



Searching for standards

as the Standards Council of Canada (SCC)—an organization that coordinates and oversees efforts of people and organizations involved in our National Standards System—was being formed.

Here are two sites that may help you navigate the complex network of standards and standards-writing organizations that guide engineering work today.

The Standards Council of Canada <http://www.scc.ca>

The SCC's 30th anniversary was marked recently in a special issue of *Consensus*, a publication of the Standards Council of Canada. You can find this special issue and much more at the SCC home page. From this site, you can search by keyword for standards written by Canadian standards-writing organizations. The site is worth a thorough inspection, because it offers a great deal of useful information: Use the menu on the left-hand side to locate links to "News," "Find a Reg-

ulation" and "Alert Services." Most standards are voluntary unless they are embodied in law, and so a "Find a Regulation Link" is provided.

National Standards Systems Network <http://www.nssn.org>

Another valuable and comprehensive source is NSSN, maintained by the American National Standards Institute. Although NSSN stands for National Standards Systems Network, this system covers standards from approximately 600 national, foreign, regional and international bodies, including Canadian ones. For a listing of these organizations, click on "Developers" on the left side and then click on "Acronym Directory." To search for standards by keyword, title, number or organization, click on "Document Search."

*Reference Department of the University
of Toronto's Engineering and Computer
Science Library*

The author of *Standards in Canada*, Robert F. Legget, P.Eng., began his work with this quotation from the *Magna Carta*, which illustrates the importance of standards even in 1215, when the charter of liberties was written: "There shall be one measure of wine throughout our kingdom, and one of ale, and one measure of corn, to wit, the London quarter, and one breadth of dyed cloth, russets and haberdashes, to wit, two ells within the lists. And as with measures so shall it be also with weights." Legget was writing his book just