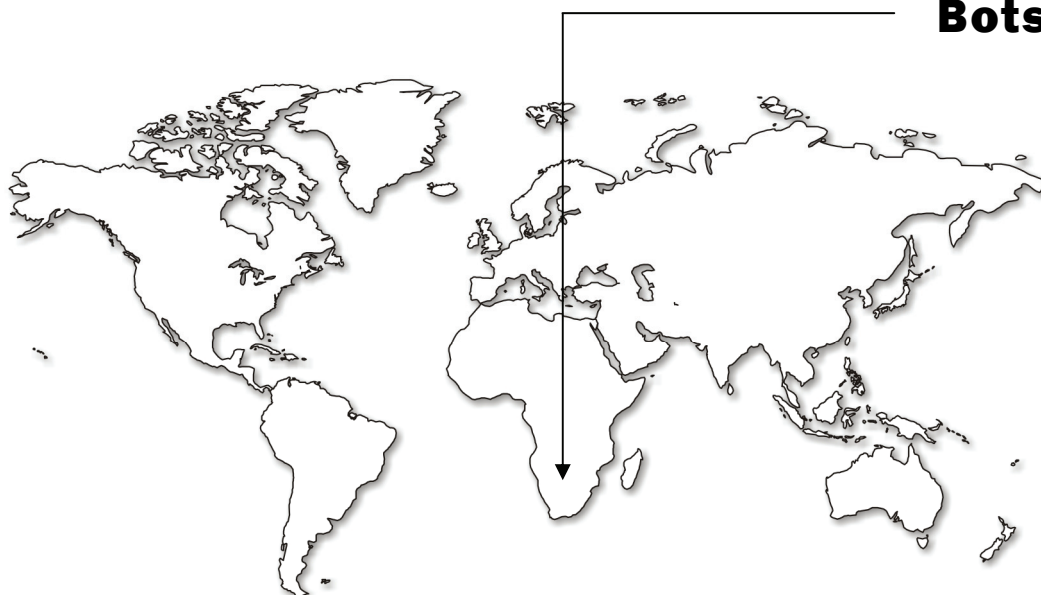


Botswana



Responding institution:

Botswana National Library Service

This is Botswana's third successive contribution to the World Report. Botswana's public library service points include 23 branch libraries, 68 village reading rooms, 6 mobile libraries and 268 book box service points. There are also 3 university research libraries, 245 school libraries and 1 government research library.

Internet access is available in less than 20% of all these libraries, and it is not free of charge. The Botswana government's partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will improve this situation in the near future. There is very little local content available and practically nothing is in a local language. The respondent has estimated the literacy rate in Botswana at 80%.

There is no indication of the library association's view on filtering and blocking information. There have been no new anti-terror laws since 2005. The view is expressed that keeping user records will not affect the freedom of expression of the user, because these records are held simply to follow up on users. In the respondent's view, there have been no violations of intellectual freedom.

Libraries in Botswana have been involved in the provision of HIV/Aids information in the form of HIV/Aids corners in public libraries. This information is also made available to people who are unable to read. There are also women's programmes of several kinds in the libraries. Unfortunately, the sections in the

questionnaire about ethics and other IFLA initiatives have been left unanswered.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

The respondent has indicated that there have been no new anti-terror laws since 2005. It feels that keeping user records will not affect the freedom of expression of the user, because these records are held simply to follow up on users.

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

There have been no violations of intellectual freedom, in the respondent's view. Independent reports and watchdog bodies have, however, expressed concerns that should be noted. The Media Institute of Southern Africa, for example, has listed a number of examples relating to intellectual freedom. These include threats to sue the *Ngami Times*, assault on a photographer, and the government's refusal to abolish national security legislation that hinders access to information. This legislation has already been used to charge a number of people who are critical of the government. There are also concerns about censorship of information relating to the Bushmen of Botswana, which was circulated to schools by Survival International, and about directives to the public media on refraining from negative reportage on a controversial resettling programme for these indigenous people.

Sources:

<http://www.ifex.org/alerts/content/view/full/66242>

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66072>

<http://www.ifex.org/alerts/content/view/full/51580/>

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Botswana are involved in the provision of HIV/Aids information. This is achieved through HIV/Aids corners in public libraries. The information is also made available to those who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

There are also women's programmes of several kinds in the libraries.

Ethics and IFLA initiatives

The sections concerning ethics and other IFLA initiatives have been left unanswered.

Main indicators

Country name:	Botswana
Population:	1 815 508 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Setswana 78.2%, Kalanga 7.9%, Sekgalagadi 2.8%, English 2.1% (official), other 8.6%, unspecified 0.4% (2001 census)
Literacy:	81.2%
Literacy reported by respondent:	80%

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

Botswana 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 branch libraries, 68 village reading rooms, 6 mobile libraries and 268 book box service points (2005: 23)
Estimated number of school libraries:	245
Estimated number of university libraries:	3
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	1
Source of these numbers:	Establishment Register; List of Junior and Secondary Schools and Establishment Directory

Internet access

Population online**:	60 000 Internet users as of Dec. 2002 (3.2%) (2005: 3.4%)
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:	Less than 20%
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:	No data provided (2005: Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children; to safeguard the national ethos/culture; to protect public morality)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No data provided (2005: Yes, to a certain degree)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	No (2005: Yes, in research libraries only)
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 – the government has partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide computers and public access to the Internet; the project is at a planning stage (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.