

Library

DIRECTORATE B

The EPRS **Directorate for the Library** provides a wide range of services to individual Members of the European Parliament, parliamentary staff and the institution as a whole. It operates the Library Reading Rooms in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg, housing the Parliament's extensive physical and digital collection of books and journals, which it acquires and manages. It provides online access to subscription-based publications for the Parliament as a whole. It maintains the institution's archives and answers citizens' enquiries about the Parliament and the EU generally. The Directorate for the Library is organised in **four units**.

The **On-Site and Online Library Services Unit** takes the lead in providing access to knowledge sources for the parliamentary community as a whole. It provides physical and online access for Members and staff to books, journals, databases, and news and information sources, whilst also providing training in the use of such sources.

READING ROOMS

The Reading Rooms hold the Parliament's collection of **80 000 books** (and a rapidly increasing number of e-books), as well as **1 000 newspapers and journals**. They are located in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg, and are open to Members and parliamentary staff. Regular events – including book launches and EPRS policy roundtables, often with expert speakers from think tanks and academia – are held in the Library Reading Room in Brussels.

The Library's five **Reading Rooms** are situated in the following locations in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg:

- **Brussels:** on the fifth floor of the Altiero Spinelli building (ASP-05D) and in the Astrid Lulling Lounge on the ground floor (Members only);
- **Strasbourg:** on the ground floor of the Winston Churchill building, next to the Swan bar, and on the ground floor of the Pierre Pflimlin building;
- **Luxembourg:** on the ground floor of the Robert Schuman building (Historical Library).

Over 11 000 books were borrowed from the Library in 2016, with over 20 000 reference requests from 1 400 users.

ONLINE KNOWLEDGE SOURCES

The **On-Site and Online Library Services Unit** also provides access, via the EPRS intranet, to around **100 electronic news services and databases** relevant to Members' parliamentary work. These include subscriptions to general EU and national news sources – such as Agence Europe, Europolitics, Reuters, AFP and the Financial Times – and subscriptions to specialist information and analytical sources – such as Factiva, Westlaw, Nexis, Oxford Analytica, EU Trade Insight and IHS Global.

In 2016, online library services of this kind received over 73 million hits from over 5 000 users in the parliamentary community. In addition, **personalised email alerts** to latest EPRS publications, as well as to new books and articles on any subject, can be set up on the EPRS intranet.

Library sources and resources can be accessed on the EPRS intranet at: www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu



COMPARATIVE LAW

The **Comparative Law Library Unit** serves as a centre of knowledge and expertise on the law of the European Union, its member states and comparable democratic jurisdictions. It is responsible for building and maintaining an extensive reference collection of legislation, case law and legal doctrine, as well as engaging in research and analysis, in the field of comparative law. It works closely with other comparative law libraries for this purpose.

EP HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The **Historical Archives Unit** manages and preserves the European Parliament's official public documents and other archival material dating back to the launch of the ECSC in 1952, and operates the Historical Library Reading Room in Luxembourg. It seeks to maintain the historical 'memory' of the Parliament as an institution, by making the archives publicly accessible, by assisting academic researchers in retrieving them for use, and by publishing historical studies of the Parliament based on the archives and other sources. It works closely with the EU Historical Archives at the European University Institute (EUI) in such work. Contact: arch-info@ep.europa.eu.

The Historical Archives also offer an archiving service for **Members' personal papers**. Current and former MEPs may, at any time, deposit documents relating to their mandate in the EP, in paper or electronic format. The documents will be analysed, organised, digitised and/or converted to PDF files. An electronic copy is then made available to the depositor. Contact: archives-MEP@ep.europa.eu.

CITIZENS' ENQUIRIES (Ask EP)

The **Citizens' Enquiries Unit** seeks to enhance the Parliament's interaction with citizens by answering letters, emails and other requests on the Parliament and EU issues received from members of the public. The Unit replied to some 80 000 such enquiries in 2016. Citizens may access the service on the EP website at: www.europarl.europa.eu/askEP. The Unit also produces 'model answers' which can be used by Members to reply to frequently asked questions. These are available at: www.eptinktank.eu/author/epanswers.

OUR ORGANISATION

