# Kazakhstan

**Responding institution:**
*National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

Kazakhstan submitted a report for the first time in 2005. The present response indicates a total of 11 124 libraries in the country. Of these, 3 580 are public libraries, with 1 000 service points and 200 mobile service points. There are also 6 852 school libraries and 59 libraries in higher education organisations.

In all of these libraries there is less than 20% Internet access for users, with an average amount of local content on the Internet and very little in local languages. Access is, however, free of charge in public, university and school libraries. A government decree also allows payment for access. (Internet access from library computers in Kazakhstan libraries is possible on a pay and a non-pay basis according to the Decree of the Government of the RK, dated 04.04.07 #262, and the Law of the RK "On culture", dated 15.12.06). A state programme adopted in 1997 has made additional funding available to expand access.

In a turnaround from the situation in 2005, the report indicates that the library association is against the filtering of information on library Internet terminals and that there is no software in the libraries for this purpose. The report mentions no anti-terror legislation or violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

The HIV/Aids programmes and special literacy and information programmes for women that were running a few years ago are not mentioned in this report and no reasons are given in this regard.

A code of ethics was adopted in 1998, and the IFLA Internet Manifesto was adopted more recently. The library association intends to adopt the Glasgow Declaration within the next two years.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that impacts on library services has been passed since the last report. The respondent believes that even if such laws were to be introduced, they would not impact on user privacy.

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

The report makes no mention of incidents of violation of intellectual freedom, although several cases are mentioned in independent sources. Most significant is the World Report of 2007, stating that amendments to Kazakhstan's media law were adopted in July 2006. This gives the government the power to close independent and opposition media outlets for technical and administrative violations.

IFEX reports that the websites of the newspaper *Karavan* and the *Kazakhstan Today* news agency were recently shut down. Reporters Without Borders, in its 2007 report, also expresses concern about journalists who have disappeared and others harassed.

*Sources:*

http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/839371/

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22605

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21817

## HIV/Aids awareness

The programmes that were active according to the 2005 report are not referred to and no reasons have been provided.

## Women and freedom of access to information

The special programmes for women that were active according to the 2005 report are not referred to and no reasons have been given.

## IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Manifesto has been adopted by the libraries.

## IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Although the Declaration has not yet been adopted, the intention is to do so within the next two years.

## Ethics

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1998 at a congress of library workers (see http://www.bark.kz and http://www.nlrk.kz).

## Main indicators

| | |
|---|---|
| Country name: | Kazakhstan |
| Population: | 15 284 929 (July 2007 est.) |
| Main language: | Kazakh (Qazaq, state language) 64.4%, Russian (official, used in everyday business, designated the "language of interethnic communication") 95% (2001 est.) |
| Literacy: | 99.5% |
| Literacy reported by respondent: | 100% |

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

**Kazakhstan**

## Libraries and Internet access

Kazakhstan contributed to the World Report series in 2005. 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*: | 3 580 (2005: 11 000) |
| Estimated number of school libraries: | 6 852 |
| Estimated number of university libraries: | 59 |
| Estimated number of government-funded research libraries: | No data provided |
| Source of these numbers: | The database of the NLRK; *Libraries of Kazakhstan in 2006: Facts and figures* (the annual survey of the state of librarianship of the RK based on the annual reports of the Kazakhstani libraries) |

### Internet access

| | |
|---|---|
| Population online**: | 609 200 Internet users as of April 2007 (4.2%) (2005: 1.7%) |
| Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users: | Less than 20% (2005: 61-80%) |
| 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:* | Very little |
| Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: | No (2005: Yes; motivated by the need to protect children, protect national security, prevent crime and safeguard public morality) |
| Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries: | No (2005: No) |
| Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers: | Yes, in public libraries, university libraries and school libraries (2005: 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: | Yes (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.