

European Documentation Centres: Reaching out to the general public?



Kinga Kollár

Network co-ordinator

EC Representation in Budapest

EDCs in Hungary: some facts

- 12 EDCs at universities and a depository library in the Hungarian Parliament
- Faculty libraries and central libraries
- Closeness to teaching and research is varying



Coordination and support on national level

- Regular communication through email lists, press list, forwarding relevant information
- Yearly EDC meeting, invitation to other network meetings, events
- EDC signpost tables

Outdoor signposts: heavy logistics



Traditional activities

- Specialized library services
- Cataloguing
- Bibliography, link collections and internet research guides
- Research material for students and teachers, literature research
- Website

Examples of pro-active communication activities

- Training sessions on how to use EU information sources and the EDC library (credits!)
- Promotion campaign (using promo materials)
- Newsletter
- Specialized training courses for librarians and information specialists

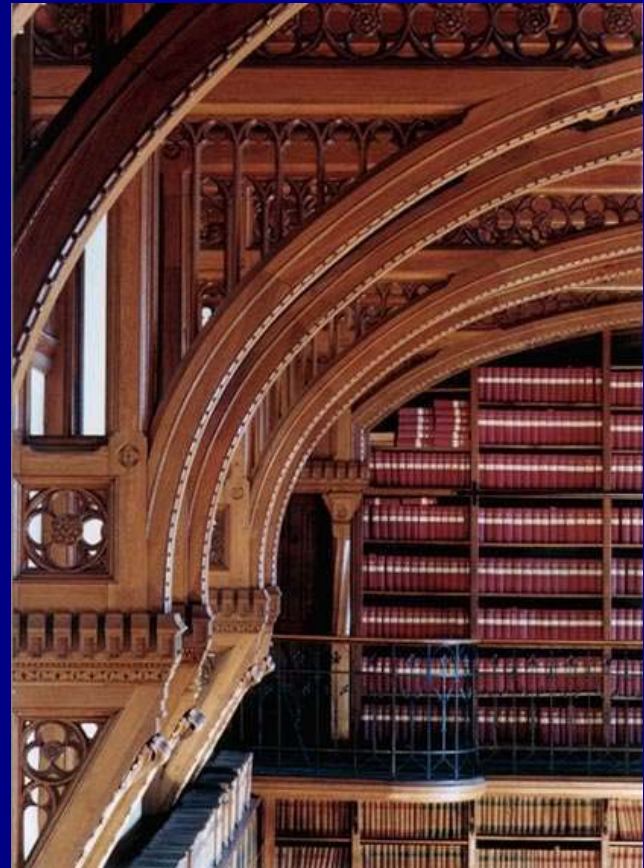
Examples of pro-active communication activities

- Exhibitions
- EU quiz on website
- Competition for students
- Contact with university radio station
- Articles in specialized press



Examples of pro-active communication activities

- Conferences
- Public lectures
- Participation at open days
- Visits
- Book presentations
- Traineeships



Is this what is expected?

- Depends on local facilities and personal initiative
- No real influence from the Commission's side on activities
- No financial means!

What do we really want?

Agreement

Host structure undertakes to:

- Promote and develop study and research in the field of European integration
- Make information on the European Union and its policies available to the public
- Participate in the debate on the EU

2005 Report

« EDCs cannot be seen only as traditional libraries collecting books and other publications. They are also centers of guidance on how to find and use EU information and this part of their work is becoming increasingly important. »

Which direction?

Reaching out to general public v. targeted actions to students and academia

Specialized libraries v. centers of excellence

Digital information providers v. Traditional libraries