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**The present state of periodicals and other series publications on  
photogrammetry and remote sensing in the countries of western Europe,  
with an outlook into the next decade**

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### **Abstract**

The results of a questionnaire, circulated to countries in western Europe, are reported. These include information on the following aspects of periodicals and other series publications with articles on photogrammetry and remote sensing: name; frequency; print run; number of subscribers; size; content; occupational profile and geographical spread of readership. An attempt is made to discern from the results trends and new directions for the future which are common to several countries. The paper is written for conjoint presentation with similar papers covering other world regions.

### **Introduction**

As a result of the activities of Working Group VI-6 during the period 1980-82 and the papers and proceedings of its sessions at the intercongressional Symposium of Commission VI at Mainz in September 1982 (Hothmer, 1982a, 110-157), the collection of information about periodicals and other series publications on photogrammetry and remote sensing was undertaken. This work was subdivided into several world regions and the author was invited to collect data for western Europe.

### **Distribution of Questionnaire**

For the purpose of this paper, "western Europe" was interpreted in a rather loose, but practical, manner as consisting of those countries in Europe which were outside the Soviet bloc and Albania but for which details of Commission VI National Correspondents were available. Accordingly, the questionnaire prepared by Commission VI (Questionnaire 8201, published in Hothmer (*ibid.*, 113)) was circulated to the National Correspondents of the 18 countries shown in Figure 1 in November 1983. Countries not sending replies were reminded by letter and then by telegram and by the end of February 1984 completed Questionnaires had been received from the 14 countries in Figure 2.

