

## Mexico




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### Responding institution:

***Biblioteca Nacional de Mexico***

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Mexico is responding for the fourth time, with previous responses in 2001, 2003 and 2005. This report concerns 7 210 public library service points and 7 108 research libraries, including 1 482 university libraries, 5 401 school libraries and 225 government-funded research libraries. (The 2005 report indicated 6 610 public library service points and 1 500 research libraries – most of which were school libraries. It is not clear why the current estimated figure is much higher for research libraries, except if the term “research libraries” was interpreted differently in 2005.)

Internet penetration for Mexico was estimated at 21.3% in May 2007, compared with 3.38% in 2003 and 11.4% in 2005. The country’s Internet penetration therefore appears to be increasing steadily.

It is estimated that less than 20% of public and school libraries offer Internet access to their users, while the figure for university libraries is estimated at 41-60% and for government-funded research libraries at 61-80%. (According to the 2005 report, less than 20% of public libraries offered Internet access to library users. The number of research libraries offering access dropped from 81-100% to 61-80%.)

According to the respondent, both local content and local languages are not well represented on the Internet. The literacy rate for Mexico is estimated at 91.4%, which compares very well with the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*’s estimate of 91%.

Access to the Internet is free of charge to users of all public, school and university libraries. (According to the 2005 report, Internet access was free of charge for all library users.) The state and other library authorities have in some instances made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system during the last two years.

The library association in Mexico is in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals. The use of filtering software is, however, not widespread in the country. No reasons or further elaboration have been offered.

Regarding special areas of focus, the respondent has indicated that libraries in Mexico are not troubled by anti-terror legislation. There have been no incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. (Several incidents have, however, been noted by third-party sources.) No sources have been suggested by the respondent to provide more insight into the status of intellectual freedom in Mexico.

Libraries have not been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness, or in programmes for providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. They have also not been involved in special programmes to promote women’s literacy or women’s access to information.

According to the respondent, the library association adopted a code of ethics in 1991, and intends to adopt both the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the IFLA Glasgow Declaration within the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Mexico. The respondent is of the opinion that if such legislation were to be adopted, it would impact on user privacy, but that the keeping of library user records would not affect the individual Internet library user's freedom of expression.

The respondent has explained that Internet access at libraries is mainly provided for searching academic or non-private information. Library users are not allowed to open emails or participate in web chat groups. (It has not been indicated whether this is enforced or checked in some way.) Recording a user's history therefore would not affect his or her freedom of speech, as the equipment with Internet access is provided exclusively for academic matters.

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

According to the respondent, there have been no incidents of reported violations of intellectual freedom. Several incidents have, however, been noted by third-party resources. Amnesty International, for example, reports in 2006 on at least four journalists being killed, apparently in reprisal for their work exposing corruption and organised crime. Many others have been harassed, threatened and assaulted, and human rights defenders working in local communities face intimidation, threats and judicial harassment (<http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/mex-summary-eng>).

Similar recent reports can be found at:

- <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Americas/Mexico>
- <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84375/> (reporting on the stand taken by the magistrates of the Supreme Court for judgement against violations against a journalist)
- <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84357/>
- <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84334/>
- [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=20539](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20539)
- [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=17426](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=17426)

According to an IFEX report, statistics in Mexico on freedom of expression are alarming in terms of the number of journalists killed since December 2000 (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/83056>). In June 2007, IFEX reported that national and international organisations for freedom of expression

are urging the Mexican Congress to proceed with a major reform of the Radio, Television and Telecommunications Law (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84388/>).

### **HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries have not been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness or providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community unable to read. The respondent has explained that they lack a budget, staff and facilities for the coordination of such programmes.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Due to lack of an adequate budget and qualified staff, libraries in Mexico have also not been involved in special programmes to promote women's literacy or women's access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association intends to adopt the IFLA Internet Manifesto within the next two years. (The 2003 report appears to be conflicting in this regard, indicating that the Manifesto had been adopted.)

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

The library association intends to adopt the IFLA Glasgow Declaration within the next two years. (The 2003 report appears to be conflicting in this regard, indicating that the Declaration had been adopted.)

### **Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1991 (see <http://www.cnb.org.mx/codigoetica.htm> and [http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/cnbcode\\_s.htm](http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/cnbcode_s.htm)).

More information on the code of ethics can also be found at <http://www.anabad.org/archivo/docdow.php?id=15> and at <http://www.conaculta.gob.mx/bibliotecario/contenido.php?pag=17&numPub=40&bg=&width=a&height=d>.

According to the 2005 report, a code of ethics (for professional librarians only) was adopted in 1992 by the National College of Librarians. The Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC), which is the largest and oldest general association, was indicated as not having adopted a code of ethics at the time. The intention was, however, to adopt such a code for all categories of library staff members in two years' time.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Mexico
Population:	108 700 891 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Spanish, various Mayan, Nahuatl and other regional indigenous languages
Literacy:	91%
Literacy reported by respondent:	91.4%

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

Mexico contributed to the World Report series in 2005, 2003 and 2001. 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*:	7 210 (2005: 6 610)
Estimated number of school libraries:	5 401
Estimated number of university libraries:	1 482
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	225
Source of these numbers:	Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) (National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Computing), <a href="http://www.inegi.gob.mx/est/contenidos/espanol/rutinas/ept.asp?t=mcu03&amp;c=3130">http://www.inegi.gob.mx/est/contenidos/espanol/rutinas/ept.asp?t=mcu03&amp;c=3130</a>

#### Internet access

Population online**:	22 700 000 Internet users as of May 2007 (21.3%) (2005: 11.4%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20% (2005: Less than 20%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
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:	Average
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes (2005: Yes, to a certain degree – no reasons given)
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, university and school 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: Yes )

\* 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.