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**Responding institution:**

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

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This is the first time that Bhutan has responded to the IFLA questionnaire. There is only one public library in Bhutan and it does not have computer facilities. There are 10 research libraries (Royal Institute of Management, Royal Institute of Health and Sciences, National Institute of Traditional Medicine, Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic, Sherubtse College, Paro College of Education, Samtse College of Education, College of Natural Resources, College of Science and Technology). These are all academic libraries and are government funded; there are no university research libraries as such. Most of these libraries have computers with Internet connections.

There are 502 school libraries and these are “poorly equipped”. Budgets are small, books are old and outdated, and there are no computer facilities.

Internet penetration is currently low at 3.1%. Average to very much local content is available on the Internet, but practically nothing is available in local languages. Internet access is free of charge on library computers (where available) and the government has made extra funding available for Internet access in the last two years.

The literacy rate is given as 59.5% ([www.bhutan.census.gov.bt/Fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.bhutan.census.gov.bt/Fact_sheet.pdf)). The 2007 *CIA Factbook*, however, reports a literacy rate of 47%.

Bhutan has no library association, but libraries in general are not in favour of filtering information on Internet terminals and the use of filtering software is not in widespread use. The respondent has commented as follows on the issue: “Internet was introduced in Bhutan in 1998. Since information is ubiquitous we let them explore the Net, for our libraries do not have enough resources for the users. What the librarians normally do is stick up a notice stating that clients are not allowed to visit obscene sites.”

As there is no library association in Bhutan, no code of ethics has been adopted, neither the IFLA Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. It was thought that the keeping of 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 not completed the section dealing with violations of intellectual freedom. Reporters Without Borders ([http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/rapport\\_en\\_bd-4.pdf](http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/rapport_en_bd-4.pdf)) has reported that the first privately owned newspaper, the *Bhutan Times* (<http://www.bhutantimes.bt>), was published in April 2006. This was hailed as a promising beginning to freedom of the media. However, on 27 June 2007 it was reported that the independent website

www. bhutantimes.com was blocked from local viewing (<http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/84438/>).

**HIV/Aids awareness**

The respondent has indicated that libraries are not directly involved in any programmes to raise HIV/Aids awareness, but says that local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations are providing this information.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries in Bhutan have no special programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, or that focus specifically on women's access to specific topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education,

health and family planning). Local NGOs and international organisations are involved in these types of programmes.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, as Bhutan does not have a library association.

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

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, as Bhutan does not have a library association.

**Ethics**

Bhutan has no library association, and therefore no formal code of ethics has been adopted.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Bhutan
Population:	2 327 849 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Dzongkha (official), various Tibetan dialects (Bhotes), various Nepalese dialects (Nepalese)
Literacy:	47%
Literacy reported by respondent:	59.5% ( <a href="http://www.bhutancensus.gov.bt/Fact_sheet.pdf">www.bhutancensus.gov.bt/Fact_sheet.pdf</a> )

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

Bhutan 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
Estimated number of school libraries:	502
Estimated number of university libraries:	10
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	None
Source of these numbers:	<a href="http://www.rub.edu.bt">www.rub.edu.bt</a> ; Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Education

#### Internet access

Population online**:	25 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (3.1%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	No data provided
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	No data provided
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 much to average
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:	No
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 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

\* 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.