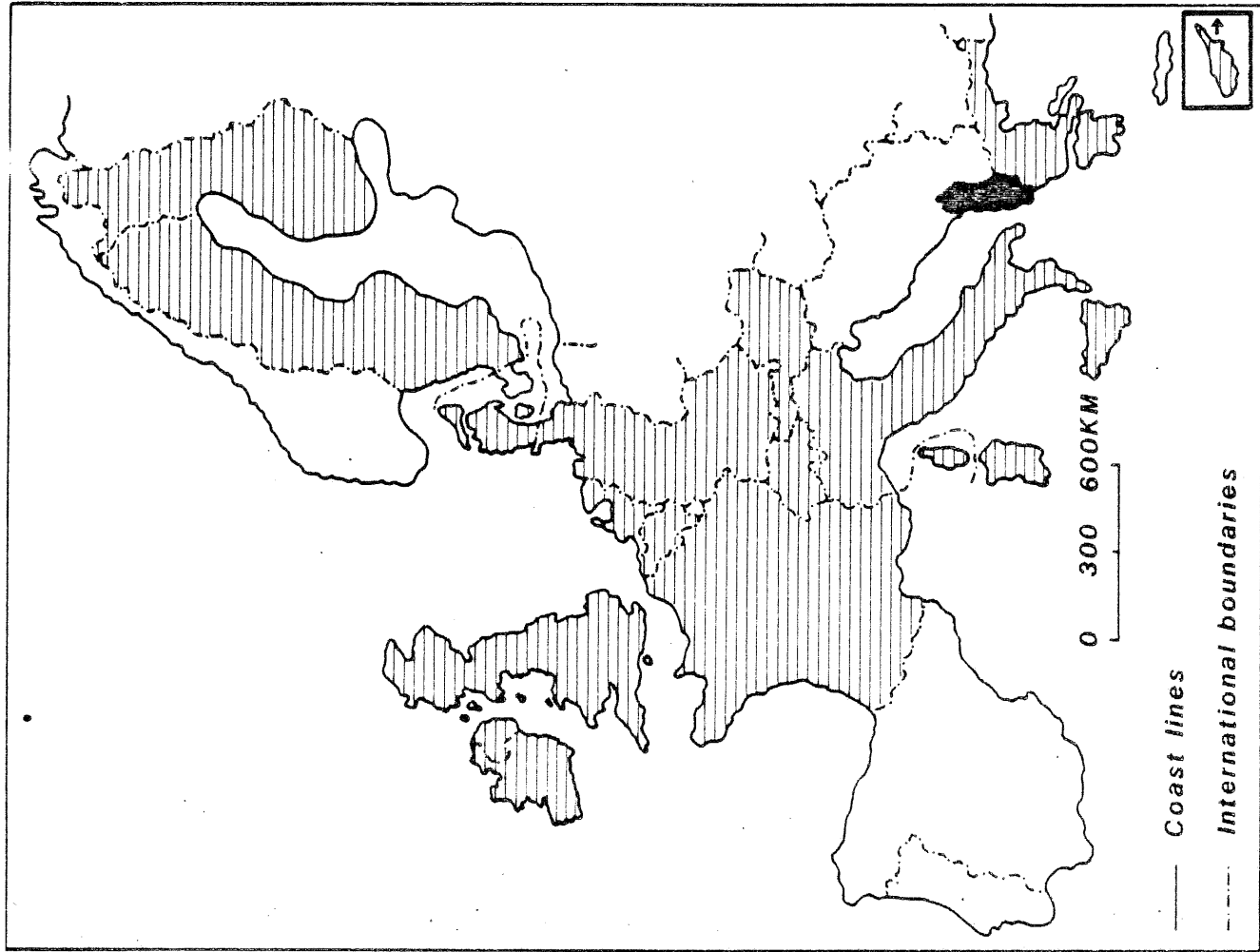


FIGURE 2 COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES RETURNED

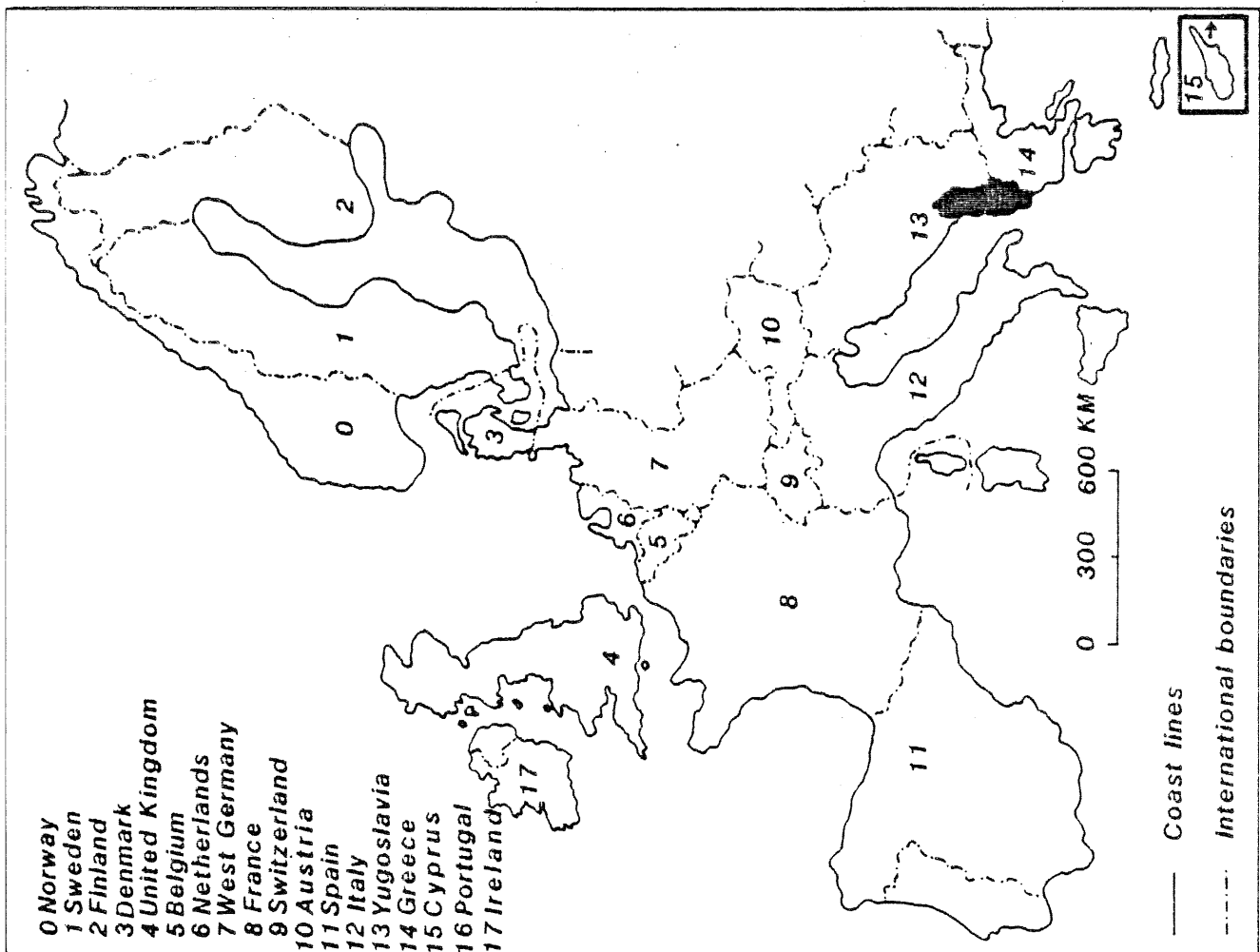


FIGURE 1 CIRCULATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE B201

- 0 Norway
- 1 Sweden
- 2 Finland
- 3 Denmark
- 4 United Kingdom
- 5 Belgium
- 6 Netherlands
- 7 West Germany
- 8 France
- 9 Switzerland
- 10 Austria
- 11 Spain
- 12 Italy
- 13 Yugoslavia
- 14 Greece
- 15 Cyprus
- 16 Portugal
- 17 Ireland

## Results of Questionnaire

The 14 responses to Questionnaire 8201 are summarised in Table 1. Some accompanying comment is necessary, however, for two reasons. Firstly, the headings in Table 1 are not exactly the same as those in Questionnaire 8201 and these discrepancies must be explained. Secondly, Table 1 contains a great deal of information and some analysis is apposite as an aid to assimilation.

The first column of Table 1, "Name of Publication", is identical to that of Questionnaire 8201. The responses to the Questionnaire were interpreted in a pragmatic and rather subjective manner in preparing this column, in the sense that periodicals either with a low photogrammetry and remote sensing content or clearly aimed primarily at an audience other than photogrammetrists or remote sensors were excluded. Responses which mentioned periodicals subsequently excluded on this criterion are asterisked in Table 1. The results with respect to periodicals not excluded are mapped in Figure 3 and it is seen that all countries which responded, with the sole exception of Greece, have at least one national periodical and six have more than one. The first column of Table 1 indicates that six responses, including Greece, gave details of other periodicals with some photogrammetry and remote sensing content and it is certain that there are others: the United Kingdom, for example, enjoys several periodicals with such content, but these were not listed in the response to the Questionnaire since they were not explicitly requested. Also omitted are the "other series publications" which are mentioned in the title of this paper. No response covered these in their own right, though it is possible that some of the Swedish and Swiss publications in Table 1 fall into this category. Yet it is certain that numerous such publications exist, for example as working papers or research reports from educational institutions or research organisations.

