# Aruba



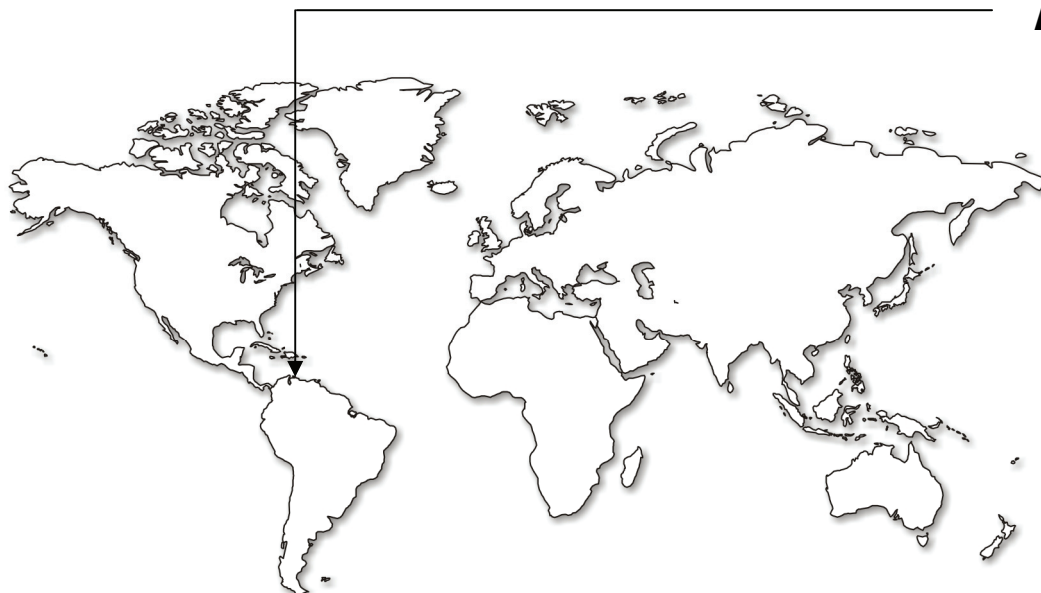**Responding institution:**
*Biblioteca Nacional Aruba*

Aruba responded for the first time to the World Report in 2003 and again in 2005. There are currently 2 public libraries. The research libraries consist of 1 university library, 24 school libraries and 3 government-funded research libraries.

While the 2005 report cited a drop in Internet access in the country's research libraries, the 2007 response indicates that 81-100% of both the public and the university libraries offer Internet access. In contrast, less than 20% of the government-funded libraries and 21-40% of the school libraries offer Internet services. Very little local content is available on the Internet and practically no information is found in a local language.

The country's position on Internet filtering remains the same, namely being in favour of selected Internet filtering to protect children. Internet access is provided free of charge in all libraries, and during the last two years the state has made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system. (It is not clear whether the funding referred to in the 2007 report is the same as that mentioned in the 2005 report.)

As was the case in 2005, no violations of intellectual freedom have been reported and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Libraries in Aruba have been actively promoting HIV/Aids awareness, which is an improvement on the previous report. Libraries are not involved in programmes that advance women's literacy or their access to information.

Contrary to the indication in the 2005 report, Aruba's librarians have not yet adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed; legislation that is adopted internationally is applied. The respondent feels that such legislation will impact adversely on the intellectual freedom of the user, but does not feel the same about keeping user records.

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

As was the case in 2005, no violations of intellectual freedom have been reported.

**HIV/Aids awareness**

The national library has organised an exhibition in the expo centre of the library to provide information about HIV/Aids to the public.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

No programmes that specifically provide for illiterates or women have been organised, as the number of illiterate people is very small and "hidden", and women's literacy is on a par with that of men.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

Libraries have not adopted the IFLA Internet

Manifesto, the reason being that they have not yet received information about it and do not know what it is, but are willing to adopt it.

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

Libraries have not adopted the Glasgow Declaration, stating that they have not received information about the Declaration and are not familiar with it, but are willing to adopt it.

**Ethics**

Libraries have not adopted a code of ethics, but intend to do so during the next two years.

## Main indicators

| | |
|---|---|
| Country name: | Aruba |
| Population: | 100 018 (July 2007 est.) |
| Main language: | Papiamento (a Spanish-Portuguese-Dutch-English dialect) 66.3%, Spanish 12.6%, English (widely spoken) 7.7%, Dutch (official) 5.8%, other 2.2%, unspecified or unknown 5.3% (2000 census) |
| Literacy: | 97.3% |
| Literacy reported by respondent: | 90% |

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

**Aruba**

## Libraries and Internet access

Aruba 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*: | 2 (2005: 2) |
| Estimated number of school libraries: | 24 |
| Estimated number of university libraries: | 1 |
| Estimated number of government-funded research libraries: | 3 |
| Source of these numbers: | Biblioteca Nacional Aruba |

### Internet access

| | |
|---|---|
| Population online**: | 24 000 Internet users as of Dec. 2001 (34.1%) (2005: 24.2%) |
| Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users: | 81-100% (2005: 81-100%) |
| Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users: | 21-40% |
| Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users: | 81-100% |
| Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users: | Less than 20% |
| 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:* | Nothing, or practically nothing |
| Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: | Yes – for the protection of children (2005: Yes, motivated by a need to protect children from harmful materials, safeguard national culture, and safeguard public morality) |
| Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries: | Yes, to a certain degree (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, in some cases (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.