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**Responding institution:**

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

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This is the first time that Vietnam has responded to the IFLA/FAIFE questionnaire. There are an estimated 7 641 public libraries in Vietnam, as well as 17 459 school libraries. The number of government-funded research libraries is given as 278. No university research libraries have been listed by the respondent.

Internet penetration is relatively low, with only 18.5% of the population being Internet users. Levels of access in the country's libraries are very high, as 81-100% of all school, university, public and government-funded research libraries provide Internet access to their users, but it is not free of charge. (The respondent did not complete the section of the questionnaire dealing with government funding for Internet access.)

An average amount of local content is available on the Internet, and an average amount of content is available in local languages. The literacy rate is estimated at over 93% (90.3% according to the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*).

The library association is in favour of filtering information and the use of filtering software is widespread in the libraries. The reasons for filtering content are to protect children; to safeguard national security, the national ethos/culture and public morality; and to prevent crime.

There are no specific programmes by libraries to raise awareness of HIV/Aids. Libraries also have no special

programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, and no programmes that focus specifically on women's access to certain topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health and family planning).

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. No code of ethics has been adopted.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. It is felt that keeping user records would affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

The respondent has indicated that no incidents have occurred in the last two years that adversely affected the freedom of access to information or the freedom of expression. However, third-party sources note many incidents in the last two years where freedom of expression and freedom of access to information have been curtailed. Some of these are described below.

Amnesty International reports that in March 2006 the Prime Minister signed a Decree on Public Order that tightly restricts public gatherings and specifies the authorisation required. In July 2006, additional regulations were issued in an attempt to further control access to the Internet (<http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/vnm-summary-eng>).

In May 2007, human rights lawyers and Internet writers Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan were

sentenced to prison. IFEX reported that they were to be detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to free expression, and called for their immediate and unconditional release in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Vietnam is a signatory (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/83352/>).

In March 2007, a priest who edited a dissident newspaper was sentenced to eight years in prison, and four other dissidents were also sentenced to prison (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/82112/>).

In October 2006, two newspapers were suspended and a third banned after publishing controversial articles (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/78542/>). In August 2006, IFEX reported that studies show a steady increase in government censorship of the Internet (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/76288/>).

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

There are no specific programmes by libraries to raise awareness of HIV/Aids.

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

Libraries in Vietnam have no special programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, and no programmes that focus specifically on women's access to certain topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health and family planning).

#### **Ethics and IFLA initiatives**

No code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted. It has not been indicated whether the library association plans to adopt any of these within the next two years.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Vietnam
Population:	85 262 356 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Vietnamese (official), English (increasingly favoured as a second language), some French, Chinese and Khmer; mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)
Literacy:	90.3%
Literacy reported by respondent:	>93%

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

Vietnam participated for the first time in the IFLA/FAIFE World Report in 2007. No comparisons can therefore be made with previous reports.

#### Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	7 641
Estimated number of school libraries:	17 459
Estimated number of university libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	278
Source of these numbers:	Research Division – National Library of Vietnam

#### Internet access

Population online**:	15 760 702 Internet users as of April 2007 (18.5%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	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:	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
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes – to protect children; for national security; to safeguard the national ethos/culture; to prevent crime and to safeguard public morality
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	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:	No data provided

\* 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.