



European Documentation Centres:

*Online repositories
of EU information sources*





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Introduction

Aim of the catalogue

This brief e-catalogue has been produced to present four European electronic repositories which have been created by the EDC network members. Each repository is presented in a factsheet to help familiarise the reader with its contents, its founder(s) and the contributing EDC members. The factsheets also look at further (future) developments of the repositories, which is an important area currently under investigation by the newly created Pan-European Working Group (PEWG) on European repositories.

Rationale and work of the PEWG

The Pan-European Working Group on European repositories was created in 2010.

A group of 17 experts from EDCs have been selected on the basis of the quality of their proposals and their expertise in European repositories, following a call for expression of interest which was opened to all EDCs.

The PEWG on European repositories has a three-fold mission:

- The creation of a knowledge base using a bottom-up approach to identify and evaluate the experiences and multiple sources of expertise available within the Europe Direct Network;
- The creation and presentation of knowledge in tangible outputs to enable all Europe Direct Network members to benefit from this knowledge;
- The creation of 'pools of expertise' within the Europe Direct Network, with the support of PEWG members who could act as 'contact points' for further assistance to fellow Network members.





Survey on European electronic repositories

One of the PEWG's first missions involved the identification and analysis of existing projects regarding European repositories within the EDC network, followed up with a report on its findings. For this purpose, a survey was carried out in October/November 2010 among the PEWG members to investigate:

- The existing electronic repositories within the EDC network; four of these are presented in this catalogue;
- The use made by all the PEWG members of the repositories identified. This gave an insight into the access and use of each repository, its perceived content and preferred language regime;
- Further possibilities to develop each repository regarding content and possible synergies with other European repositories.

The main results are given in each individual factsheet presented in this catalogue.

Work programme 2010-11

Following the outcome of the survey, the PEWG defined its work programme and will explore the possible creation of an EDC Network Information Portal (ENIP). This portal could provide access to a repository of relevant information for the EDC network, using the existing repositories as described in this document. It also looks at the potential development of an EDC Network European Information Service based upon the evolution of European Sources Online (ESO), although this option still needs further reflection and consideration.





Profile of EDZ ArchiDok

A project covering 20 EDCs from five countries with documents in German, French and English; the server is located at EDC Mannheim

Introduction

Created in 2003 for students and other visitors to the EDC, other EDCs, and professional users such as universities, the repository specialises in scientific content.

The repository can be accessed openly and is publicly available.

Statistics are available concerning its use.



<http://archidok.uni-mannheim.de/en/>

Content

ArchiDok uses mainly "grey literature" (literature which is not readily available through normal book-selling channels and which is therefore difficult to identify and obtain) produced by several EU agencies as information sources.

The repository contains studies, reports, surveys and working papers.

There are 8 729 items (at 23 December 2010) the oldest of which dates from 2000. Every year, about 800 (2010 figure) documents are added.

Subject indexing is based on a classification according to ECLAS (in German and in English) as well as a keyword thesaurus for the social sciences (in German and in English) and a keyword thesaurus for economics (in German and in English).

The database is based on a locally developed software package (php/MySQL).

Languages

- **Key language**

The interface of this repository and keywords are available in English and German.

- **Other languages**

Text documents and abstracts are also available in French, in addition to English and German.

Repository management

The repository is updated monthly. PDF files are directly uploaded via a web interface. For bibliographic data, a stepped upload procedure is used, which means that the user uploads the data into a temporary file repository for the webmaster(s) via a web-based cataloguing system.

Overall quality control is ensured by the EDC in Mannheim.

Guidelines are available for the use and management of the repository including authors' rights (repository policy).

Future developments

- **Important stimuli**

According to one of the contributors to ArchiDok, the following stimuli are important for the development of the repository and its contents:

- Increase its contents which can be accessed openly;
- Increase financial support from a national or European funding programme;
- Implement a new version of ArchiDok (end 2010) and find new project participants.

Contributors to ArchiDok are positive about the integration possibilities of this repository with other repositories/systems. They are in favour of creating one single website as a "European portal" to access several electronic repositories which are managed by the EDCs. They are also positive about the integration/linking of the repository with other European repositories.





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Profile of European Sources Online(ESO)

On-line database managed by the EDC Cardiff University in the UK

Introduction

Created in 1998 for citizens in general, students, universities, professional people, governments, parliaments, business and fellow EDCs, this repository offers a broad coverage of EU information.

You can access the database via a subscription. In addition to commercial access, ESO is freely available to all students/researchers at Cardiff University and external users of the Cardiff EDC.



<http://www.europeansources.info>

Content

ESO offers access to information from a wide variety of information sources, such as:

- Full-text official EU documentation and publications (OP, EU Bookshop and ECLAS);
- Non-official European information sources (such as EurActiv);
- Non-official European information sources (such as national newspapers);
- EDCs' own collections;
- Academic research material;
- Commercial European information sources.

ESO includes Information Guides which are compiled by the ESO Editorial Team and are unique to ESO. ESO also offers material from think-tanks, research organisations, national governments and other international organisations such as the Council of Europe, OECD, OSCE, EFTA, WHO, IMF, etc.

The repository stores certain full-text material, (for example, articles from the Financial Times newspaper and the ESO Information Guides on the ESO server), but generally provides hyperlinks to full-text information on external websites.

