# Turkey

## Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

This is the second time since 2001 that Turkey has contributed to the World Report series. This report relates to the estimated 1 179 public libraries, 115 university libraries and 19 684 school libraries. No data has been given for the number of government-funded research libraries.

Turkey had an online population of 21.1% in 2006. An average amount of local content is available on the Internet and an average amount of this is available in local languages.

Some 81-100% of the university and government-funded research libraries offer Internet access to users, whereas 21-40% of public libraries and less than 20% of school libraries do so. In all these libraries users can access the Internet free of charge. The state and/or library authorities have made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years.

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of filtering information and filtering software is also, to a certain extent, used in the country's libraries. The reasons for using such software include the protection of children, safeguarding of national security and prevention of crime.

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. No indication has been given as to whether it is felt that such legislation would impact on users' privacy. The respondent has indicated that the keeping of user records does not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

No violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression have been reported by the respondent. Third-party sources, however, reveal some concerns that will be discussed below.

Libraries in Turkey are involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes, the promotion of women's literacy and the promotion of access to information specially for women. The reported literacy rate is 88.3%.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

According to the respondent, no anti-terror legislation has been passed. The respondent has not indicated whether such legislation would impact on user privacy, but has indicated that 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 reports of the violation of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression have been listed by the respondent. No information resources have been supplied to further explain the situation regarding freedom of access to information.

Third-party sources, however, reveal some incidents. The 2007 report of Reporters Without Borders (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20827) and the 2006 report of Amnesty International (http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/tur-summary-eng) express concern about freedom of expression in Turkey and the new Turkish Penal Code.

In a letter to the Turkish Prime Minister in 2007, the Human Rights Watch (http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/04/13/turkey15692.htm) also raised concerns about these restrictions on freedom of expression. Incidents involving freedom of expression in Turkey have also been reported by IFEX (http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/26).

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Although libraries offer literacy training programmes for all, there are special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Libraries also have special programmes that focus on promoting women's access to information, such as programmes on preventing physical violence towards women, conferences about family planning, women's health and women's role in society.

**HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries in Turkey are involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes by means of conferences, training programmes, interactive CDs and exhibitions. They have not, however, been involved in programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto. Regarding the implementation of the Manifesto in the daily work of libraries, the respondent has stated that "all libraries in [the] country try to provide freedom of access to information, regardless of medium and frontiers, and to provide essential gateways to the Internet. There are no barriers to access information in libraries and [they] try to provide essential gateways to the Internet […] barriers to the flow of information have been removed, especially those that promote inequality, poverty and despair".

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

The library association has adopted the Glasgow Declaration. The respondent has indicated that "libraries and information services in [the] country provide access to information, ideas and works of imagination in any medium, regardless of frontiers. [They] contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and help to safeguard democratic values and universal civil rights. [They] try to make materials, facilities and services equally accessible to all users".

**Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1996 (see http://www.kutuphaneci.org.tr/web/node.php?id=173).

## Main indicators

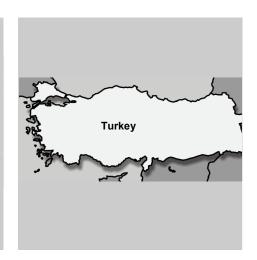| | |
|---|---|
| Country name: | Turkey |
| Population: | 71 158 647 (July 2007 est.) |
| Main language: | Turkish (official), Kurdish, Dimli (or Zaza), Azeri, Kabardian (there is also a substantial Gagauz population in the European part of Turkey) |
| Literacy: | 87.4% |
| Literacy reported by respondent: | 88.3% |

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

**Turkey**

## Libraries and Internet access

Turkey last contributed to the World Report series in 2001. Comparisons are unfortunately not possible due to changes in the questionnaire.

### Library services

| | |
|---|---|
| Estimated number of public libraries*: | 1 179 |
| Estimated number of school libraries: | 19 684 |
| Estimated number of university libraries: | 115 |
| Estimated number of government-funded research libraries: | No data provided |
| Source of these numbers: | http://www.kygm.turizm.gov.tr |

### Internet access

| | |
|---|---|
| Population online**: | 16 000 000 users as of Sept. 2006 (21.1%) |
| Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users: | 21-40% |
| Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users: | Less than 20% |
| 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, to a certain degree |
| Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries: | Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children, safeguard national security and prevent crime |
| Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers: | Yes, in all libraries |
| 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 |

\* 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.