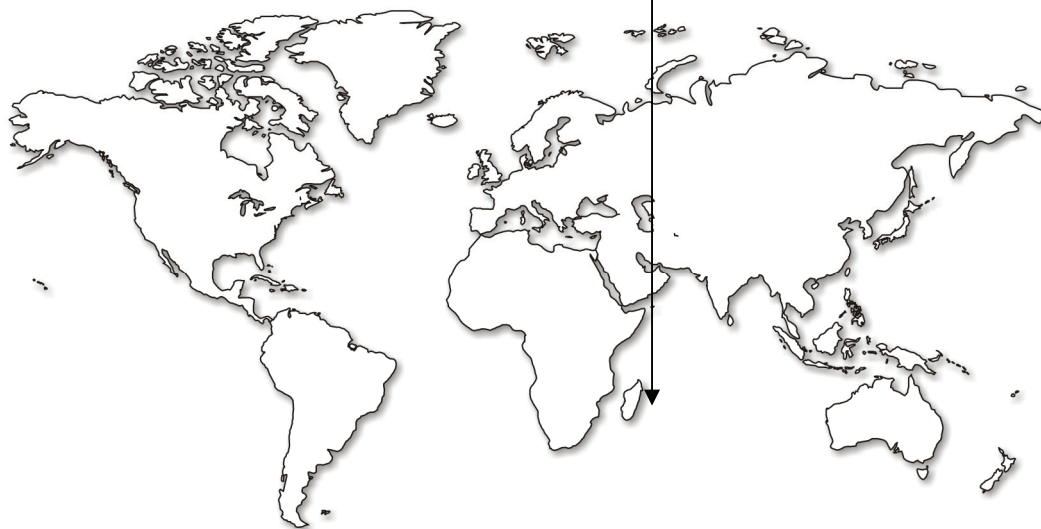


Mauritius



Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

This is the second time that Mauritius has contributed to the World Report series, the first being in 2005. This report refers to 20 public libraries and 105 research libraries, consisting of 5 university research libraries, 50 school libraries and 50 government-funded research libraries. (This differs considerably from the 2005 report's 13 public libraries and 155 research libraries; however, the respondent's source for the 2007 data is a 2000 publication, whereas the 2005 data for research libraries may be more accurate.)

Data regarding access to the Internet and the population online is only available as for September 2005 and indicates a 13.9% Internet penetration. This represents an increase of 1.9% since the 2005 report. However, 81-100% of public, school, university and government-funded research libraries offer access to the Internet. The national library, university and school libraries provide access to the Internet free of charge, and the state has made extra funding available for Internet access in school libraries in the last two years.

Very little local content is available on the Internet and very little content as such is available in local languages. The literacy rate of 90% reported by the respondent is slightly higher than the rate of 84.4% indicated in the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*.

As in 2005, the library association is still not in favour

of filtering information on library Internet terminals and the use of filtering software is not widespread in Mauritian libraries.

Regarding special issues, anti-terror legislation was passed in 2002. No reports of violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression have been cited. Libraries in Mauritius are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness campaigns and do not offer special programmes for women with regard to access to information.

A code of ethics was adopted in 2003. Although the intent to adopt the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration was indicated in 2005, at the time of writing neither has been adopted.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Anti-terror legislation was passed in 2002 with the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The respondent has not indicated whether the legislation is likely to impact on user privacy. According to the respondent, the keeping of user records does not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

No information reporting violations of intellectual freedom and/or freedom of access to information or freedom of expression has been provided. No such incidents have been reported in the consulted third-party sources either.

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Mauritius are not involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/Aids. It has not been indicated whether libraries are involved in providing information on HIV/Aids to members of the community who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Similar to the report of 2005, libraries in Mauritius do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. They also do not have special programmes that focus specifically on promoting women's access to topics such as social information, the economy, education, health and family planning.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

Although it was indicated in the 2005 report that the library association intended to adopt the IFLA Internet

Manifesto in the following two years, it has still not been adopted. It has again been indicated that the association intends to adopt it in two years' time.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Although also indicated in the 2005 report that it was the library association's intent to adopt the Glasgow Declaration in the following two years, the questions regarding the adoption, implementation and intent of adoption of this Declaration have not been answered in this report.

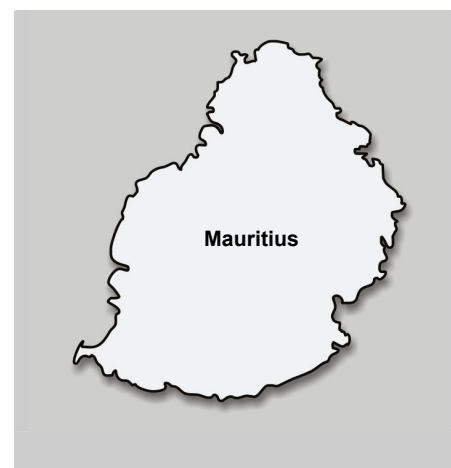
Ethics

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 2003. Copies of the code have been widely distributed among library and information service staff. The question regarding the availability of the code of ethics on the Internet has not been answered.

Main indicators

Country name:	Mauritius
Population:	1 250 882 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Creole 80.5%, Bhojpuri 12.1%, French 3.4%, English (official; spoken by less than 1% of the population), other 3.7%, unspecified 0.3% (2000 census)
Literacy:	84.4%
Literacy reported by respondent:	ca. 90%

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

Mauritius contributed to the World Report series in 2005. 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*:	20 (2005: 13)
Estimated number of school libraries:	50
Estimated number of university libraries:	5
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	50
Source of these numbers:	Chan Kam Lon, Y. (Ed.). 2000. <i>Directory of libraries and documentation centres and bookshops in Mauritius</i> . Port Louis: National Library

Internet access

Population online**:	180 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2005 (13.9%) (2005: 12%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 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:	Very little
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Very little
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2005: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No (2005: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in university and school libraries; the national library also provides free access to the Internet (2005: Yes, in research libraries only)
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 – in school libraries (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.