The "Issues per Year" information in the second column of Table 1 corresponds to the "Interval of publishing" requested by Questionnaire 8201. Most periodicals are published one to six times per year, i.e. annually to bimonthly, but a few are more frequent.

Several responses to the Questionnaire indicated doubt or misunderstanding about the meaning of "Print run" and the definition of "subscriber" (the Questionnaire requested information about both). From the combined responses to these two questions, however, it was possible to deduce the print run of each periodical and this information is given in the third column of Table 1. The range of responses was wide, from 100 to 6500. There is some evidence that periodicals with high photogrammetry and remote sensing content have print runs below 2000, but ITC Journal is an extremely important exception to this generalisation.

The fourth column of Table 1 is also a faithful reflection of Questionnaire 8201. It gives the number of pages per year for each periodical, subdivided into three categories: a) total (excluding advertisement); b) on photogrammetry and remote sensing; c) advertisement. Once again, a wide range of responses was received, ranging from 35 to 1000 pages for a) with values for b) ranging from 16% to 100% of those given for a). Advertising ranged from zero to values for c) equal to more than 50% of a), though values from 10% to 25% were most common. None of the above should be taken as definitive, since many periodicals change their size from year to year.

Table 1 Results of Questionnaire 8201

Name of Publication	Issues per Year	Print Run	Number of Pages	Readership	Area
<u>1 Austria</u>					
Oesterreichische Zeitschrift fuer Vermessungswesen und Photogrammetrie	4	1200	a) 248 b) 25-50 c) 30	Surveyors, Photogrammetrists	N
<u>2 Belgium*</u>					
Bulletin trimestriel de la Société Belge de Photogrammétrie et de Télédétection	2	400	a) 160 b) 100 c)	Surveyors, Geographers, Teachers	NR
<u>3 Cyprus</u>					
Bulletin of the Cyprus Photogrammetric Society <sup>2</sup>	Variable	100	a) 76 b) 48 c) 0	Cartographers, Surveyors, Photogrammetrists, Geologists	N
<u>4 Denmark</u>					
Landinspektøren	5-6	1167	a) 300 b) Variable c)	Surveyors	N
<u>5 Federal Republic of Germany</u>					
Bildmessung und Luftbildwesen	6		a) 400 b) 400 c) 20	Surveyors	I
<u>6 Finland*</u>					
Maanmittaus	2	1400	a) 250 b) 40 c) 10	Surveyors	N
The Photogrammetric Journal of Finland	1	600	a) 80 b) 70 c) 10	Surveyors	I