There are 220 000 items of which the oldest document dates from 1992. Every year, about 15 000-20 000 (2010 figures) new items are added.

Freely assigned keywords in English and specific keywords, according to a unique system created for ESO, are used as subject indexing.

A locally developed software package is used for the repository.

Languages

• Key language

English is the interface language of this repository as well as for its text documents, its keywords and the abstracts.

• Other languages

However, the guide to ESO is also available in French, German, Italian, Czech, Croatian (with other languages being translated at present). The "About ESO" and the new EDC pages will also be translated into other European languages.

- Many of the hyperlinks to information/documents/websites in ESO link to the English text with an option at that stage to find a version in other languages (for example, RAPID, EUR-LEX, EurActiv).

Repository management

The repository is updated daily using a direct upload form. Overall quality control is ensured by the EDC Cardiff.





Future developments

• **Important stimuli**

According to EDC Cardiff University (founder of the EDC), the following stimuli are important for the development of the repository and its contents:

- Increase its contents which can be accessed openly (publicly available);
- Increase the language versions of the full-text documents;
- Increase the language versions of the abstracts;
- Increase the language versions of the classification and metadata;
- Increase financial support from a national or European funding programme.

The staff at EDC Cardiff University are positive about integration possibilities of this repository with other repositories/systems. They are in favour of creating one single website as a “European portal” to access several electronic repositories which are managed by EDCs.

• **Sharing content**

It is difficult to share content of this repository with other platforms or repositories as the ESO does not comply with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting. Use of a common upload form will be difficult.

• **Subscription policy**

Under the current model, ESO is a subscription service. However, it is open to changing its economic model to give greater EDC free access as long as there can be greater editorial input from the EDCs (allowing a reduction in existing costs).



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Profile of KETlib

A Greek repository located at the University of Piraeus library

Introduction

Created in 2006 for students, visitors of the EDC and professional users such as universities, the repository specialises in scientific content.

The repository can be accessed openly and is publicly available. Users can also access the database directly from the EDC.



Content

The following types of information sources are included in this repository:

- Full-text official EU documentation and publications (OP, EU Bookshop and ECLAS);
- Academic research material.

In future, the repository will collect full-text articles (and metadata), working papers, theses (full text and metadata), and specific training materials for the EDCs.

There are 151 items, the oldest of which dates from 1997.

ECLAS (in the language of the country and in English) is used as classification system for subject indexing.

Dspace is used as the software package for this repository.

Languages

The languages of the repository interface are English and Greek.

Text documents, keywords and abstracts are available in English and Greek

Repository management

The information is directly uploaded by users via a web interface. Overall quality control is ensured by the university of Piraeus as the main coordinator.

Guidelines are available regarding the use and management of the repository, including authors' rights (repository policy).

Future developments

• Important stimuli

According to the founder of KET, the following stimuli are important for the development of the repository and its contents:

- Increase the contents which can be accessed openly (publicly available);
- Increase the language versions of the full-text documents;
- Increase financial support from national or European funding programmes.

The founder of KET is positive about the integration possibilities of this repository with other repositories/systems. They are in favour of creating one single website as a "European portal" to access several electronic repositories which are managed by the EDCs.

• Sharing content

The database complies with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Therefore, it would be possible to share the content in this repository with other platforms or repositories.

It would be possible to upload content from this repository by using a common upload form.





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Profile of the Portuguese European Gateway

A project developed by the Portuguese EDC coordinators

Introduction

Created in 2008 for citizens in general, students, visitors to the EDC, EDCs, and professional users such as universities, this repository offers a broad coverage of EU information.

The repository can be accessed openly and is publicly available.



<http://oeuropeu.eu>

Content

The European Gateway bases its information on a wide variety of information sources, such as:

- Full-text official EU documentation and publications;
- EDCs' own collections;
- Academic research material.

The repository contains full-text articles, working papers, books, theses (full text and metadata) and COM documents published from 1990.

There are 2 000 items, the oldest of which dates from 1997. Every year, about 500 (2010 figure) documents are added.

The database uses the following classifications as subject indexing: ECLAS, EUROVOC; LCSH; LCC (in the language of the country and in English).

DigiTool and Metalib (Ex Libris) are the software packages in use.

Languages

- **Key languages**

The interface of this repository and the keywords are available in English and Portuguese.

- **Other languages**

Text documents and abstracts are available in English, French, German, Portuguese or Spanish.

Repository management

This repository is updated daily by means of the automatic harvesting of data and/or manual upload.

Overall quality control is ensured by Universidade Lusiana de Lisboa as the main coordinator of the portal.

Future developments

- **Important stimuli**

According to the founder of the European Gateway, the following stimuli are important for the development of the repository and its contents:

- Increase the contents which can be accessed openly (publicly available);
- Increase financial support from a national or European funding programme.

The management of the European Gateway is positive about the integration possibilities of this repository with other repositories/systems. They are in favour of creating one single website as a "European portal" to access several electronic repositories which are managed by the EDCs. They are also positive about the integration/linking of the repository with other European repositories.

- **Sharing content**

The European Gateway complies with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Therefore it would be possible to its share content with other platforms or repositories.

According to the 'founder', it would also be possible to upload the repository's content by using a common upload form.





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