

HISTORY OF ETL

The Group of European Toy Libraries (ETL) was founded in 1996 during the 7th International Conference on Toy Libraries in Zurich (Switzerland).

Since 1996 regular meetings have been held in the following cities:

1996	Zurich - Switzerland
1998	Paris - France
1999	Lisbon - Portugal
2000	London - United Kingdom
2001	Florence - Italy
2002	Lisbon - Portugal
2003	Graz - Austria
2004	Brasov - Romania
2005	Lisbon - Portugal
2006	Athens - Greece
2007	Barcelona – Spain
2008	Noordwijk - Netherlands

The European Group is an informal group. We are committed to the belief that play, playthings and playful interaction are essential to optimize educational, physical, psychological, social and cultural development for children.

DEFINITION OF A TOY LIBRARY

Toy libraries provide resources for play, including toys, games, trained staff and dedicated space.

European Toy Libraries are open to everybody : children and adults, able bodied and disabled persons, institutions and organisations.

Toy libraries serve people without regard to race, sex, disability, religion, language or national origin.

A toy library is a service that provides members with the opportunity for shared play and / or the loan of toys and games. A toy library can be operated by individuals, charitable organizations, local, regional or national governments or any other such agency or group.

As often as possible Toy Libraries serve as a community resource offering information, guidance and support to members in addition to the loan of toys and games.

PURPOSE OF ETL

The purposes of ETL are:

- To disseminate the concept of toy libraries as a means of bringing play and play materials to people.
- To serve as a link between national toy library organisations, providing opportunities for international exchange of ideas and materials.
- To maintain liaison with other organisations and associations relating to developmental and social issues, health, education and play.
- To organise common presentations at international events such as International Conferences organized by the International Toy Library Association.
- To cooperate with organisations having similar goals.



European**Toy**Libraries

ETL MEMBERS

The members are National Associations of Toy Libraries and European representatives of Toy Libraries :

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

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ITLA International

The Group of European Toy Libraries is a member of the International Association of Toy Libraries (ITLA) and works in close co-operation with ITLA.

ITLA is a non-profit making international organisation consisting of national toy library associations, institutions and individual members.

One of the main goals of ITLA is the encouragement of co-operation between the different national organisations. To strengthen this co-operation ITLA organises an International Conference every three years.

A unique and specialist collection of historical and other documents relating to toy libraries and play is maintained by the ITLA Documentation Centre at the offices of Centro Internazionale Ludoteche, Florence, Italy.



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