Table 1 Results of Questionnaire 8201 (continued)

Name of Publication	Issues per Year	Print Run	Number of Pages	Readership	Area
<u>7 France</u>					
Bulletin de la Société Française de Photogrammetrie et de Télédétection	4	650	a) 204 b) 204 c) 36	Surveyors, Geologists, Geographers, Photogrammetrists, Remote Sensors, Architects etc	
<u>8 Greece*</u>					
-					
<u>9 Ireland</u>					
Survey Ireland <sup>3</sup>	1	400	a) 35 b) 10 c) 5	Surveyors	N
<u>10 Italy</u>					
Bollettino di Geodesia e Scienze Affini	4	1000	a) 600 b) 200 c) 50	Searchers, Surveyors	I
Bollettino degli Ingegneri	12	6500	a) 600 b) 100 c) 100	Engineers	R
Bollettino della Società Italiana di Topografia e Fotogrammetria	4	1000	a) 500 b) 200 c) 50	Searchers, Surveyors	N
Rivista del Catasto e dei Servizi Tecnici Erariali	6	2000	a) 600 b) 200 c) 0	Technicians, Cadastral Surveyors	N
<u>11 Netherlands*</u>					
Geodesia/Nederlands Geodetisch Tijdschrift <sup>4</sup>	6	3200	a) 240 b) 50 c) 200	Surveyors, Photogrammetrists	NI

Table 1 Results of Questionnaire 8201 (continued)

Name of Publication	Issues per Year	Print Run	Number of Pages	Readership	Area
<u>11 Netherlands* (cont)</u>					
ITC Journal	4	5200	a) 450 b) 320 c) 100	Photogram- metrists, Cartographers	I
Photogrammetria	6	900	a) 240 b) 240 c) 60	Photogram- metrists	I
<u>12 Sweden*</u>					
Fjärranalys	2	2000	a) 40 b) 40 c) 0	Surveyors, Geologists, Planners etc	R
Fotogrammetriska Meddelanden	1-2	300	a) 150 b) 150 c) 0	Surveyors	I
Papers of the National Land Survey	10-20	2000	a) 400 <sup>5</sup> b) 300 <sup>5</sup> c) 0	Surveyors	N
<u>13 Switzerland*</u>					
Remote Sensing Series	2		a) 150 b) 150 c) 0	Various Professionals	I
Vermessung, Photogram- metry, Kulturtechnik	12		a) 370 b) 60 c) 80	Surveyors, Photogram- metrists	I
<u>14 United Kingdom</u>					
International Journal of Remote Sensing	6	1000	a) b) 900-1000 c)	Remote Sensors, Allied Disciplines	I
The Photogrammetric Record	2	1250	a) 237 b) 237 c) 49	Surveyors, Photogram- metrists	I

Table 1 Results of Questionnaire 8201 (continued)

Notes

- \* Response to Questionnaire included details of other periodical(s) with slight photogrammetry and remote sensing content
- 1 Details given of six other periodicals, which have slight photogrammetry and remote sensing content
- 2 In future to be entitled Bulletin of the Cyprus Photogrammetric and Cartographic Association
- 3 Commenced 1983: details subject to change
- 4 Two titles combined in 1980
- 5 Includes computer-aided cartography

Note: Advertisements in some periodicals may include loose inserts, for example IIC Journal and The Photogrammetric Record

