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**Responding institution:**

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

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Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of China, is contributing to the World Report for the third time. The estimated number of public libraries in Hong Kong is 76. There are 27 university libraries (branch libraries included), 576 school libraries (including aided schools, private schools and colleges) and 72 government-funded libraries.

The high level (81-100%) of Internet provision at all libraries in Hong Kong has been maintained since the previous report. A great deal of local information, as well as content in local languages, is available on the Internet. As Internet access is free of charge in all libraries in Hong Kong, no special funding has been made available for this purpose.

Information is being filtered to some degree on library terminals, mainly to protect children, and some filtering software is being used in libraries. This constitutes a change from the previous two reports where many motivations for the filtering of information were listed.

The respondent's view is also challenged by information provided by the OpenNet Initiative, which indicates that many independent newspapers and sites operating out of Hong Kong that focus on political reform and governance – even those not focusing on mainland affairs but instead on exclusively local issues (such as the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor) – are

blocked across most of the categories where filtering occurs. Thus, Hong Kong-based alternative media, grassroots non-governmental organisations and coalitions (<http://www.alliance.org.hk/>), religious organisations and legitimate political parties (<http://www.dphk.org/>) are all affected. (See <http://opennet.net/research/profiles/china.>)

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Hong Kong and no incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom have been reported. According to this year's response, no provision is made in Hong Kong's libraries regarding information for special needs like HIV/Aids, people who unable to read, and women.

Whereas the 2003 World Report states that the IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration and a code of ethics have been adopted, the 2005 World Report states that a code of ethics was adopted in 1995, but that neither of the two IFLA initiatives has been formally adopted. This year's response indicates that neither a code of ethics, nor the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted. No details have been given and no plans to adopt any of these are envisaged.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed and the respondent feels that keeping user records will not impact on user privacy.

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

No reported incidents of violation of intellectual

freedom have been cited by the respondent. External sources nevertheless report on incidents such as measures to ensure that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) remains free from government interference (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/83218>), as well as the sentencing of journalist Shi Tao for “divulging state secrets abroad”, which implicated Yahoo! Holdings (Hong Kong) in providing China’s state security authorities with details that helped to identify and convict him ([http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=14884](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=14884)).

#### **HIV/Aids awareness**

No special programmes exist in libraries to raise awareness of HIV/Aids and no reasons have been given for this. No provision is made for people who cannot read, as the literacy rate is 99% and very few people in Hong Kong cannot read.

#### **Women and freedom of access to information**

There are no special programmes focusing on women’s literacy. Women are not treated as a specific designated group of users. Amnesty International

nevertheless points out discriminatory policies towards marginalised groups of women (<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA190012006?open&of=ENG-CHN>).

#### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and no explanation for this has been given. Neither has the adoption of such a code within the next two years been indicated.

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

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted and no explanation has been given. Neither has the adoption of such a code within the next two years been indicated.

#### **Ethics**

A code of ethics has not been adopted and no explanation is given. It has also not been indicated whether such a code would be adopted within the next two years.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Hong Kong (SAR of China)
Population:	6 980 412 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Chinese (Cantonese) 89.2% (official), other Chinese dialects 6.4%, English 3.2% (official), other 1.2% (2001 census)
Literacy:	93.5%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99%

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

Hong Kong (SAR of China) contributed to the World Report series in 2005, 2003 and 2001. 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*:	76 (2005: 72)
Estimated number of school libraries:	576 (including aided, private and colleges)
Estimated number of university libraries:	27 (including their branch libraries)
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	72
Source of these numbers:	<a href="http://dir.hkla.org/Browse_by_type.php">http://dir.hkla.org/Browse_by_type.php</a> ; <a href="http://www.hkpl.gov.hk/english/aboutus/aboutus_intro/aboutus_intro.html">http://www.hkpl.gov.hk/english/aboutus/aboutus_intro/aboutus_intro.html</a>

#### Internet access

Population online**:	4 878 713 Internet users as of Feb. 2005 (68.2%) (2005: 69.3%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 81-100%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
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
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 – to protect children, prevent crime and safeguard public morality (2005: Yes, to a certain degree, to protect children and prevent criminal activity)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree (2005: Yes, to a certain degree; filtering software is widespread in public libraries but not in university libraries)
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:	No (2005: 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.