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**Responding institution:**

***Solomon Islands College of Higher Education Library***

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This is the Solomon Islands' first response to the World Report. It concerns 8 public library service points and 17 research libraries (including 2 university research libraries, 10 school libraries and 5 government-funded research libraries).

In March 2005, Internet penetration for the Solomon Islands was estimated at 1.7% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition). It is estimated that less than 20% of the public and government-funded research libraries, 41-60% of university libraries and 21-40% of school libraries offer Internet access to their users.

There is very little Internet coverage of local content, while nothing or practically nothing is available in the local languages. The respondent estimates the literacy rate at 25%. (The 2007 *CIA World Factbook* does not offer an estimate for the Solomon Islands.)

Access to the Internet is not free of charge, as either the parent institutions take responsibility for the cost or library users are charged a fee. During the last two years the state and other library authorities have in some instances recognised the value of Internet access. (The respondent has not elaborated on this answer, and it is therefore not clear whether "value" would imply financial support and what form it might take.)

The library community is to a certain degree in favour

of filtering information on library Internet terminals. Consequently, the use of filtering software is to a certain degree widespread in the country. The protection of children and the safeguarding of religious values, the national ethos/culture and public morality are offered as reasons.

Libraries in the Solomon Islands are not troubled by anti-terror legislation; neither have there been incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. No sources have been suggested by the respondent to provide more insight into the status of intellectual freedom in the Solomon Islands.

Libraries have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness, but not in programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. They have also not been involved in special programmes to promote women's literacy or women's access to information.

According to the respondent the library community has not adopted a code of ethics. Neither the IFLA Internet Manifesto nor the IFLA Glasgow Declaration has been adopted.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in the Solomon Islands. The respondent is of the opinion that if such legislation should be adopted, it would impact on user privacy, and that the keeping of library user records would affect the individual Internet library user's freedom of expression. According to the respondent, these can be limiting factors to Internet

access whereas, on the other hand, user statistics could be useful for planning and development.

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

According to the respondent there have been no reported incidents of violation of intellectual freedom.

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

By hosting displays libraries in the Solomon Islands have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness. According to the respondent, a lack of insight and knowledge about HIV/Aids, or a lack of resources and materials, might be the reason why libraries have not taken the initiative to implement programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read.

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

Libraries in the Solomon Islands lack the resources and human power to be involved in special programmes to

promote women's literacy or women's access to information. Such promotions are normally done by government bodies and agencies.

#### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library community has not considered the IFLA Internet Manifesto. In fact, they have never heard of it and do not intend to adopt it within the next two years.

#### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted by the library community as they have never heard of it.

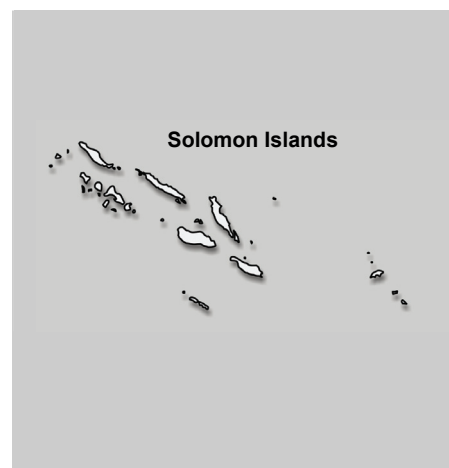
#### **Ethics**

The library community of the Solomon Islands has not adopted a code of ethics. According to the respondent they have normal library rules, but have not yet realised the need to develop a code of ethics. They are also unsure what such a code would entail.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Solomon Islands
Population:	566 842 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Melanesian pidgin (lingua franca in much of the country), English (official, but spoken by only 1-2% of the population), 120 indigenous languages
Literacy:	Data not available
Literacy reported by respondent:	25%

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

Solomon Islands 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*:	8
Estimated number of school libraries:	10
Estimated number of university libraries:	2
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	5
Source of these numbers:	National Library of Solomon Islands

#### Internet access

Population online**:	8 400 users as of March 2005 (1.7%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
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:	Nothing, or practically nothing
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children and to safeguard religious values, the national ethos/culture and 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:	Yes, in some cases

\* 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.