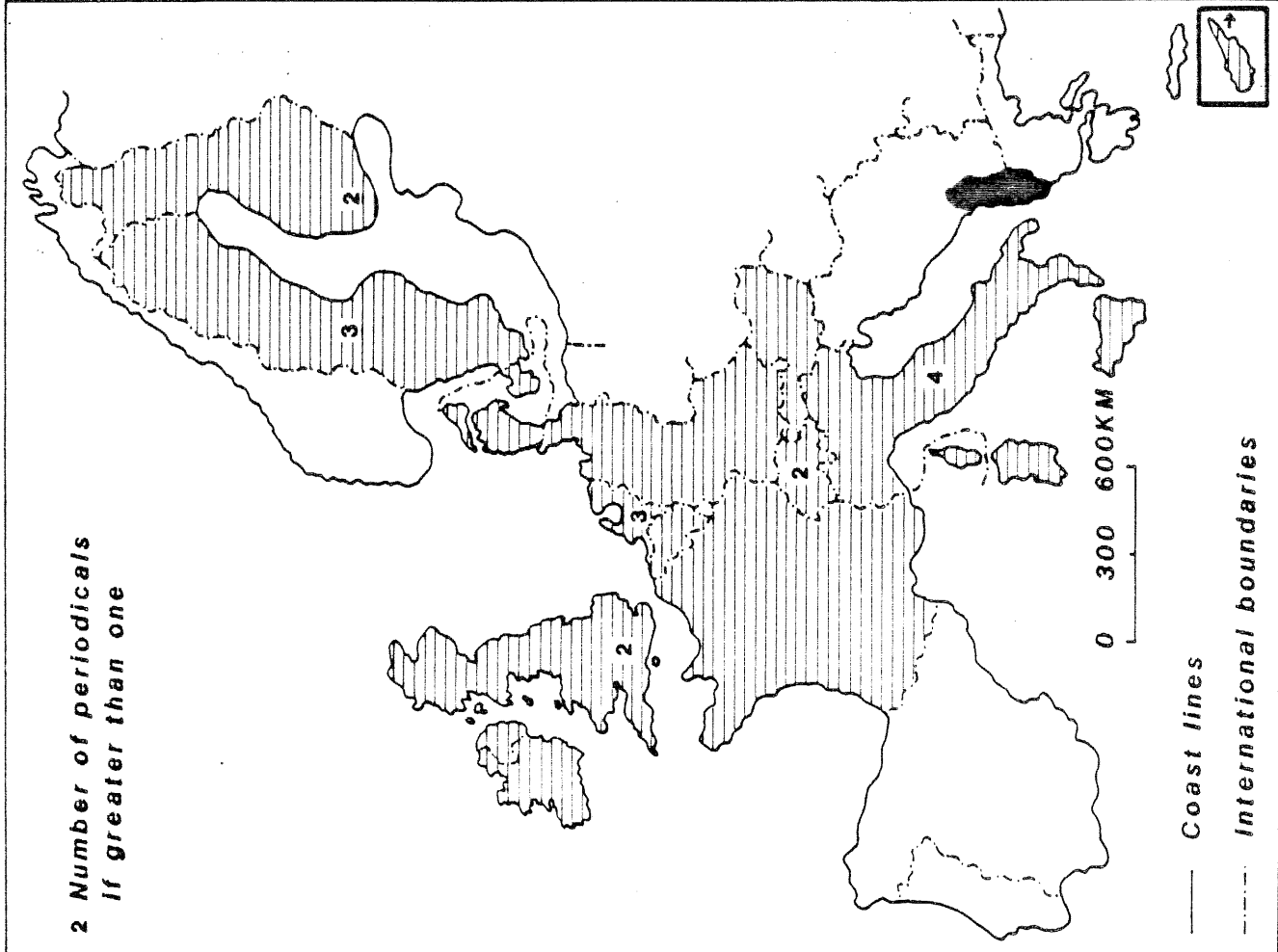


FIGURE 3 PERIODICALS WITH SIGNIFICANT PHOTOGRAMMETRIC AND REMOTE SENSING CONTENT

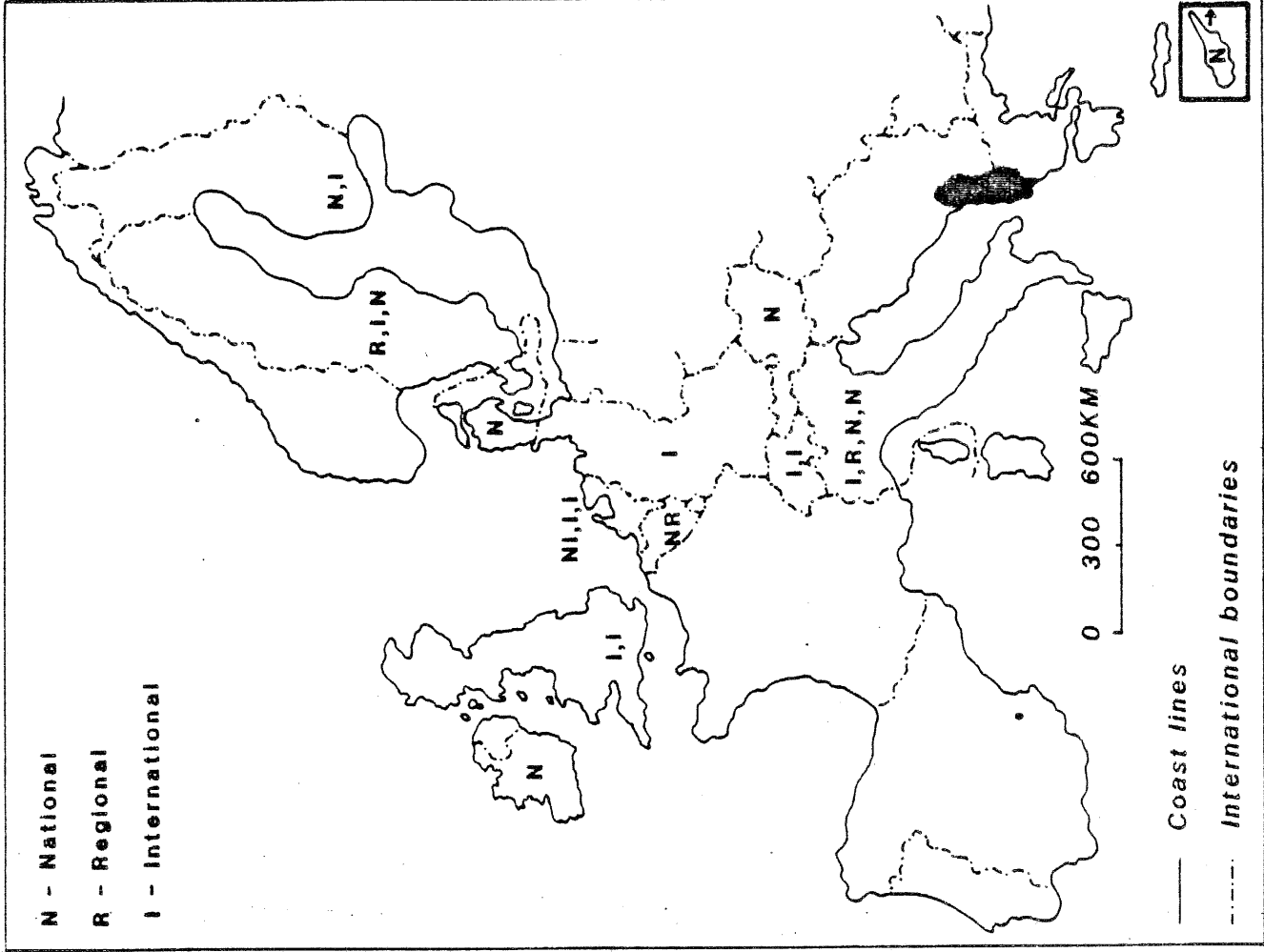


FIGURE 4 READERSHIP OF PERIODICALS SHOWN IN FIGURE 3



The fifth column of Table 1, "Readership", corresponds exactly to "Main professional field of readers (surveyors, geologists, architects etc)" in Questionnaire 8201. The predominant responses, clearly, were "surveyors" and "photogrammetrists" and it is obvious that the former term subsumes the latter in many countries; it also seems likely that remote sensors are included in these categories in several countries. In many cases the readership was construed by the responder as being much wider, including, for example, cartographers, geographers, geologists and engineers. These wider readerships were not, however, restricted to those periodicals with relatively low photogrammetry and remote sensing content.

The final column of Table 1 is entitled "Area". This corresponds to the final column of Questionnaire 8201, headed "Publication being read nationwide, regionwide, international", the geographical coverage being measured in terms of whether articles in the publication were referenced in publications of other countries. There is evidence that responders did not interpret coverage in this way but preferred to base their responses on breakdowns of the addressees of mailed copies of the periodicals. In Table 1 and in Figure 4, a map of the responses to this final question, the letters N, R and I are used to signify national, regional and international coverage respectively, though two responders mixed these categories. It is seen from Figure 4 that seven countries felt that at least one of their periodicals reached a truly international readership whereas four claimed a purely national audience. France did not respond to this question, but its periodical listed in Table 1 has an international readership. With the exception of the United Kingdom, in which two internationally read periodicals are published, each country publishing more than one periodical indicated different categories of readership for its different periodicals, for example Sweden responded in terms of one regional, one international and one national periodical.

