BODLEIAN LAW LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO THE EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE [EDC] IN THE BODLEIAN LAW LIBRARY

About the European Documentation Centre
European Document Centres are neutral collections of official publications of the European Union (EU), open to the public, and usually housed in academic libraries throughout the EU. EDC status entitles the host library to receive one copy free of charge of most significant publications and documents of the EU. There are over 40 EDCs in the UK. The Bodleian Library has been an EDC since 1963.

The EDC is on the lower floor of the Bodleian Law Library, next to the Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer IT Room.

The EDC collection
The EDC contains the official publications of the European Union:

Legislation and law reports¹
Treaties, regulations, directives, decisions
Proposals for new legislation
Documents generated during the legislative process
European Parliament debates – now only on-line
The case law of the European Court of Justice

Reports
Commission reports on all aspects of the EU
Council reports on institutional matters
European Parliament reports

Statistics
General statistics; economy and finance
Population and social conditions
Energy and industry
Agriculture, forestry and fishery
Foreign trade
Services and transport
Environment; miscellaneous

Journals
Journals and newsletters are filed at the end of each subject division.

¹ Much of this material is also available in the Euro Comm section of the Bodleian Law Library, which is a strong collection on the law of the European Union. It is arranged in the same way as the Bodleian Law Library collection, and situated on the lower floor immediately adjacent to the EDC.
**The EDC classification scheme**

EDC/EF European Foundation for the Improvement of Living & Working Conditions

EC/Bib Bibliographic works

EC/0 European Union General (includes enlargement publications)

EC/0(T) Treaties

EC/01 European Coal and Steel Community

EC/02 European Economic Community

EC/03 European Atomic Energy Community

EC/1 Commission

EC/2 Council

EC/3 European Parliament

EC/4 Court of Justice

EC/5 Economic and Social Committee

EC/6 European Investment Bank now European Central Bank

EC/7 Committee of the Regions

EC/8 European Monetary Institute

EC/9 European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products

EC/A General economic affairs

EC/AL Regional policy

EC/B Financial and monetary affairs

EC/C Industry (including business, enterprise and consumer policy)

EC/CL Energy

EC/CM Coal and steel

EC/D Agriculture and food

EC/E Competition *(until 1978 only; see EC/F after that date)*

EC/F Trade, customs, internal market, competition

EC/G External affairs and development

EC/H Social affairs (includes publications on women)

EC/HA Labour and employment, migration, trade unions, wages

EC/HB Social welfare (including housing, health and safety)

EC/HC European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

EC/HD Education (including industrial training)

EC/HL Population

EC/HN Environment

EC/J Law *(see also Euro Comm)*

EC/K Transport

EC/L Tourism

EC/T Science and technology, information science and patents

Within each section, you will find books and pamphlets first, by year of publication e.g. EC/HA 1989(1), then periodicals and series e.g. EC/A per.3.

The small reference collection contains bibliographical guides and books about the EU. It can be found at the end of the main collection, and is arranged in the following order:

EDC/EC.1 General works and guides

EDC/EC.2-5 Bibliographies and indexes

EDC/EC.6 European Parliament

EDC/EC.8 European Communities

EDC/EC.9 Single European Market

EDC/EC per.1- Journals
Finding material
For general information on the EU and for access to recent documents, use the links from the EU’s own server Europa: http://europa.eu/. The internet is often the quickest and most effective tool for accessing current EU publications, as more and more material is made available in full text online. However, Europa can be difficult to navigate, and so you may find it easier to carry out an internet search using a search engine, such as Google. There is also a Google search box http://searcheuropa.eu/ set up by EU4Journalists (http://eu4journalists.eu/) that you can use to search the 28 million pages Europa.

If you find internet references to documents, without full text availability online, use OLIS http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk/olis/ or SOLO http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk to locate paper copies of items received in the EDC since 1988; pre-1988 material can be accessed via a card title catalogue in the EDC.

If you are searching for older material, you may find indexing methods within individual publications such as the Official Journal (O.J) poor. Many important items appear in issues of periodicals, which are not indexed separately. If you are looking for something in the Official Journal try using a database first, to get an O.J. reference.

General subject access, using statistics, and answering broad policy questions using the EDC publications can be difficult. The classification system, which is different from that used in the Bodleian Law Library, is listed on the end of the shelves in the EDC, and on page 2 of this guide. Although the EDC is broadly arranged by subject, the multi-disciplinary approach may make browsing unsuccessful. If you have any problems in finding material, please ask - it is likely to save you a lot of time.

Further EDC material
There is a small collection of reference material in the EDC by the seating area, which is mainly bibliographical. It contains some good handbooks and directories, e.g. Vacher’s European Companion (shelved at EDC/EC.8.8), books on the Single Market and the European Parliament.

Other materials about the EU, including text books and legal periodicals, are kept in the Euro Comm section of the Bodleian Law Library, and elsewhere in the Bodleian Libraries. You can identify them via the online catalogue OLIS, and most (with the exception of open access materials in other Reading Rooms) may be ordered to the Bodleian Law Library.
The following resources may help you to identify and trace further relevant material.

Davies, E (ed)  
Euro Comm 450 R178a7

Jeffries, J  
*A guide to the official publications of the European Communities.* Covers the period up to the end of 1979.  
EDC / EC.1.2

Thomson, I  
*The documentation of the European Communities: a guide.* This continues coverage to early 1988.  
EDC / EC.1.5

Overy, P.  
*European information: a guide to official sources.* Published 2005. There is an up-to-date online version available via the members’ area of the European Information Association website [http://www.eia.org.uk/](http://www.eia.org.uk/) Please ask the staff (email edc@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) if you wish to consult it.  
Euro Comm 400 O96a

**Further information**

For information about printed, web and electronic sources of EU law, please see the Bodleian Law Library guides *Guide to the European Union collection* and *Electronic sources of EU law*. There are also guides to EU competition law and case law resources: *EU competition law resources in the Bodleian Law Library* and *Sources of European Union case law*.

Refer to our web site for useful links:  
[http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/collections/edc](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/collections/edc)

**Further assistance**

You may ask any member of the Library’s staff for help, or send an email to edc@bodleian.ox.ac.uk, or telephone the Academic Services Librarian on (2)71464. This is a complex collection; if you cannot find what you are looking for, **please ask** for help.