

Barbados



Responding institution:

National Library Service of Barbados

This is Barbados' first response to the World Report. The response concerns 1 public library, with 8 service points, and 5 research libraries. The latter include 1 university research library, 1 government-funded research library and 3 school libraries (including a community college, a teacher's college and a technical college library – other respondents may have interpreted these as belonging under university research libraries).

In September 2006, the Internet penetration for Barbados was estimated at 59.8% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition). It is estimated that 61-80% of public libraries offer Internet access to their users, 41-60% of school libraries and 81-100% of university and government-funded research libraries. Internet coverage of local content is average, while coverage of local languages on the Internet is very good.

The respondent has estimated the literacy rate in Barbados at 98% (the 2007 *CIA World Factbook* sets it at 99.7%).

Access to the Internet is free of charge for all libraries. During the last two years the state and other library authorities have in some instances made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system.

The library community in Barbados is not in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals and filtering software is therefore not used by the

country's libraries.

Regarding special areas of focus, the respondent has indicated that libraries in Barbados are not troubled by anti-terror legislation. Neither have there been incidents of violation of intellectual freedom.

Libraries have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness, but not in programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. They have also not been involved in special programmes to promote women's literacy or women's access to information.

According to the respondent, the library community of Barbados has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the IFLA Glasgow Declaration.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Barbados. The respondent is of the opinion that if such legislation were to be adopted, it would not impact on user privacy, and that the keeping of library user records would not affect the individual Internet library user's freedom of expression.

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

According to the respondent, there have been no reported incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. Although there may be incidents that are seen to be violations of human rights, third-party sources in general seem to support the idea that intellectual freedom is respected in Barbados. According to the

World Press Freedom Review of 2006 (http://www.freemedia.at/cms/ipi/freedom_detail.html?country=/KW0001/KW0202/KW0035/), freedom of the press in Barbados is constitutionally guaranteed and, although there is no Freedom of Information Act, the media is largely unrestricted. The Sixth Annual Conference of Caribbean Media met in Barbados from 2-3 May 2006 in conjunction with the global observance of World Press Freedom Day (http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=21985&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html).

HIV/Aids awareness

By hosting displays, exhibitions and training sessions, as well as making books available, libraries have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness. Due to the high literacy rates, there are no programmes for providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

As women in Barbados enjoy the same rights as men

and have free access to all levels of information, it is, according to the respondent, not considered necessary for libraries to be involved in special programmes to promote women's literacy or women's access to information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The library community of Barbados has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto, but intends to do so within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted by the library community, but it intends to do so within the next two years.

Ethics

The library community has not adopted a code of ethics. It does, however, intend to adopt such a code within the next two years.

Main indicators

Country name:	Barbados
Population:	280 946 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	English
Literacy:	99.7%
Literacy reported by respondent	98 %

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



Libraries and Internet access

Barbados participated for the first time in the IFLA/FAIFE World Report in 2007. No comparisons can therefore be made with previous reports.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	1 public library with 8 service points/branches
Estimated number of school libraries:	3 (a community college, a teacher's college and a technical college)
Estimated number of university libraries:	1
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	1
Source of these numbers:	Director (Chief Operating Officer) of the Public Library Service; government documents

Internet access

Population online**:	160 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (59.8%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
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:	Very much
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	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

* 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.