#### Comment

The responses contained virtually no information concerning possible changes or likely future trends. Although such information was not required as part of the completion of Questionnaire 8201, it was requested in the author's covering letter. There is an inference, therefore, that radical transformations such as amalgamations or disaggregations of titles or changes of media (for example to microfiche or floppy disk) are not being contemplated, though this is not certain. Furthermore, lesser changes such as different formats, typefaces or paper qualities are much more likely.

Thus there are no data from which to discern trends. Accordingly, in order to avoid meaningless speculation it has been preferred to comment by viewing this report against the background of the deliberations of Working Group VI-6, particularly with respect to regional international periodicals (RIPs).

A convenient starting point is to consider the results in the light of ISPRS Resolution T.VI/5, which was passed at the XIV Congress in Hamburg in 1980 (published in International Archive of Photogrammetry XXIII (A) 100). This resolution recommended further consideration of RIPs, with a preamble consisting of several background clauses; these clauses are of interest here.

The second and third background clauses read: "believing that individuals from all member nations should have the opportunity to publish their contributions, considering that the creation of national periodicals is not possible for many nations". The results presented above indicate that the problems implied by these clauses are not present in western Europe. There are numerous national periodicals; indeed, the situation is a buoyant one with the Irish periodical commencing as recently as 1983. Moreover, it is possible that some

periodicals may have been omitted, for example a remote sensing periodical could have been overlooked if Questionnaire 8201 was completed by a photogrammetrist. In addition to these periodicals with high photogrammetry and remote sensing contents, there is clearly a great number of other periodicals with some, albeit irregular, photogrammetry and remote sensing content, often aimed at large audiences such as engineers or geographers.

On the other hand, some of the national periodicals have been hit by the recent economic recession and have been forced to cut costs, so the existence of a national forum for photogrammetrists and remote sensors cannot be absolutely guaranteed. Secondly, some periodicals, such as the Cypriot one, have on occasions found difficulty assembling sufficient material for an issue. Thirdly, and most importantly, there is the problem of national rather than international circulation, which the results indicate is quite common in western Europe, and the related issue of language, to which the Questionnaire did not address itself. Thus a contributor to a national periodical may not reach his desired audience. Perhaps the first background clause, "recognizing that periodicals are essential for meeting the objective of disseminating photogrammetric and remote-sensing information", is worth further discussion with respect to western Europe.

The results of the Questionnaire do not bear directly on the question of RIPs, so enthusiastically pursued by Hothmer (1976, 1980, 1982b, 1982c), but they are helpful. That there are so many national periodicals apparently well capable of survival and success ensures that RIPs will remain an emotive issue: an exchange in The Photogrammetric Record (Atkinson, 1977; Hothmer, 1977) and the written responses to Hothmer's guidelines (Hothmer, 1980) are indicative of the depth of feeling. The problem of RIPs being seen as a threat to the identity and independence of national periodicals (and it is the long history of photogrammetric activity and writing in western Europe that ensures that many national periodicals are long established) will not disappear. On the other hand, the proliferation of national periodicals supports the contention that there are far too many periodicals for photogrammetrists to read (the counter-argument, that periodicals represent a valuable source of reference whether or not they are read immediately upon publication, is not affected). The results, however, do provide some clear evidence in support of RIPs: there are many potential contributors and readers, who would enjoy the larger size, greater frequency and lower unit costs associated with RIPs; and there are many advertisers, who would doubtless place more advertising to reach the greater circulation of RIPs. A demerit would remain, however, despite the various counter-arguments advanced: readers would not willingly pay for papers in a language other than the one in which they were accustomed to working - this would be a real problem in western Europe, where scientists use numerous languages.

## Conclusion

Questionnaire 8201 has been circulated to western European countries and the results of completed Questionnaires discussed. Many periodicals are published, about which much data has been acquired. In retrospect, it would have been helpful if the Questionnaire had included a question on language, had been more systematic with respect to related periodicals with slight but fairly regular photogrammetry and remote sensing content and had probed the "other series publications" more deeply. Nevertheless, the results do create an informed environment in which discussion on RIPs and ISPRS publications policy (cf Thompson (1982)) can take place.

## References

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