Albania

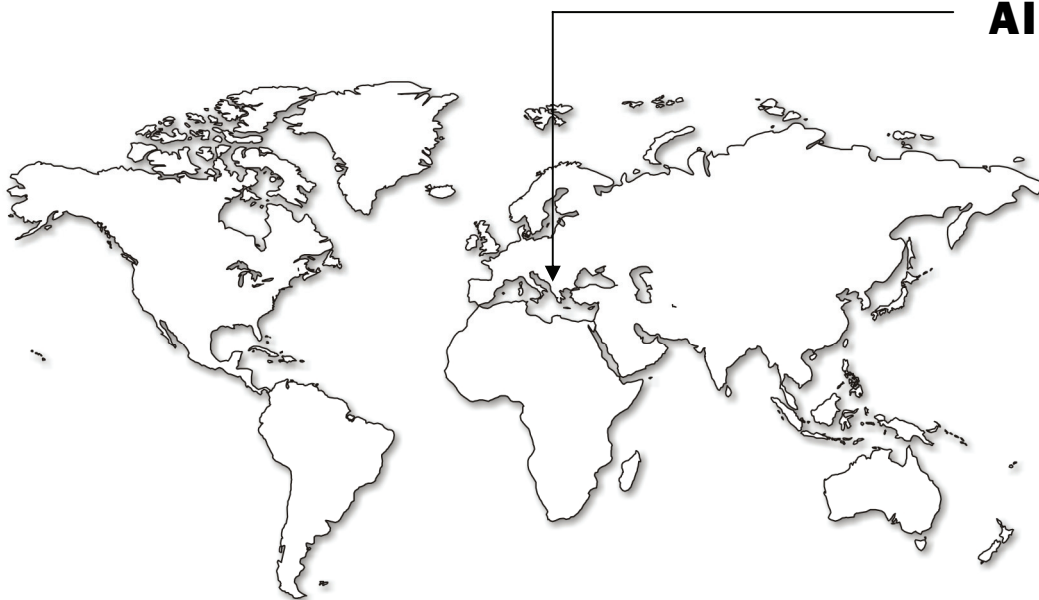## Responding institution:
The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

Albania responded previously in 2001. There are an estimated 40 public libraries in Albania, as well as 1 700 school libraries, 15 university and higher school libraries, and 5 private university libraries. The number of government-funded research libraries is given as 25.

Internet penetration was 15.3% in August 2007. Levels of Internet 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. Of the university libraries and government-funded libraries, only 21-40% offer Internet access. In the libraries where Internet access is provided, it is free of charge. It has been indicated that, during the last two years, the state has made extra funding available to improve Internet access.

The respondent has indicated that a large amount of local content on the Internet is available in Albanian, and often in English as well. The literacy rate is 98.7%.

Although the respondent has indicated that the library association is in favour of filtering information to a certain extent (e.g. for children), the use of filtering software is not widespread in the libraries. This could be due to the low percentage of libraries providing Internet access.

Several reports of attacks on journalists and media houses have led to a report by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) that the media in Albania is "far from free". The main areas of concern are attacks on, and intimidation of journalists, defamation trials of journalists, and state control of the media.

The library association has adopted both the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration, and a code of ethics was adopted in 2003.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation
Anti-terror legislation is in the process of being approved by Parliament. It is thought that keeping user records will 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, during the last two years, no incidents have occurred that adversely affected the freedom of access to information, or the freedom of expression. However, several incidents of attacks on journalists and media houses have been reported. In May 2005, a letter from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) was sent to the Albanian Speaker of the Assembly to plead for the reformation of defamation laws (http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66882/).

The Human Rights Watch (HRW) has issued a report stating that the media in Albania is "far from free". The report outlined three main areas of concern: "violent attacks and intimidation of journalists; defamation trials against journalists; and the use of state advertising to exert editorial control over media" (http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/31267/).

HIV/Aids awareness

The respondent did not complete this section of the questionnaire.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Albania have special programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, as well as on women's access to specific topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health and family planning).

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted. It was translated into Albanian and published in the country's only Library and Information Science (LIS) Journal in 2001/2002.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted. It was translated into Albanian and published in the LIS Journal in 2002/2003.

Ethics

The respondent has indicated that the library association adopted a code of ethics in 2003, but no further information has been supplied. The code is also not available on the Internet.

Main indicators

Country name:	Albania
Population:	3 600 523 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Albanian (official – derived from the Tosk dialect), Greek, Vlach, Romani, Slavic dialects
Literacy:	98.7%
Literacy reported by respondent:	98.7%

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

Albania

Libraries and Internet access

Albania last contributed to the World Report series in 2001. Comparisons are unfortunately not possible due to changes in the questionnaire.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	40
Estimated number of school libraries:	1 700 (secondary and high schools)
Estimated number of university libraries:	15 university and higher school libraries, and 5 private universities
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	25
Source of these numbers:	Training and Research Department of the National Library of Albania

Internet access

Population online**:	471 200 Internet users as of Aug. 2007 (15.3% penetration)
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:	21-40%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
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:	Very much
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree (no reason 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:	Yes, in public, university, school and statutory research council 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

* 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.