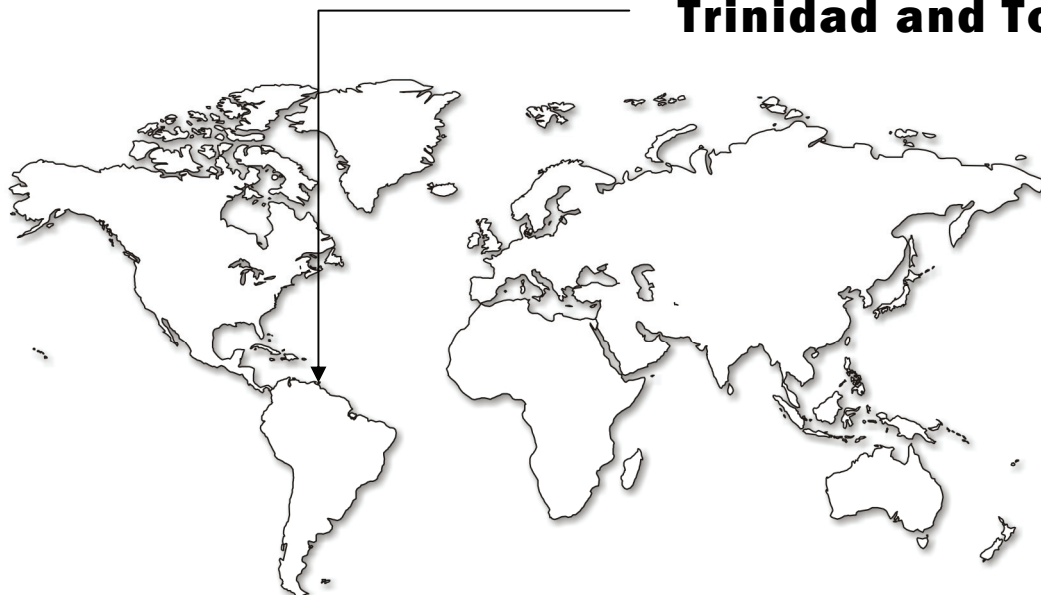# Trinidad and Tobago

Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

This is the third time that Trinidad and Tobago have contributed to the World Report series, having previously contributed in 2003 and in 2005.

There are 23 public libraries, of which 20 are in Trinidad and 3 in Tobago. There also are 3 mobile units in Trinidad and 1 in Tobago. These mobile units respectively serve 22 communities in Trinidad and 26 in Tobago. There are an estimated 457 research libraries, consisting of 2 university research libraries, 428 school libraries (135 secondary and 293 primary school libraries), as well as 27 government-funded research libraries, also known as special libraries.

The National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) is mandated to provide a national library and information service to the citizens of Trinidad, according to Act 18 of 1998. The development of libraries in Tobago falls under the aegis of the Tobago House of Assembly. This is stated in the Memorandum of Understanding between NALIS and the Division of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport of the Tobago House of Assembly, dated 8 June 2005.

There is no current data available regarding the online population. The 2005 World Report indicated a 10.6% Internet penetration, whereas the latest available data from Internet World Stats (September 2005) indicated a slight increase to 12.0%. An average amount of local content is available on the Internet, but no indication has been given as to the degree in which content on the Internet is available in local languages.

Some 81-100% of all libraries (public, school, university and government research libraries) offer access to the Internet, which represents an increase. Access is free of charge in all these libraries. The state and/or library authorities have made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years.

A third-party source reveals that the Trinidad and Tobago National Library System, through the support of UNESCO, has launched a Community Information Literacy Project. This project targets primary school students and community residents, and aims to empower them by improving their information literacy skills. Training includes, among other things, computer training and use of the Internet, including online searching and information retrieval (http://portal. unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23864&URL_DO= DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html).

The library community is in favour of filtering information and the use of filtering software is widespread in the country's libraries. The motivation for using the software includes the protection of children, safeguarding of the national ethos/culture and public morality, and the prevention of crime.

It was indicated in the 2005 report that an Anti-Terrorism Bill was before the Senate of Parliament at the time. In the current questionnaire, however, the respondent has indicated that anti-terror legislation adversely affecting library users' intellectual freedom

has not been passed. The respondent is also of the opinion that such legislation would not impact on user privacy. It is felt that the keeping of user records will not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

No violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression have been reported by the respondent.

In accordance with the 2005 report, libraries in Trinidad and Tobago are still actively involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes. The literacy rate is given as 98.6%. Although libraries do not have special programmes for promoting women's literacy, they do have special programmes that promote women's access to information.

A code of ethics has not been adopted, and the respondent has indicated that the library association is in the process of implementing such a code. The IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have also not been adopted. The intention is to adopt the Manifesto within the next two years, but no indication has been given of the intent regarding the Glasgow Declaration.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

It was indicated in the 2005 report that an Anti-Terrorism Bill was before the Senate of Parliament at the time. In the current questionnaire, the respondent has nevertheless indicated that anti-terror legislation adversely affecting library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed. The respondent is also of the opinion that such legislation would not impact on user privacy. Regarding the keeping of user records, it is felt that it would not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

No violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression have been reported by the respondent. The Freedom of Information Act of 1999 has been cited as an information source that might further explain the status of freedom of access to information in Trinidad and Tobago. This Act provides members of the public with a general right of access to official documents of public authorities.

Women and freedom of access to information

Contrary to the 2005 report, libraries do not offer special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. This is because they embrace all sectors of the community in the promotion of literacy. Libraries do, however, have special programmes that promote women's access to information on specific topics such as social information, the economy, education, health and family planning. These include displays, lectures and bibliographies on health and education.

HIV/Aids awareness

As stated in the 2005 report, libraries are involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes. Displays and exhibitions are mounted in all public libraries. There are also outreach activities, such as displays in other public areas to support the national call to inform citizens of the issues at hand. As in the 2005 report, libraries have not been involved in programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto, but the respondent has indicated the intent of adopting it within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The library association has not adopted the Glasgow Declaration and no indication has been given as to the intent of adoption.

Ethics

The respondent has indicated that the library association is in the process of implementing a code of ethics, and the implication is that it should be adopted within the next two years.

Main indicators

Country name:	Trinidad and Tobago
Population:	1 056 608 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	English (official), Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi), French, Spanish, Chinese
Literacy:	98.6%
Literacy reported by respondent:	98.6%

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

Trinidad and Tobago

Libraries and Internet access

Trinidad and Tobago contributed to the World Report series in 2005 and 2003. 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*:	23, with 3 mobile libraries in Trinidad and 1 in Tobago (2005: 23 = 20 in Trinidad and 3 in Tobago)
Estimated number of school libraries:	135 secondary school libraries and 293 primary school libraries
Estimated number of university libraries:	2
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	27 – these libraries are known as special libraries
Source of these numbers:	National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS)

Internet access

Population online**:	160 000 users as of Sept. 2005 (12.0%) (2005: 10.6%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 81-100%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
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:	No data provided
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes (2005: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful material and safeguard public morality)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes – to protect children, safeguard the national ethos/culture, prevent crime and safeguard public morality (2005: Yes)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all 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 (2005: Yes)

* 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.