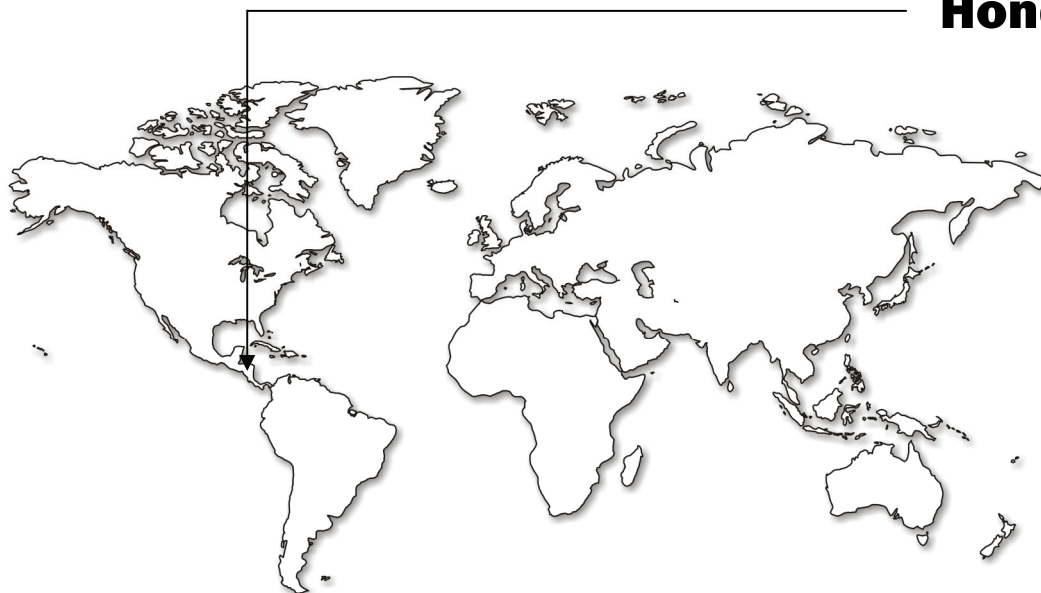# Honduras

Responding institution:
Consejo Hondureño de Ciencia y Technologie

This is Honduras' first contribution to the World Report series. The respondent (the Council of Science and Technology of Honduras) unfortunately has not provided the estimated numbers of libraries in the country.

According to Internet World Stats, Honduras had an Internet population of 4.9% in August 2007. The respondent has indicated that less than 20% of public, school, university and government-funded research libraries provide their users with access to the Internet. Internet access is not free of charge. Due to lack of a budget for this purpose, the state and/or other library authorities have not made extra funding available for Internet access in libraries in the last two years.

Very little local content is available on the Internet, but an average amount of content is available in local languages. The reported literacy rate in Honduras is 74.2%, which differs slightly from the literacy rate of 80% reported by the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*.

The library association is not in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals and the use of filtering software is not widespread in the country's libraries. This is primarily because very few libraries provide access to the Internet.

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Honduras. According to the respondent, such legislation would not impact on user privacy. The

respondent has not answered the question regarding whether user records are kept and whether this would affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user. No reports of violation of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years have been cited by the respondent. Consulted third-party sources, however, have revealed some concerns, which will be discussed below.

The respondent has not stated whether libraries in Honduras are involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes, but has indicated that they have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy and women's access to information.

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics and no indication has been given regarding its intention or not to adopt one within the next two years. The questions on the adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have also not been answered.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Honduras. According to the respondent, such legislation would not impact on user privacy. The question on the keeping of user records and its effect on the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user has not been answered.

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

No violations of intellectual freedom, access to

information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years have been reported by the respondent. No additional information resources pertaining to freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have been provided. Consulted third-party sources have nevertheless revealed some serious concerns.

The 2006 and 2007 annual reports of Amnesty International report on violations of human rights, especially those of persons who defend the human rights of indigenous and rural communities (http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/hnd-summary-eng and http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Americas/Honduras). These violations have implications for the freedom of information and freedom of expression. Amnesty International (2007) reports that in Honduras and Guatemala, "many defenders of human rights are subjected to unfounded investigations and malicious prosecutions. Their offices and homes are placed under surveillance, while at the same time important human rights information and documents are stolen to obstruct their human rights work" (http://origin2.amnesty.org/pages/hrd-080807-action-eng).

A press release from IFEX reports on the annual report of the Committee for Free Expression (C-Libre) regarding the state of freedom of expression and the right to information in Honduras. This report "emphasises that 2006 was a year of multiple violations of freedom of expression and the right to information"; and that "in Honduras freedom of expression is being limited, not only for journalists but for anyone seeking to defend citizens' rights" (http://www.ifex.org/alerts/content/view/full/82444/).

With regard to press freedom, the 2007 annual report of Reporters Without Borders states: "Violence against journalists and pressure on them remain alarmingly high, especially as it is often by politicians who are sometimes also media owners […] The private sector also threatened the media" (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20538).

HIV/Aids awareness

Although it has not been stated whether or not libraries in Honduras are involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes, it has been indicated that libraries are involved in programmes to make HIV/Aids information available to members of the public who cannot read. Different institutions and non-governmental organisations have invested in these programmes, but the degree to which libraries are involved is unclear.

Women and freedom of access to information

The respondent has indicated that special programmes for the promotion of women's literacy are offered, as well as programmes for promoting women's access to information. It is, however, not clear to what extent the libraries are involved, as the respondent has indicated that the National Institute for Women (El Instituto Nacional de la Mujer, INAM) has initiatives in this respect.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The respondent did not answer the questions regarding the adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The respondent did not answer the questions on the adoption of the IFLA Glasgow Declaration.

Ethics

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics. No indication regarding its intent to adopt one within the next two years has been given.

Main indicators

Country name:	Honduras
Population:	7 483 763 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Spanish, Amerindian dialects
Literacy:	80%
Literacy reported by respondent:	74.2%

Population figures, language and literacy are from the
CIA World Factbook, 2007 edition
(https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html).

Honduras

Libraries and Internet access

Honduras 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*:	No data provided
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of university libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source of these numbers:	No data provided

Internet access

Population online**:	337 300 Internet users as of Aug. 2007 (4.9%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
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:	Average
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No
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

* 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.