Côte d'Ivoire

Responding institution:
Bibliothèque Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire

This is Côte d'Ivoire's first contribution to the World Report. This report relates to the 9 public libraries and 12 research libraries, consisting of 6 university research libraries, 3 school libraries and 3 government-funded research libraries in the country.

According to Internet World Stats, Côte d'Ivoire had an Internet penetration of 0.8% in September 2006. Less than 20% of public, school and university libraries and 21-40% of government-funded research libraries offer their users access to the Internet. Access is not free, and no extra funding has been made available by the state and/or library authorities for Internet access in libraries in the last two years.

The respondent has indicated that very little local content is available on the Internet and that nothing, or practically nothing, of the content on the Internet is available in local languages. There is a difference between the reported literacy rate of 65% and the rate of 50.9% given by the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*.

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals; the motivation being to protect children and safeguard public morality. However, the use of filtering software is not widespread in the country's libraries.

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Côte d'Ivoire. The respondent believes that such legislation, if it were to be passed, might impact on user privacy.

According to the respondent, the keeping of user records does not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user, but it would also depend on the use of such archives.

No violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years have been reported by the respondent. Consulted third-party sources, however, raise concerns regarding press freedom, as discussed below.

Libraries in Côte d'Ivoire are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes and do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy or women's access to information.

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. The respondent has indicated that the intention is to adopt all three in two years' time.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation
Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Côte d'Ivoire. The respondent is of the opinion that such legislation might impact on user privacy. Regarding the keeping of user records, the respondent has indicated that it does not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user, depending on the use of such archives.

Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years
No violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years have been reported by the respondent.

Consulted third-party sources, however, raise concerns regarding press freedom.

Both the 2006 and 2007 Amnesty International reports provide information on the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire and state that freedom of expression has come under attack. Incidents involving journalists and media organisations are to be found at http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/civ-summary-eng (for 2006) and at http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Africa/Cote-d%27Ivoire (for 2007).

Similar incidents are reported by Reporters Without Borders, who in its annual reports since 2005 has expressed great concern for press freedom and the safety of journalists. The 2007 annual report states that "Côte d'Ivoire, divided in two since September 2002, has a pluralistic press, mechanisms for democratic regulation and no longer legally imprisons journalists. But it is one of Africa's most dangerous countries for both local and foreign media …" (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20735).

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Côte d'Ivoire are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes and do not have special programmes for providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy or women's access to information. The social role of libraries is not realised by the state and professionals in Côte d'Ivoire, and libraries face financial challenges that affect their ability to address specific needs.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto. It has been unaware of the Manifesto and intends to adopt it within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Glasgow Declaration. It has been unaware of the Declaration and it is the intention to adopt it within the next two years.

Ethics

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics and applies the code of ethics of the Côte d'Ivoire society. The respondent has indicated the intent to adopt a code of ethics in two years' time.

Main indicators

Country name:	Côte d'Ivoire
Population:	18 013 409 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	French (official), 60 native dialects (with Dioula the most widely spoken)
Literacy:	50.9%
Literacy reported by respondent:	65%

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

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Libraries and Internet access

Côte d'Ivoire 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*:	9
Estimated number of school libraries:	3
Estimated number of university libraries:	6
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	3
Source of these numbers:	Library Network of Côte d'Ivoire

Internet access

Population online**:	160 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (0.8%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	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:	21-40%
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Very little
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Nothing, or practically nothing
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children and to safeguard public morality
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:	No
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:	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.