



Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

This is Singapore's third contribution to the World Report. According to the National Library Board's annual report there are 22 public libraries in Singapore, excluding the national library. The *Directory of Libraries and Information Centres in Singapore* lists 16 university libraries, including polytechnics and institutes of higher learning, 18 junior college libraries and 46 government-funded research libraries.

Of the school libraries, 61-80% have Internet access, while more than 80% of all the other types of libraries provide Internet access. The volume of local content, as well as the availability of information in local languages on the Internet, is indicated as being "average".

Internet access is free of charge in school and university libraries and there is a notional or token fee to regulate the use of public terminals in public libraries. The state is also providing wireless access in public libraries free of charge for next three years.

Singapore's library association has moved to a firm position of being in favour of selected filtering of the Internet. Filtering software is used in areas which include the protection of children, national security, the safeguarding of the national ethos and culture, as well as public morality.

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Singapore and three incidents of violation of intellectual freedom

in libraries have been reported by the respondent. Various initiatives focusing on the provision of information about HIV/Aids, as well as focusing on women and their access to information, have been taken.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics, of which more detail is provided below. Neither the IFLA Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and no indication as to their adoption within the next two years has been given.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Singapore and the respondent does not feel that such legislation would impact on user privacy. The National Library Board does not, however, archive borrower records because it might impact on the privacy of users.

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

The respondent has indicated three incidents that occurred during the past two years: the *Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER)* was banned in August 2006 for failing to comply with media regulations; *Time*, *Newsweek* and *IHT* were reclassified as offshore newspapers; and the national library had to terminate subscriptions to *FEER* in September 2006.

Independent third-party sources reaffirm that freedom of expression and freedom of assembly in Singapore are increasingly being controlled. See <http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-sgp/index>; <http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/sgp-summary-eng> and

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/160/>. Reporters Without Borders supports this position and mentions that the state is engaged “in a fierce battle with several foreign publications and at the same time has cracked down on Singaporean bloggers and cyber dissidents” (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20796). For more information, see also http://www.rsf.org/country-50.php3?id_mot=265&Valider=OK and <http://www.indexonline.org/en/indexindex/articles/2005/2/singapore-film-maker-faces-political-ban.shtml>.

HIV/Aids awareness

The national library works closely with Action for Aids and World Vision to stage exhibitions and programmes in order to raise HIV/Aids awareness. “The Challenge and the Hope”, an HIV/Aids art exhibition was jointly organised by the national library and the Action for Aids society. This was done in conjunction with World Aids Day 2006 and the Singapore Aids Conference 2006. Together the national library and Action for Aids launched two visual arts exhibitions to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around HIV and Aids.

Women and freedom of access to information

With regard to the promotion of women’s literacy the respondent refers to READ!, a programme in which hairstylists and homemakers are targeted in a nationwide campaign. The programme includes book discussions, meet-the-author sessions and numerous competitions.

In February 2006, the national library and the Association for Women for Action and Research (AWARE) organised a national writing competition called *This is my Story*. Women and girls of all ages were encouraged to write a true story about a personal life-transforming event in order to share and affirm a spirit of overcoming life’s hurdles.

The national library, together with the Asia Research Institute (ARI), organised *The Asia Trends Lectures*, bringing in leading international and national women speakers to address issues on the role of women in Asian religion.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but the situation will be reviewed again in 2007. The respondent is therefore unable to commit an adoption timeline.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted but the situation will be reviewed again in 2007. The respondent is therefore unable to commit an adoption timeline.

Ethics

A code of ethics, the library association of Singapore’s Statement of Ethical Principles, was adopted in 1980 (see <http://www.las.org.sg/constitution.htm>). This code is implemented through ethical behaviour, high levels of professionalism, knowledge sharing of best practices, collaboration, etc. The respondent has provided the following examples of how this code is implemented:

- Resource sharing takes place through interlibrary loans, document delivery and the provision of references and user education training.
- The library association organises and coordinates library training activities as a platform for librarians to keep abreast of library development, technology and applications.
- A professional development scheme is being developed with the objective to upgrade skills, competencies and knowledge for effective professional practice; and to build a framework on a points award system to reflect attendance, participation, contribution and the level of engagement in professional development activities.
- A task force has been set up to promote participation by, and visibility of, younger librarians in the country.
- A Singapore Library Week is planned as a celebration and promotion of library services and resources and the library profession.

Main indicators

Country name:	Singapore
Population:	4 553 009 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Mandarin 35%, English 23%, Malay 14.1%, Hokkien 11.4%, Cantonese 5.7%, Teochew 4.9%, Tamil 3.2%, other Chinese dialects 1.8%, other 0.9% (2000 census)
Literacy:	92.5%
Literacy reported by respondent:	95.4% (among residents aged 15+ years)

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

Singapore 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*:	22 (excludes the national library) (2005: 40)
Estimated number of school libraries:	18 (junior college libraries)
Estimated number of university libraries:	16 (universities, polytechnics and institutes of higher learning)
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	46
Source of these numbers:	Directory of Libraries and Information Centres in Singapore; National Library Board, Annual Report

Internet access

Population online**:	2 421 800 Internet users as of Sept. 2005 (66.3%) (2005: 49.4%)
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:	Average
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Average
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree (2005: Yes, motivated by the desire to protect children from harmful content and safeguard public morality)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children and safeguard national security, religious values and public morality (2005: Yes)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in university libraries and school libraries. There is a notional/token fee to regulate use of public terminals in public libraries (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 – wireless access in public libraries is free for the next 3 years (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.