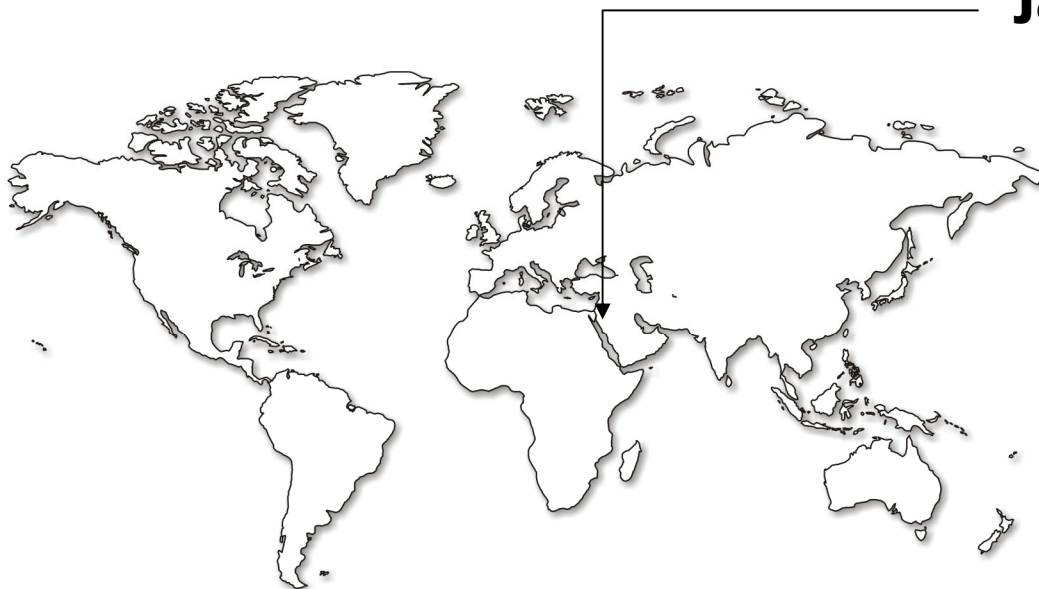


Jordan



Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

This is the first time that Jordan has responded to the IFLA/FAIFE questionnaire. There are an estimated 135 public libraries in Jordan, as well as 5 498 school libraries, 40 university libraries and 12 government-funded research libraries.

Internet penetration is fairly low, with 11.7% of the population being Internet users. Levels of access in most of the country's libraries are correspondingly low. Some 21-40% of all public libraries and school libraries, 61-80% of university libraries and less than 20% of government-funded libraries offer Internet access to their users. In the libraries where Internet access is provided, it is free of charge. The state has, in some cases, made extra funding available to improve Internet access during the last two years. The Jordan Universities Public Libraries at Yarmouk University was specifically mentioned in this regard.

An average amount of local content is available on the Internet, and an average amount is available in local languages. The literacy rate is given as 89.9% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition).

The library association is in favour of filtering information to a certain extent (e.g. for children) and filtering software is used on children's terminals in libraries. The protection of children, national security, safeguarding of religious values, and safeguarding of the national ethos/culture and public morality are all listed as reasons for the use of filtering software.

Third-party sources report that access to Internet content in Jordan "remains largely unfettered, with filtering selectively applied to only a small number of sites. However, media laws and regulations encourage some measure of self-censorship in cyberspace, and citizens have reportedly been questioned and arrested for web content they have authored" (<http://opennet.net/research/profiles/jordan>).

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Jordan has passed anti-terror legislation, but the respondent has indicated that it does not affect the privacy of library users, and also that keeping user records would not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

The respondent has indicated that there have been no incidents in Jordan in the last two years that adversely affect the freedom of access to information or the freedom of expression.

Third-party sources, however, report an incident of criminal charges of "slandorous speech" against a former parliamentarian in spite of legislation passed in March 2007 (the Press and Publication Law) that removed imprisonment as a punishment for speech-related offences (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/83576/>).

HIV/Aids awareness

There are no specific programmes by libraries to raise awareness of HIV/Aids because “premarital and extramarital sex is rare because of religious values”. In addition, government agencies are responsible for awareness campaigns.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Jordan have no special programmes that focus on the promotion of women’s literacy, as the sexes are treated equally in education and access to information. There are also no programmes specifically for women’s access to certain topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health and family planning).

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, and the respondent has indicated that its adoption is “up to the association”.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted.

Ethics

The respondent has indicated that the library association has not adopted a code of ethics.

Main indicators

Country name:	Jordan
Population:	6 053 193 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Arabic (official), English (widely understood among the upper and middle classes)
Literacy:	89.9%
Literacy reported by respondent:	89%

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

Jordan 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*:	135
Estimated number of school libraries:	5 498
Estimated number of university libraries:	40
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	12
Source of these numbers:	Greater Amman Municipality, Ministry of Municipal Affairs; Ministry of Education, National Information Technology Centre

Internet access

Population online**:	629 500 users as of Sept. 2006 (11.7%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
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
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Average
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children; for national security; to safeguard religious values; to safeguard the national ethos/culture; to prevent crime and to safeguard public morality
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree
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, in some cases – Jordan Universities Public Libraries (JUPLs), in particular the Centre of Excellence at Yarmouk University, has made an extra effort to provide Internet access

* 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.