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**Responding institution:**  
***National Library of Haiti***

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This is Haiti's first contribution to the World Report. Haiti has 30 public libraries, 11 university research libraries, 52 school libraries and 4 government-funded research libraries.

The public and school libraries have less than 20% Internet access, while university and government libraries have 21-40% access. According to the respondent, no local content is available on the Internet and there is no content in the local languages. None of the libraries offers Internet access free of charge, because of the costs and the absence of a policy to support libraries. The state has provided some funding during the past two years, but this is not enough and the money can hardly be used to provide jobs for library employees.

Haiti has a literacy rate of 40% (52.9% according to the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*).

The library association is not in favour of Internet filtering at libraries, where such software is unheard of and there is no policy in this regard. No anti-terror legislation has been passed during the past two years, and no mention is made of incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. The respondent has, however, mentioned that a long dictatorship has traumatised citizens and they are wary of any obstacles to freedom of thought and expression. The respondent has added that this dictatorship may prove to be an obstacle to

freedom of access to information and freedom of expression.

Libraries in Haiti have participated in exhibitions and conferences related to public awareness of HIV/Aids. According to the respondent, programmes for illiterate persons are not as successful as expected due to poor coordination and the absence of a library policy.

There is no code of ethics, although the library association is looking for a model on which to base such a code. Both the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted, but there is every intention of doing so within the next two years.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The respondent has pointed out that while there was no new anti-terror legislation in the past two years, the long dictatorship has traumatised citizens and they are wary of any obstacles to freedom of thought and expression. This dictatorship, in the respondent's view, may prove to be an obstacle to freedom of access to information and freedom of expression.

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

There is no mention of violation of intellectual freedom, but credible sources confirm a number of worrying incidents. The harassment of journalists has continued since 2005, and has worsened to the point of the murder of two radio reporters and a freelance photographer. These events confirm the level of

instability that does not bode well for intellectual freedom in Haiti.

*Sources:*

<http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/hti-summary-eng>

[http://www.rsf.org/IMGpdf/rapport\\_en\\_bd-4.pdf](http://www.rsf.org/IMGpdf/rapport_en_bd-4.pdf)

[http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=22294](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22294)

**HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries have participated in exhibitions and conferences on HIV/Aids. Services to illiterate persons are hampered by poor coordination of literacy programmes.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Programmes for women are also uneven due to the lack of a library policy and poor coordination among literacy providers.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not yet been adopted, but there is every intention of doing so within the next two years. The reason for the delay, according to the respondent, is the absence of a national information policy.

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

The same reason is cited for the non-adoption of the Glasgow Declaration, but once again there are plans to adopt it within the next two years.

**Ethics**

The library association is looking for a suitable model on which to base a code of ethics.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Haiti
Population:	8 706 497 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	French (official), Creole (official)
Literacy:	52.9%
Literacy reported by respondent:	40%

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

Haiti 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*:	30
Estimated number of school libraries:	52
Estimated number of university libraries:	11
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	4
Source of these numbers:	Network of the Ministry of Culture; Ministry of National Education

#### Internet access

Population online**:	600 000 Internet users as of March 2007 (7.1%)
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:	21-40%
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:	Nothing, or practically nothing
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:	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:	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, in some cases, although funding allocated to libraries is insufficient

\* Public library service points, including branch libraries.

\*\* Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats ([www.Internetworldstats.com](http://www.Internetworldstats.com)).

\*\*\* Local content is defined as content that originates in the country.