

Guam

Responding institution:
University of Guam

Guam responded to the World Report in 2003 and 2005. There are 5 public libraries, 2 university research libraries, 36 school libraries and 4 government-funded research libraries. Internet access has improved significantly. Of these libraries, 81-100% offer Internet access, except for school libraries, for which the figure is 61-80%.

There is an average amount of local content on the Internet and very little content is provided in local languages. Guam has a literacy rate of 99%.

The library association is against the filtering of information, but filtering software is found in some of the country's libraries, mostly with the aim of protecting children. Internet access is free of charge in all libraries, and library authorities have made some funding available in school libraries based on poverty rates.

The USA PATRIOT Act applies in Guam and the respondent has affirmed the impact on user privacy if this law is enforced. It is felt that people should have the right to know that their library activities are not being monitored and therefore keeping user records would affect Internet library users. No incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom have been recorded in the past two years.

Libraries have become involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes through education programmes at public

schools. The university library observed a Women's History Month and displayed the local and international achievements of women. There is no special targeting of women's information needs, but these are covered by a policy of promoting access to both genders.

Guam is included in the American Library Association's Code of Ethics, and a set of guidelines for school libraries is under preparation for adoption by the Guam Education Policy Board. The IFLA initiatives have not yet been addressed, but this will probably be done within the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

It is felt that the USA PATRIOT Act will certainly impact on user privacy if it is enforced. As far as possible, users' right to know that their library activities are not being monitored should be defended.

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

There have been no incidents of violation of intellectual freedom recorded in the past two years.

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries have been drawn into HIV/Aids awareness programmes through education programmes at public schools and through "Youth at Risk" behaviour surveys.

Women and freedom of access to information

Information access is promoted regardless of gender, but there are special events like Women's History

Month, which offer the opportunity to focus on women through displays.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Manifesto has not been adopted and will be considered within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Declaration has not been adopted and will be considered within the next two years.

Ethics

The American Library Association's Code of Ethics applies in Guam, and an additional initiative is the imminent adoption of the Guidelines for School Libraries.

Main indicators

Country name:	Guam
Population:	173 456 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	English 38.3%, Chamorro 22.2%, Philippine languages 22.2%, other Pacific island languages 6.8%, Asian languages 7%, other languages 3.5% (2000 census)
Literacy:	99%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99%

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

Guam 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*:	5 (2005: 4)
Estimated number of school libraries:	36
Estimated number of university libraries:	2
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	4
Source of these numbers:	Directory of Libraries and Archives in the Pacific Islands (2nd edition)

Internet access

Population online**:	79 000 users as of Oct. 2005 (46.5%) (2005: 29.4%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 41-60%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
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
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Very little
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2005: N/A)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children (2005: N/A)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (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: N/A)

* 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.