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**Responding institution:**  
**Uruguayan Library Association**

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Uruguay responded to the IFLA/FAIFE questionnaire in 2003. There are an estimated 133 public libraries in Uruguay that are funded by the government, as well as 82 that are privately funded but with free access, 13 school libraries and 81 university libraries. There are no government-funded research libraries. The source of this data is given as the 2006 census by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay.

Internet penetration is fair in Uruguay, with 33.6% of the population being Internet users. (This is a huge improvement on 2002, when Internet penetration was only 11.81%.) Less than 20% of all public libraries and school libraries offer Internet access to their users, whereas 81-100% of the university libraries do so.

In libraries where Internet access is provided, it is free of charge. The state has not made extra funding available to improve Internet access in libraries in the last two years. The respondent has indicated that the most significant obstacles to the provision of Internet access are lack of computers and connectivity, as well as a shortage of librarians in all libraries.

Very little local content is available on the Internet and very little content is available in local languages. The literacy rate is given as 98% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition).

The library association is not in favour of filtering information and the use of filtering software is not

widespread in libraries. The library association has adopted both the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration, and a code of ethics was adopted in 2001.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. It is felt that keeping user records would 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 reports that the media is fairly free. No media outlets have been censored and only one physical attack was recorded in 2006. Uruguay maintains its longstanding reputation as the "Switzerland of America" for press freedom.

In June 2007, the House of Representatives voted for a new law on community media, which was hailed as "an inspiration to the American continent" ([http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=22492](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22492)). This law attributes frequencies on the basis of fairness and transparency, and recognises community media as an entity in their own right within the broadcast sector. It defines community TV and radio as "public interest services independent of the state, provided by not-for-profit civil bodies" designed to cater to citizens' "communication needs, the right to information and freedom of expression".

A few incidents are nevertheless mentioned in third-party sources. Journalists still run into obstacles when investigating human rights violations under the former (1973 to 1985) military dictatorship. For examples, see [http://www.rsf.org/country-47.php3?id\\_mot=567&Valider=OK](http://www.rsf.org/country-47.php3?id_mot=567&Valider=OK).

The 2007 annual report of Reporters Without Borders ([http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=20543&Valider=OK](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20543&Valider=OK)) states that the Parliament has still not decriminalised media offences, and a journalist was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for "insults" after making fun of a media proprietor in a talk show. Another journalist received a five-month suspended sentence for libelling a politician. He had earlier been cleared on appeal, but the court reversed this, ruling that reputation was more important than freedom of expression. It had said the opposite in a similar case in 1997.

#### **HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries in Uruguay have no specific programmes for promoting awareness of HIV/Aids, as a government programme is run through the Public Health Ministry.

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

Libraries in Uruguay have no special programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, as the literacy rate is higher among women than among men.

#### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto was adopted by the library association's general assembly in September 2003. No plan of action has been implemented for libraries.

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

The Glasgow Declaration was adopted by the library association's general assembly in September 2003. No plan of action has been implemented for libraries.

#### **Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics on 14 November 2001 (see <http://www.abu.net.uy/etica.html>).

### Main indicators

Country name:	Uruguay
Population:	3 460 607 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Spanish, Portuguese or Brazilerio (Portuguese-Spanish mix on the Brazilian frontier)
Literacy:	98%
Literacy reported by respondent:	96.79% (1996)

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

Uruguay contributed to the World Report series in 2003. The following section compares data and answers from 2007 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from the respondent's estimates, where possible.

#### Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	133 funded by the government + 82 privately funded but with free access (e.g. small collections in condominiums)
Estimated number of school libraries:	13
Estimated number of university libraries:	81
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	0
Source of these numbers:	Census 2006 carried out by the Minister of Education and Culture of Uruguay

#### Internet access

Population online**:	1 100 000 users as of May 2007 (33.6%) (2003: 11.81% in 2002)
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:	81-100%
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 (2003: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes)
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](http://www.internetworldstats.com)).

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