these sums be transferred to the special mathematical libraries, maybe using coordination of the Hungarian Mathematical Society.

Discussion

Financing of libraries

The financing problems facing Western European libraries are less dramatic than in the East. Nonetheless, the results of the questionnaire show that 43% of libraries in the West have cancelled subscriptions in the last two years (cf. Appendix 1).

The situation in France is slightly better because French mathematicians organized themselves in order to obtain multiple funding from various sources.

In Germany, a large number of universities and mathematics departments are developing interlibrary loans and cooperation between neighboring centers in order to achieve savings on the subscriptions.

In Italy, there are also financial problems concerning computerization as well as personnel. Quite a few centers are forced to draw from their research funds in order to maintain their libraries and subscriptions have had to be cancelled.

Traditionally, the exchange of periodicals between universities was a means of lowering financial pressure. In this way, in spite of the lack of currency, Eastern European countries were able to obtain journals. This allowed their mathematicians to keep in touch with the West through their libraries and stimulated their creativity, even if the exchanged periodicals were of varying value. It so happens that more and more Western centers are now unable to exchange the periodicals created by their mathematicians because these journals are no longer published by university presses but rather by commercial publishers. Such journals are totally inaccessible to poor countries and are very hard to buy when budgets are strained. Concerning journals published in the East, material problems disrupt their publication.

Another cause of financing problems is the steadily rising cost of documentation, combined with a serious documentary inflation induced either by the appearance of new journals or by the increase in the number of volumes of existing ones.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING AND PROBLEMS OF DOCUMENTATION