



50 years of European Documentation Centres

Achievements and challenges for the EDCs' work in the 21st century



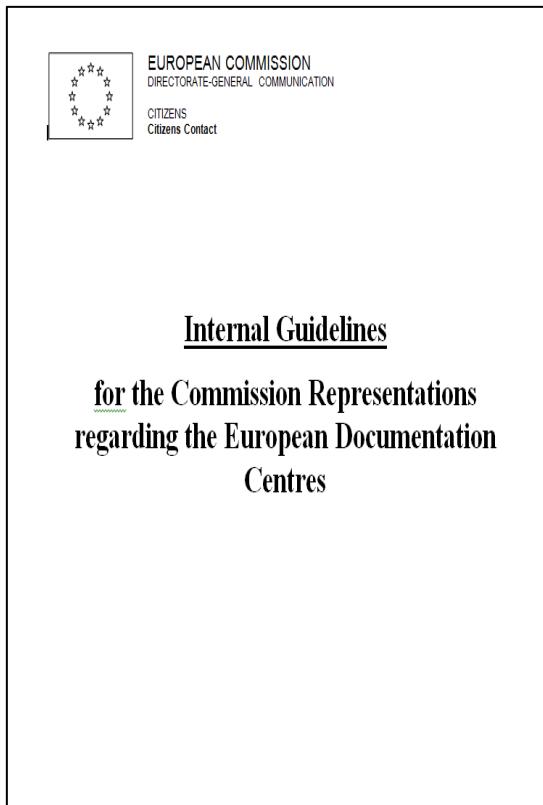
Ian Thomson
Director, Cardiff EDC,
Cardiff University



EDC Training Seminar
Brussels, 3 – 5 December 2013

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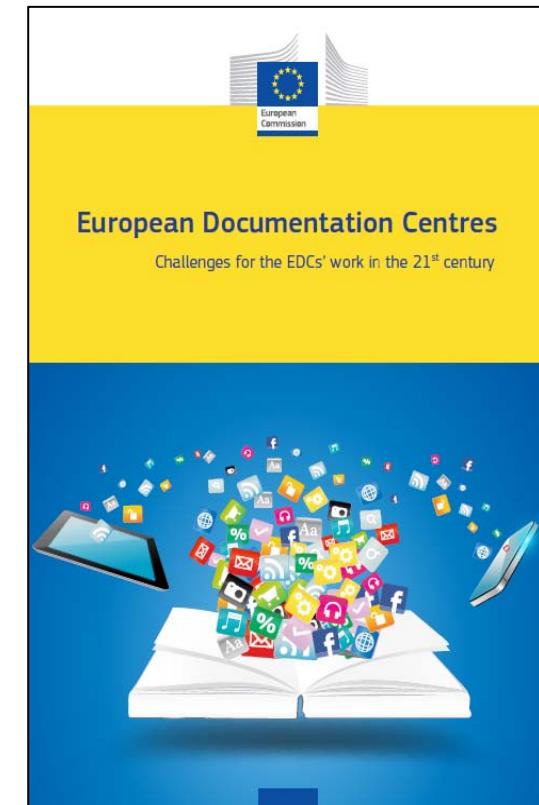
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Achievements

Challenges

Looking forward



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Achievements...

- Management of complex documentary collections and development of considerable EU information expertise to the benefit of many students, researchers and others
- People
- Development of a transnational network / national networks
- Evaluation



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Challenges

Function...

- crucial education network
 - active information relay
- comprehensive documentation collection
 - focus of European expertise
- or... irrelevant empty shell?



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Challenges

Users ...

- Students / researchers in our home institution
- Students / researchers in the wider region
- Wider community – citizens
and other stakeholders



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Challenges

Relationships ...

- Host organisation
- European Commission
- other EU Information Networks



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Challenges

Why do EDCs exist?

Would we be missed if we were abolished?

Need to adapt to evolving circumstances

‘access rather than ownership’

‘creating impact from information’

Resource constraints



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Looking forward

Raising our profile

Networking

How – Why?...



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Thank you

Further information:
thomsoni@cardiff.ac.uk



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