Russia

Responding institution:
Russian Library Association (RLA)

Russia submitted reports previously in 2003 and 2005. The number of public library service points changed from 49 000 in 2005 to 48 300 in 2006. According to the respondent, there are 5 700 research libraries, including science-technical libraries. (This differs widely from the figure of 2 000 mentioned in the previous report. The discrepancy may be explained by the interpretation given to "research library".) There are 66 000 school libraries and 3 000 university and college libraries.

The percentage of libraries that offer access to the Internet remains at less than 20% for all types of libraries and, more specifically, this amounts to 5% of all Russian libraries. Some 13% of libraries have computers, which includes 4% of village libraries. The figures are from a paper by the Chair of State Duma Boris, Gryzlov (Moscovskie Novosti, N. 20, 25 May 2007, or http://www.gryzlov.ru/index.php?page= publications&id=300).

In school and research council libraries, Internet access is free of charge, and also in some public libraries as a result of special funding. Federal authorities have financed the implementation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in all federal libraries, which is improving the situation in general, although municipal-level libraries appear to be lagging behind.

An average amount of local content on the Internet is available in local languages. Russia has a literacy rate of 99.8%. Although the RLA is not in favour of filtering information on the Internet, there is widespread use of filtering software in the libraries in order to protect children and safeguard public morality, and also because of computer traffic volumes.

There has been no anti-terror legislation in the past two years, but instances of violation of intellectual freedom have been indicated. The first is the State Duma's Civil Code of 2006 that restricts access to information in electronic format. The RLA's proposed amendments to this Code have not yet been adopted. The second is the decline in funding, especially for municipal libraries, resulting in cases where libraries purchased only 100 books in the past year. In the view of the respondent, this translates into restriction of access to information by local communities.

Russian libraries are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes, as these are provided by the country's healthcare and medical organisations. The high literacy rate among women obviates the need for special literacy and information programmes.

"The Code of Professional Ethics of Russian Librarians" was adopted by the RLA in 1999. This code is widely publicised and applied in the daily work of librarians. The RLA adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto, which is also widely published and discussed at conferences. The Manifesto has been translated into Russian and is available on the IFLA website, edited with a foreword by Vladimir Firsov. All delegates to the Annual Russian Library Conference in 2007 received a copy. The Manifesto is also used to formulate ICT policy for

public libraries. The RLA has adopted the Glasgow Declaration as well, which has been published in professional journals.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in the past two years.

Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

The State Duma approved the new (4th) Part of the Civil Code in 2006, which regulates the sphere of copyright and intellectual property. The main part is in defence of authors' copyrights, not on the side of users' rights to access to information. The new Part of the Civil Code restricts access to information in electronic format and seriously impacts on the country's digital libraries. The RLA has proposed amendments to this Code to improve the situation, but they have not yet been adopted by the State Duma. There has also been a decline in funding, especially for municipal libraries (due to financial barriers). Some libraries were only able to purchase 100 books in the past year. This amounts to a restriction of access to information, especially by local communities.

HIV/Aids awareness

The country's healthcare and medical organisations provide HIV/Aids awareness programmes, and Russian libraries are not involved.

Women and freedom of access to information

The literacy rate among women is 99.8%. This makes the provision of special literacy and information programmes unnecessary, as women are not seen as a special category of users in Russian libraries.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The RLA has adopted the Manifesto. It is widely published in Russian and discussed at conferences.

When the IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines on the Manifesto were adopted by IFLA in September 2006, the RLA translated it into Russian, which became the official version, and published it on the IFLA website. The Guidelines, with IFLA's permission, have been issued in Russian as a book (edited by V. Firsov) and it has been widely distributed among Russian librarians. For example, all participants of the Annual Russian Library Conference in 2007 received a free copy.

The Manifesto and the Guidelines are used to formulate ICT policy for public libraries. It is clear from the lengthy commentary on this issue that the RLA accords it a high priority for Russian libraries.

Nowadays the Manifesto and also the Guidelines are used by librarians from the Section of Public Libraries and the Section of Library Policy and Legislation of the RLA for creating and adopting the RLA Model Standard of ICT implementation in public libraries. The intent is to adopt it on the All-Russian Forum of Public Libraries (St Petersburg) in December 2007.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The RLA adopted the Glasgow Declaration, which has been widely published in Russian in professional journals. The Declaration is part of the Internet Manifesto and is promoted under that initiative.

Ethics

"The Code of Professional Ethics of Russian Librarians" was adopted by the RLA in 1999. It has been widely publicised and is applied in the daily work of librarians. The Code is introduced to newly appointed librarians and applied to issues of copyright, censorship and privacy. It is available in Russian and English at http://www.rba.ru/or/od/cod.html (Russian) and at http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/rucode.htm (English) respectively.

Main indicators

Country name:	Russian Federation
Population:	141 377 752 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Russian, many minority languages
Literacy:	99.4%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99.4%

Population figures, language and literacy are from the
CIA World Factbook, 2007 edition
(https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html).

Russia

Libraries and Internet access

Russia contributed to the World Report series in 2005 and 2003. The following section compares data and answers from 2007 with the 2005 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from the respondent's estimates, where possible.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	48 300 public libraries in 2006 (2005: 49 000)
Estimated number of school libraries:	66 000
Estimated number of university libraries:	3 000
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	5 700
Source of these numbers:	General Information Centre of the Federal Agency of Culture and Cinematography. Library statistics, Moscow, 2007; Annual Report of the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications, 2006

Internet access

Population online**:	23 700 000 Internet users as of Dec. 2005 (16.5%) (2005: 15.6%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20% (2005: Less than 20%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Average
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Average
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2005: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes – to protect children, safeguard public morality and regulate traffic volumes (2005: Yes)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in school libraries and statutory research council libraries; in public libraries Internet access is charged for, but in some it is free of charge because of certain sources having granted financing (2005: Yes, in all libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system of your country in the last two years:	Yes, in some cases (2005: No)

* Public library service points, including branch libraries.
** Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats (www.internetworldstats.com).
*** Local content is defined as content that originates in the country.