



Council of Europe/EBLIDA guidelines on library legislation and policy in Europe

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Guidelines on Library legislation and policy

- **Adopted by Council of Europe, Cultural Committee, October 1999**
- **Approved by EBLIDA and IFLA**
- <http://culture.coe.fr/epba/eng/ecubook%20R.3.htm>
- **Establish a legal position for libraries**
- **A framework defining the aim and the obligations of libraries**



Background and Objectives

- **Initiate a rethinking of library legislation**
 - **Convergence**
 - **Globalisation**
 - **New information technologies**
- **A common European policy on libraries**
 - **Reforming existing library legislation**
 - **Radically change national library systems**



Free access to information and ideas

- **Free = "Libre"**
- **Freedom of expression**
- **Non discrimination**



Free of charge

- **Basic library services**
- **Non discrimination**
- **How to define the scope of such provision**



Principles for collection development

- **Independent professional judgement**
- **No censorship**
- **Minorities**
- **National and international interlending and document delivery**



Principles for access to electronic networks

- **Exploit the potential of electronic information**
- **Obtain and provide electronic information**
- **No access to illegal Internet material**
- **Internet use policies**
 - **Transparent system**
 - **User rights to privacy and confidentiality**



Levels of service and performance indicators

- **Clarify the relations between libraries and the "book world"**
 - roles, duties, responsibilities
- **Infrastructure and co-operation as basic requirements for the development of the library sector**
 - Technical standards to be applied to facilitate national and international information exchange
- **Convergence of the ALM sector**



Library financing

- **Clarify level of service and adequate resources**
- **Initiative to ensure the best possible value for public money spent on libraries**
- **Library budgets reflecting the impact of new technology**




Libraries and the Knowledge Industries

- **Copyright: Establish a legal position for libraries**
- **Existing copyright exemptions should apply to digital material**
 - **Browsing within libraries is allowed**



Licences

- **License agreements- contract law/copyright**
- **Establish negotiating bodies**
 - **Consortia building**
- **Libraries' obligation to comply with licence agreements**



The protection of library heritage

- **Legal deposit**
 - Objectives
 - Cover all categories of publications
 - Compulsory/voluntary
 - Models for co-operation and other aspects
 - Access