



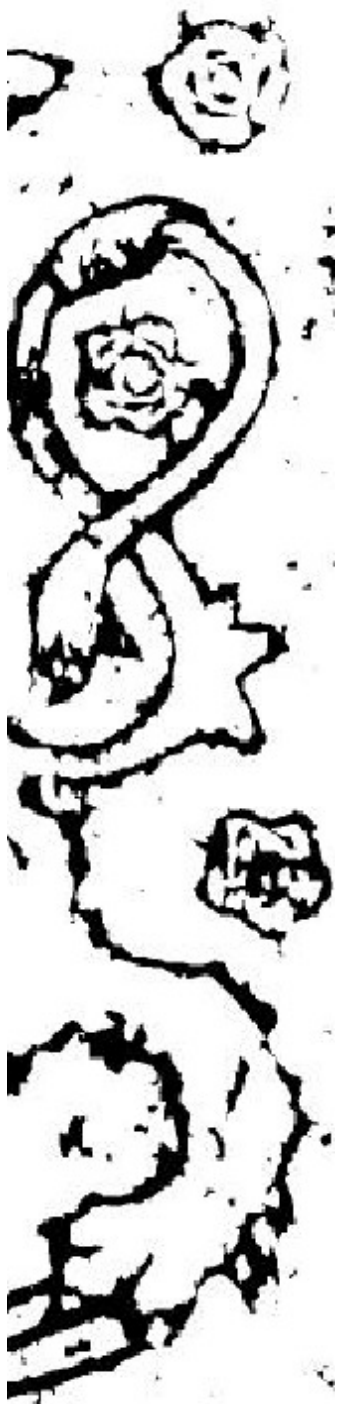
■ **Visibility of public library objectives in national legislation and policies**

A Library Policy for Europe
Vienna 7.-8.5.2009



Objectives of public library work

- -to promote equal opportunities among citizens for personal cultivation, for literary and cultural pursuits, for continuous development of knowledge, personal skills and civic skills, for internationalisation and for lifelong learning.
- (Library Act, objectives)



■ Is there really a need for library legislation?

- -Not necessarily, if
 - preconditions for continuous development of services are secured.
- -the value of library services for all is acknowledged by decision-makers.



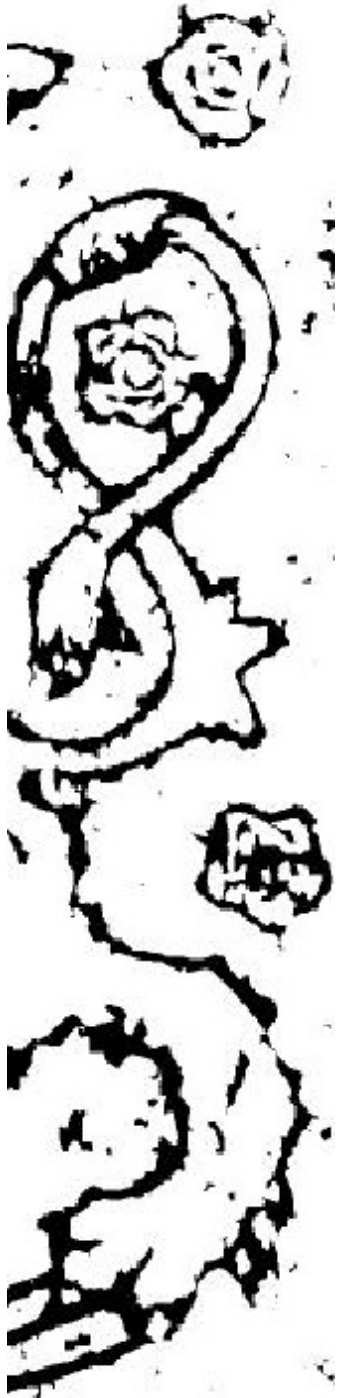


- **Only part of European countries**
 - have a library legislation. Legislation is obliging, all actors in the field must be capable of conforming to it.
 - Most countries have library strategies and programmes, aiming at ameliorating services.



■ A library strategy

- defines objectives and how to proceed to achieve the wanted conditions. The objectives of European public library strategies and programmes aim at ensuring access to information, knowledge and experiences for all citizens in the physical and virtual networks of services.



■ "The significance of the library

- will increase as a place for learning and experiences, as a conveyor of diverse knowledge and culture with a view to mastering and organizing information according to user needs, as a gateway to information and to electronic communication within the public administration, ...



■ The significance

- and as part of a learning society that practises lifelong learning, because the significance of the web and electronic communication is brought out only when the contents are being used, and ultimately by how well users have the chance and ability to utilise the information in their lives."
- Library Strategy 2010 (2003)



■ Citizenship

- in the Knowledge Society, regardless of domicile or income –
- citizenship in the European Knowledge Society

