



Responding institution:
Japan Library Association

Japan contributed to the World Report in 2001, 2003 and 2005. This response quotes *Statistics on Libraries in Japan 2006* and reports an increase of public libraries from 2 800 to 3 083. Similarly, university libraries have increased from 1 280 to 1 337. No data has been provided for school or government-funded research libraries.

Despite a high Internet penetration, the percentage of public libraries that provide access to the Internet remains low at 21-40%. It does, however, constitute an increase from the below 20% level reported in 2005. The situation is markedly different in university libraries, as 81-100% of these libraries provide Internet access.

Very little local content is available on the Internet (the respondent has not stated to what degree local languages are accommodated on the Internet).

The respondent has reversed the 2005 position and indicated that the library association in Japan is not in favour of filtering information on the Internet. Filtering software is, however, used selectively to protect children from harmful Internet content. This is in accordance with the 2005 report.

Contrary to the World Report of 2001 and 2004, Internet access is, according to this year's response, only free in public libraries and not in university libraries. No extra funding has been made available to

libraries for increased public access to the Internet during the past two years.

Intellectual freedom in Japan is under threat, although the library association is firmly opposed to interference by the state. With regard to special programmes, most libraries in Japan have established a special centre to meet women's needs. No special provision is, however, made for raising awareness about HIV/Aids.

A code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto as well as the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted and libraries are doing their best to implement the ideals represented in these documents.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

The response points out that loyalty to the national flag and anthem is currently enforced in the public schools, and that individuals and groups who had criticised the dispatching of troops to Iraq were detained under the Emergency Security Act. This constitutes a possible threat to libraries. Should libraries be influenced by this, the Intellectual Freedom in Libraries Act (Article 3) will be violated. Librarians in Japan have vowed to "work together and devote ourselves to secure the freedom".

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

According to the response, there were no incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. The Library Annual Report for 2006 and 2007 to be published in July 2007 will report on the present situation in the chapter "About Intellectual Freedom in Libraries".

External sources, however, report on violations of intellectual freedom in general. The 2007 annual report of Reporters Without Borders states that the rise of nationalism has had a negative impact on press freedom and that the number of assaults and threats has increased. The government has not undertaken any reform of the system of kisha clubs that obstruct the free circulation of information. (For more information see http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20787.)

Amnesty International mentions the detainment of people for distributing pamphlets opposing Japanese involvement in Iraq in 2006 (<http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/jpn-summary-eng>). IFEX reports that the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has called on the Japanese government to refrain from editorial interference, after a ruling by Tokyo's High Court in January 2007 that Japan's public broadcaster, Nihon Hoso Kyokai (NHK), bowed to political pressure and censored a 2001 programme on Japan's wartime sex slavery (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81140/>).

HIV/Aids awareness

No programmes exist in Japanese libraries for promoting HIV/Aids awareness.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries are established on the basis of the Basic Law

for a Gender Equal Society (Act No.78 of 1999), which designates that gender-specific education should be cancelled by 2015. Most libraries have on the basis of this law established a study centre for women that meets the special needs of female users.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted and librarians are trying to increase computer terminals and free Internet access despite some real barriers.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and is available in the book, *Statement on Intellectual Freedom in Libraries* (1979). Japanese librarians try to implement the principles of this Declaration at all times.

Ethics

A code of ethics (see <http://www.jla.or.jp/ethics-e.html>) was adopted in 1980 to implement the philosophy of the *Statement on Intellectual Freedom in Libraries* (1979). Libraries adhere to this code by trying to serve users' needs to the best of their ability.

Main indicators

Country name:	Japan
Population:	127 433 494 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Japanese
Literacy:	99%
Literacy reported by respondent:	98%

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

Japan 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*:	3 083 (2005: 2 800)
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of university libraries:	1 337
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source of these numbers:	Statistics on Libraries in Japan 2006

Internet access

Population online**:	86 300 000 users as of Dec. 2005 (67.1%) (2005: 52.8%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40% (2005: Less than 20%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	No data provided
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
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 little
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	No data provided
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2005: Yes, in order to protect children)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children (2005: Yes, to a certain degree)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in public 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).

*** Local content is defined as content that originates in the country.