New Zealand

Responding institution:
Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA)

New Zealand is responding to the World Report for the third time, with responses in 2003 and 2005. The report concerns 331 library service points (including 75 main libraries and 256 sub-branches), as well as an estimated 3 032 research libraries (including 27 university research libraries, 3 000 school libraries and 5 government-funded research libraries).

The 2005 report referred to 329 public library service points, 71 tertiary libraries, 189 special libraries, 45 health/ medical libraries, 31 law libraries, 11 theological libraries and 290 school libraries. The discrepancy in data for the 2005 and 2007 responses is probably due to differing interpretations of "research libraries".

In September 2005, the Internet penetration for New Zealand was estimated at 74.9% (*CIA World Factbook,* 2007 edition), which is considerably more than the 58.1% in 2005. It is estimated that 81-100% of public, university and government-funded research libraries offer Internet access to their users. Access for school libraries is estimated at 41-60%.

Internet coverage of local content is average, although local languages are very well represented on the Internet. (Content in Maori, one of the two official languages, is increasing.) The respondent estimates the literacy rate for New Zealand at 90% (99% according to the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*).

Access to the Internet is not free of charge. According to the respondent, policies vary across the local authorities and institutions on which libraries depend.

During the last two years, the state and other library authorities have in some instances made extra funding available for Internet access. The Community Partnership Fund (established under the government's "Digital Strategy") has, for example, funded a project to develop a New Zealand People's Network, which aims to improve community access to the Internet by upgrading and networking public libraries, particularly those in more remote areas.

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals. Accordingly, the use of filtering software is to a certain degree widespread in the country. The protection of children is offered as a reason.

Libraries in New Zealand are not troubled by anti-terror legislation. According to the respondent, there have been no incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. Reflections on issues relevant to intellectual freedom are, however, reported by third-party sources. No sources have been suggested by the respondent to provide more insight into the status of intellectual freedom in New Zealand.

Libraries have not been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness or providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. They have also not been involved in special programmes to promote women's literacy or women's access to information.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics and the IFLA Glasgow Declaration, but not the IFLA Internet Manifesto.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in New Zealand. The respondent feels that if such legislation were to be adopted, it would not impact on user privacy, and that the keeping of library user records would not affect the individual Internet library user's freedom of expression.

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

There have been no incidents of reported violations of intellectual freedom. The respondent has explained that New Zealand has a full range of modern legislation covering all aspects of access to information, including the Bill of Rights Act of 1990, the Official Information Act of 1982, and the Privacy Act of 1993. The country highly values the intellectual freedom of its citizens. Some third-party sources, such as Reporters Without Borders, consider New Zealand to be "a successful example of virtually total respect for press freedom" (http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/rapport_en_bd-4.pdf).

A few reports by other third-party sources that reflect on issues relevant to intellectual freedom were, however, noted. According to the OpenNet Initiative (http://opennet.net/research/regions/au-nz), New Zealand is less rigorous than, for example Australia, in its Internet regulation and definition of offensive content that can be investigated by a designated government entity. The government has not passed legislation to allow issuance of take-down notices for such content and its enforcement of Internet content regulation by prosecution almost solely focuses on child pornography. New Zealand has, however, taken steps towards greater Internet security, passing laws to give government agencies greater authority to investigate illegal activities online.

Actions not to allow under-age patrons access to violence-laden video games have been reported by Index for Free Expression (http://www.indexonline.org/en/indexindex/articles/2005/3/new-zealand-censorship-board-uses-mail-to-ur.shtml). There has also been a report that "New Zealand's chief film censor Bill Hastings has consulted with family of the victims of a 1990 mass murder before giving the film a certificate so it can be shown in the country" (http://www.indexonline.org/en/indexindex/articles/2006/3/new-zealand-censor-checks-with-survivors-bef.shtml).

HIV/Aids awareness

As HIV/Aids is not a major issue or problem in New Zealand, libraries have not been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness or providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. There are other agencies that deliver relevant and appropriate HIV/Aids information to people unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in New Zealand have not been involved in special programmes to promote women's literacy or women's access to information. The focus is on the general population's literacy and, according to the respondent, literacy in New Zealand is considered to be higher among women. As New Zealand has achieved a high degree of empowerment for women (e.g. at the time of the response the top five constitutional roles were all held by women), library programmes focus on areas of greater need. Libraries refer enquirers as necessary to relevant programmes run by a wide range of community organisations, local authorities and central government agencies.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

According to the respondent, the library community has not yet considered the IFLA Internet Manifesto. There is no indication as to whether they intend to adopt it within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has only recently been adopted by the New Zealand library community.

Ethics

The New Zealand library association has a code of ethics that has been in use for many years. (The respondent is unsure when it was adopted.) It is a non-mandatory code that is publicised to members and updated from time to time. The values on which the code is based are considered an integral element of good professional practice in New Zealand. The code is available at http://www.lianza.org.nz/about/governance/code/index.html.

Main indicators

Country name:	New Zealand
Population:	4 115 771 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	English (official), Maori (official), Sign Language (official)
Literacy:	99%
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).

New Zealand

Libraries and Internet access

New Zealand 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*:	75 main libraries with 256 sub-branches (2005: 329 public libraries, with 73 central and 256 branches)
Estimated number of school libraries:	3 000 estimated
Estimated number of university libraries:	27
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	5 estimated
Source of these numbers:	Various; http://www.lianza.org.nz/about/profile/committees/Remuneration/rfp.html

Internet access

Population online**:	3 200 000 users as of Sept. 2005 (74.9%) (2005: 58.1%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 81-100%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
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:	Average
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Very much – NZ has two official languages, and Maori content on the Internet is increasing
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children (2005: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and comply with censorship)
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:	No – policies vary across local authorities or institutions on which libraries depend (2005: No)
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 – the Community Partnership Fund has funded a project to develop a New Zealand People's Network, which aims to improve community access to the Internet in public libraries, particularly in remote areas (2005: No)

* 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.