that full advantage will be taken of it.