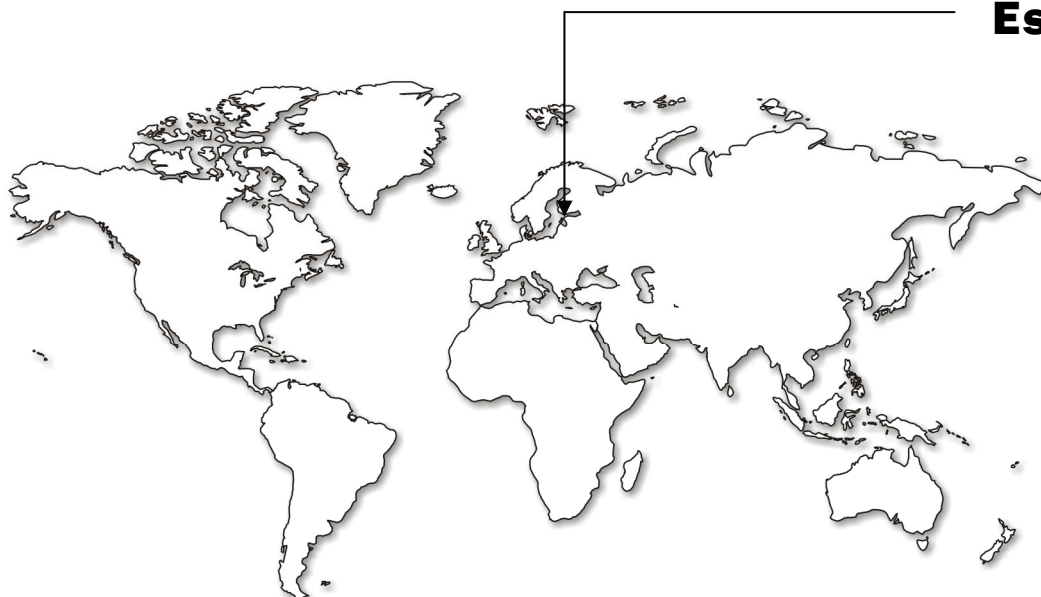


Estonia



Responding institution:

Estonian Librarians' Association

Estonia is responding to the World Report for the third time, having previously contributed in 2003 and 2005. The report refers to the activities in 568 public library service points and 475 research libraries, including 17 university libraries, 451 school libraries and 7 government-funded research libraries. (The 2005 response referred to 536 research libraries and 564 public library service points.) Based on the questionnaire response, the overall situation regarding intellectual freedom in the country seems to be good.

In September 2006, Internet penetration for Estonia was estimated at 51.8% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition), being 30.55% in 2003 and 46.7% in 2005. School libraries have Internet access levels of 61-80%, whereas all other library types in Estonia have an estimated access of 81-100%. The respondent has indicated that both local content and local languages are very well covered on the Internet. UNESCO has estimated the literacy rate at 99.8% (the figure is confirmed by the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*).

Access to the Internet is free of charge in all library types, and in some cases the state or other library authorities have made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system over the last two years. This was also the case in the previous report.

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of filtering information. (This is similar to the 2005 response. In 2003, however, the library association was

not in favour of filtering, nor was the use of filtering software widespread.) The use of filtering software is to a certain extent widespread in the country. The reasons offered for use are the protection of children and the prevention of crime.

Regarding special areas of focus, the respondent has indicated that libraries in Estonia are not troubled by anti-terror legislation. No incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom have been cited by the respondent. According to Reporters Without Borders (<http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/report.pdf>), countries such as Estonia, which joined the European Union in 2004, have made impressive advances in press freedom. Although no incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom were noted by the third-party sources consulted, there was concern for the rights of minority groups and about issues of discrimination, particularly in the fields of education, labour and language rights (<http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/est-summary-eng>).

The respondent has indicated that libraries in Estonia have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/Aids, or in programmes to provide members of the community who are unable to read with information on HIV/Aids. There are no special programmes for promoting women's literacy or women's access to social information or information on the economy, education, health and family planning.

A code of ethics was adopted in 2001. Estonia has, however, not adopted either the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Estonia. The respondent has not indicated whether such legislation would impact on user privacy if passed, but does feel that the keeping of library user records would harm the individual Internet library user's freedom of expression.

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

According to the respondent, there have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom. No sources to supplement the statement have been indicated.

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Estonia have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness or providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed

to promote women's literacy, or women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and there is no intention of doing so within the next two years. The Manifesto is however, available in the Estonian language.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted and it is not the intent to adopt the Declaration within the next two years.

Ethics

The Estonian library community adopted a code of ethics in 2001. The code is available at <http://www.nlib.ee/ERY/koodeks.html>.

Main indicators

Country name:	Estonia
Population:	1 315 912 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Estonian (official) 67.3%, Russian 29.7%, other 2.3%, unknown 0.7% (2000 census)
Literacy:	99.8%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99.8% (UNESCO)

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

Estonia 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*:	568 (2005: 564)
Estimated number of school libraries:	451
Estimated number of university libraries:	17
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	7
Source of these numbers:	Official statistics

Internet access

Population online**:	690 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (51.8%) (2005: 46.7%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 81-100%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Very much
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Very much
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children and to prevent crime (2005: Yes, to a certain degree, in order to protect children, prevent crime and safeguard public morality)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree (2005: Yes, to a certain degree)
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.