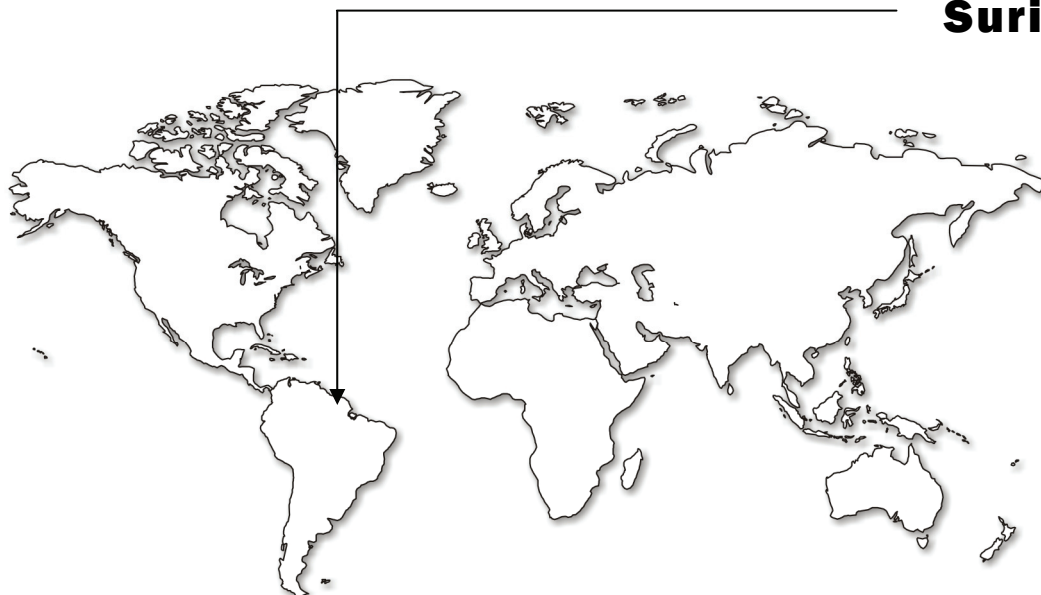


Suriname



Responding institution:

Library Anton de Kom, University of Suriname

This is the first time that Suriname has responded to the IFLA/FAIFE questionnaire. There is 1 public library with 6 branches in Suriname, as well as approximately 200 school libraries and 1 university library. No government-funded research libraries have been listed by the respondent.

Internet penetration is low, with only 6.3% of the population being Internet users. Levels of access in the country's libraries are correspondingly low – less than 20% of all public libraries and school libraries offer Internet access to their users. The respondent has indicated that 61-80% of the university libraries offer Internet access (this is not clear, given that there is only one university library). At the university, Internet access is free of charge when searching for scientific information, but for other Internet services (e.g. email) users have to pay. The state has made no extra funding available to improve Internet access in the last two years.

Very little local content is available on the Internet, and very little content is available in local languages. The literacy rate is given as 89.6% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition).

Although the respondent has not completed the question regarding the library association's views on the filtering of information, it has been indicated that the use of filtering software is not widespread in libraries.

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto. (The question regarding the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration has not been completed.) A code of ethics has not been adopted.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. It is felt that such legislation would impact on user privacy, but 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 no incidents have occurred in the last two years that adversely affected the freedom of access to information or the freedom of expression. Reporters Without Borders, however, reported an incident of censorship in March 2007, where a television discussion programme on China-Taiwan relations was cancelled due to pressure by the Vice-President of Suriname (http://www.rsf.org/article/article.php3?id_article=22156).

HIV/Aids awareness

There are no specific programmes by libraries in Suriname to raise awareness of HIV/Aids, but there are some programmes to provide such information to members of the community who cannot read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Suriname have no special programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, and also no programmes that focus specifically on 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, as the library association is not active.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The section of the questionnaire dealing with the

adoption of the Glasgow Declaration has not been completed.

Ethics

The respondent has indicated that the library association has not adopted a code of ethics, but that some libraries have adopted it.

Main indicators

Country name:	Suriname
Population:	470 784 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Dutch (official), English (widely spoken), Sranang Tongo (Surinamese, or Taki-Taki, is the native language of Creoles and much of the younger population, and is the lingua franca among others), Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi), Javanese
Literacy:	89.6%
Literacy reported by respondent:	Average

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

Suriname 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*:	1, with 6 branches
Estimated number of school libraries:	Approximately 200
Estimated number of university libraries:	1
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source of these numbers:	Survey 2006/7

Internet access

Population online**:	32 000 Internet users as of March 2007 (6.3%)
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:	61-80%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	No data provided
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Very little
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 data provided
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 – however, at the university library access is free of charge when searching for scientific information; for email etc. users have to pay
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:	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.