

PREFACE

This 18th Annual Report of the National Science Foundation presents an account of major activities in support of scientific research and education in the sciences during fiscal year 1968. In accordance with the format established with the report for fiscal year 1967, discussion of direct support for research is arranged, insofar as possible, by major fields of science rather than in correspondence with the administrative structure of the Foundation. Other programs, however, which cut across scientific disciplines and provide support for science education and institutional development, are presented individually as program elements having multiple objectives. One example of this type of program (among a number of others) is found in Foundation support for computing activities in research and education, which assumes separate organizational status for the first time in fiscal year 1968.

As an additional convenience for the reader, the report this year contains an index which is intended to facilitate a better understanding of the relationship between program activities and the broader objectives of the Foundation as a whole.

The financial statement for the year is presented as appendix B, and various component or supporting data are included where appropriate in the description of activities. Data on prior years are also presented where such information may be useful for purposes of comparison.

A listing of grants, contracts, and fellowship and traineeship awards is published as a separate volume entitled "National Science Foundation Grants and Awards, Fiscal Year 1968" (NSF 69-2).