

## The history of OPIB



The **Observatory for International Libraries and Archives Programmes (OPIB)** was created in 1989 by what was the Central Office for library heritage and cultural institutions, with an agile and representative internal structure, aimed at pursuing international Programmes mainly for libraries.

Subsequently, **OPIB** was legally established on February 7th 1994. During the years, it has carried out various activities:

- by gathering and spreading information on international Programmes and projects concerning archives, libraries and cultural services by the means of its website;
- by promoting initiatives in order to foster the partaking of Italian archives and libraries to international Programmes and projects;
- by publishing and regularly updating information regarding Community initiatives on major Italian journals;
- by spreading information through communications at conventions and congresses.



**ICCU. International Programmes Documentation Office - OPIB - Observatory for International Libraries and Archives Programmes**

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**European Documentation Centre - EDC**

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**<http://www.opib.librari.beniculturali.it>**

**EDC opening times:**

**Mon.-Fri. 10,00 - 13,00**

**Afternoons by appointment**

**Closure: August**

**ICCU**  
**International Programmes**  
**Documentation Office - OPIB -**  
**Observatory for International**  
**Libraries and Archives Programmes**  
**European Documentation Centre**  
**EDC**



Osservatorio dei  
Programmi Internazionali  
per le Biblioteche e gli Archivi



**ICCU**  
**V.le Castro Pretorio, 105**  
**00185 Rome, Italy**

## ICCU - International Programmes Documentation Office - OPIB - Observatory for International Libraries and Archives Programmes

Following the recent reform by the MIBAC, **OPIB** is currently an Office of **ICCU** aiming at offering a documentation and European information Service, through its website [www.opib.librari.beniculturali.it/](http://www.opib.librari.beniculturali.it/), which aims at providing users (among whom Italian cultural institutions: archives, libraries, museums, universities and the civil service) with the tools for knowledge of the main European and international Programmes.

In carrying out its mission, the Office sets itself various priority goals:

- increasing the knowledge of the main Programmes currently in use, pertaining to the world of culture and research, by directly giving detailed information in Italian and English regarding each Programme. Each Programme is provided with a Workprogramme and the calls for proposals published each year; the average duration of projects; the total and average funding per project; the Community funding amount, etc.
- increasing the knowledge of the main international projects, also participated to by Italy, concerning archives, libraries and cultural institutions;
- increasing the knowledge of the European Union's political-institutional situations, promoting an approach by citizens to the EU's institutions and policies;
- providing a database of documents and publications which are relevant to the field of European and International documentation;



- highlighting the most relevant news and events concerning not only international Programmes and promotional activities, but also initiatives with a broader scope;
- promoting and organizing events (info days, congresses, etc.) in order to promote the partaking of cultural institutions to Community and international Programmes and initiatives;
- promoting vocational and librarian – documentalist training for students and graduates, through specific agreements of ICCU with various universities;
- coordinating, rationalising and complementing documentation, research and studies activities through a series of conventions with other information, study and documentation centres, both Italian and European;
- publishing articles regarding the main community initiatives in major Italian and foreign journals.

### The OPIB website

Online since 2001, it documents all activities carried out during these years. The address is

<http://www.opib.librari.beniculturali.it>

There are three available versions of the web site: year 2001; year 2004; current version.

Therefore, the **OPIB** website, renewed and enriched, is constantly updated with new Sections for European and international documentation.



## EDC European Documentation Centre

The **EDC** was recently established within the competences of **ICCU's OPIB** Office, in order to offer an integrated information and documentation service and a wider knowledge regarding the main community and international Programmes.

In carrying out its mission, the **EDC** is aimed at specific users, but also to a broader public such as that made up of students engaged in research concerning the European Union and citizens interested in furthering their knowledge of European institutions.

The **OPIB EDC** is a “**Specialized Documentation Centre**” (**SDC**) in European and International Programmes and Initiatives, regarding the world of culture and research.

The services offered by the **EDC** concern:

- information about the main European and International Programmes;
- access to the documentation produced by Community institutions;
- the link with Community Databases;
- guiding users in searching for community material;
- the spreading of Community-related themes by means of promoting and organizing events (info days, workshops, seminars, etc.) and producing thematic brochures and dossiers;
- deepening the knowledge of job, training and vocational opportunities in the world of international relations.