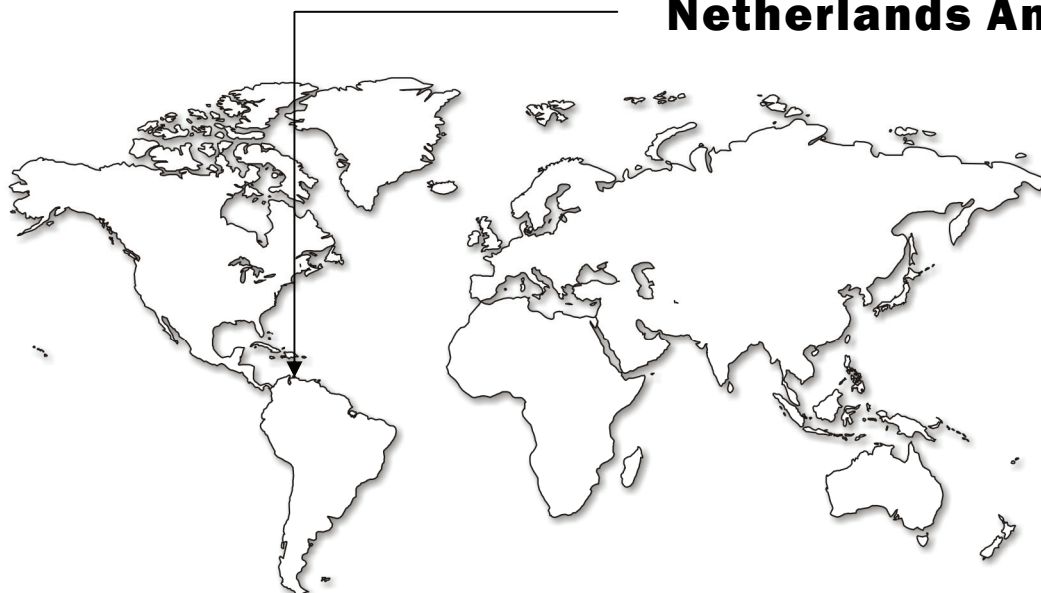


Netherlands Antilles



Responding institution: *Philipsburg Jubilee Library*

This report refers to St Maarten, which is part of the Netherlands Antilles. The Antilles consists of 5 islands, Bonaire (with a population of approximately 12 000), Saba (pop. ca. 1 500), St Eustatius (pop. ca. 2 000), Curacao (pop. ca. 160 000) and St Maarten (pop. ca. 50 000). Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius have one public library each. In December 2008 the country called Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist. St Maarten and Curacao will become separate countries, and the other islands will become entities within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

St Maarten is responding to the World Report for the fourth time, having previously contributed in 2001, 2003 and 2005. It does not have a library association. The response therefore refers to the activities in 1 public library and 1 university library. The respondent is unsure about the number of school libraries and 0 government-funded research libraries have been indicated. (The 2005 response concerned only 1 public library; at the time there were no research libraries.)

According to the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*, Internet penetration in St Maarten was estimated at 1.1% in 1999 (no more recent information is provided). Both the public and the university library offer Internet access to their users.

Although there is very little coverage of local content on the Internet, local languages are very well covered. The literacy rate is estimated at 96.7% (*CIA World*

Factbook, 2007 edition). This differs slightly from the respondent's estimation of 90%.

Similar to the 2005 report, Internet access is still not free of charge and the state or other library authorities have not made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system over the last two years.

The library community in St Maarten is to some degree in favour of filtering information for the protection of children. The use of filtering software is, however, not widespread in the country's libraries.

The situation regarding intellectual freedom in the country appears to be good, as no concerns about the violation of intellectual freedom have been noted either by the respondent or by third-party sources, and no adverse effects of anti-terror legislation have been reported. This was also the case in the 2003 and 2005 reports.

Libraries have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/Aids, but not in programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read. There are no special programmes to promote women's information literacy or women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning.

St Maarten's library community has not adopted a special code of ethics and they do not intend to do so in two years' time. The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted since the response to the 2005 report. The question on the adoption of the IFLA Glasgow Declaration has, however, not been completed.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in St Maarten. The respondent has not expressed an opinion on the impact such legislation may have on user privacy. The respondent does, however, feel that the keeping of user records will affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

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

According to the respondent, there have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom. Third-party source IFEX reports that the Netherlands Antilles was one of eight Caribbean nations that pledged to uphold press freedom principles by signing the Declaration of Chapultepec (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/31184>). No reports on the violation of intellectual freedom were noted by third-party sources.

HIV/Aids awareness

By means of exhibits, brochures and lectures, libraries in St Maarten have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness. They have not been involved in programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read because, according to the respondent, it is difficult to reach such a group.

Women and freedom of access to information

As most women are literate, libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy. For the same reason, they have also not been involved in special programmes to promote women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

Since the 2005 response, the IFLA Internet Manifesto was adopted by the library community of St Maarten. Although they keep to all the recommendations of the Manifesto, they are unfortunately not in a position to offer free Internet access.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The question on the adoption of the IFLA Glasgow Declaration has not been completed.

Ethics

The library community of St Maarten has not adopted a special code of ethics, and according to the respondent there is no intention to adopt such a code in two years' time.

Main indicators

Country name:	St Maarten, Netherlands Antilles
Population:	223 652 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	English; Dutch ca. 10%, Spanish ca. 20%. As about 100 nationalities live on St Maarten, many other languages are spoken, but the main language of communication is English and it is also the main language of the press.
Literacy:	96.7%
Literacy reported by respondent:	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

St Maarten (Netherlands Antilles; Dutch West Indies) 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*:	1 (2005: 1)
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of university libraries:	1
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	0
Source of these numbers:	Philipsburg Jubilee Library's own investigation

Internet access

Population online**:	90% (2005: 1.1%)
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:	No data provided
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 much
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children (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:	No (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:	No (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.