

European Research Resources

"This report aims to sketch some of the background to the EU's development, point out the functions of some of the key institutions, and above all indicate useful sources of information, both on the EU and on Europe considered more broadly. These will include general gateways as well as sites for more specific subjects such as Law or Business. Official and non-official sources will be noted, including some which go beyond the boundaries of the present EU."



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Author Profile



After several years as a musician and songwriter, Adrian Janes began his career in information in academic libraries. Subsequently he moved into public libraries with the London Borough of Havering (UK). He currently works as an Information Services Librarian in the borough's main library, where he has particular responsibility for European Union information and British Official Publications. He is also closely involved in the continuing development of a "Recommended Websites" page, and trains library staff and members of the public in the use of electronic reference resources.

He has contributed a number of book reviews and articles to FreePint. This is his first research report for Free Pint Limited.

He is married with two sons, and enjoys sharing his continuing passion for music with these young Beatles, Monkees and Ramones fans.

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Introduction

By Adrian Janes



The European Union (EU) marked its 50th anniversary in March 2007 http://europa.eu/50/index_en.htm. In this time it has grown from 6 to 27 Member States, gradually expanded the range of its activities, and become a highly complex organisation. This report aims to sketch some of the background to the EU's development, point out the functions of some of the key institutions, and above all indicate useful sources of information, both on the EU and on Europe considered more broadly. These will include general gateways as well as sites for more specific subjects such as Law or Business. Official and non-official sources will be noted, including some which go beyond the boundaries of the present EU. This is both because the EU's expansion is an ongoing process and because its development is necessarily intertwined with that of other European nations and organisations.

As an English speaker, I have usually given Web addresses for English versions of the sites. However in many cases the websites discussed will be multilingual to varying degrees, especially in the case of the EU's own sites, where as a minimum English, French and German versions usually exist. Legally binding documents are produced in all 23 official languages. Where EU publications are concerned, if a hard copy version of a document is not downloadable in your preferred language, it may be worth applying to the EU Bookshop (see below) or the national representation of the European Commission in your country http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm - click on How to find us to obtain locations of EC offices by region.

Use this report

Information Practitioners:

- Extract URLs for saving and further exploration
- Add annotations for more customised information
- Post additional queries on EU resources and research challenges to the FreePint Bar (<http://www.freepint.com/bar/>).

Information Centres:

- Post URLs from this report to intranet or internal library of resources
- Add annotations for more customised information
- Multisite licensors: Post report to intranet or internal library of resources
- Multisite licensors: Distribute report to relevant employees.

