

## Uganda




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### Responding institution: *National Library of Uganda*

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This is Uganda's third contribution to the World Report series. It refers to the 22 public libraries and 11 community libraries in the country. These are supplemented by 15 university research libraries, 10 school libraries and 21 government-funded research libraries.

There is less than 20% Internet access in public and school libraries, but university and government libraries enjoy access of 61-80% and 41-60% respectively. In some public libraries there may be only one computer that provides Internet access, while in some university libraries there may be anything between 40 and 300 computers.

The Internet provides very little local content, and this is not available in local languages. The 2002/2003 statistics show an average literacy rate of 69%, which breaks down into 77% for males, 63% for females, 87% for urban areas and 67% for rural areas.

The library association is against the filtering of information and there is therefore no filtering software on computer terminals. Although Internet access is free in university libraries, public libraries charge a fee in order to pay subscription fees to the Internet service provider. This discrepancy between university and public libraries is worrying, as more computers and additional bandwidth have been made available to universities but public libraries struggle to secure very basic equipment.

No anti-terror legislation was passed in the past two years but violations of intellectual freedom, noted in the 2005 report, persist. The respondent notes that the theatre production *Vagina Monologues* was prevented from being staged in Uganda.

Libraries participate in HIV/Aids programmes through displays at public exhibitions, and illiterate community members are supplied with videotapes. The libraries also partner with adult literacy programmes, which have a majority of females as learners. Special categories of information for women are provided for primarily by telecentre programmes.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics but this is not available on the Internet. The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted because of the difficulties in obtaining Internet access, but the intention is to do so within the next two years. The Glasgow Declaration has already been adopted.

#### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Although the 2005 report listed the negative implications of anti-terror legislation passed in 2002, no other laws have been passed since then. It would be safe to assume that the library association remains wary of its potential application.

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

The report mentions the banning of the play *Vagina Monologues*. There has also been a recent report on Internet filtering in Uganda (<http://ice.citizenlab.org/?p=190>).

**HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries participate in exhibitions that focus on HIV/Aids, and they provide videotapes to members of the community who are unable to read. Uganda's HIV/Aids programme has been highly successful.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Special information programmes for women are provided by telecentres, and libraries are partners with adult literacy organisations, where the majority of learners are women.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Manifesto has not yet been adopted because of the problems with Internet access in the country.

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

The Glasgow Declaration was adopted (there is no elaboration on its implementation in the daily work of librarians).

**Ethics**

The library association's code of ethics is not yet available on the Internet.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Uganda
Population:	30 262 610 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	English (official; taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for indigenous language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic
Literacy:	66.8%
Literacy reported by respondent:	69%

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

Uganda 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*:	22 public and 11 community libraries (2005: 31)
Estimated number of school libraries:	10
Estimated number of university libraries:	15
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	21
Source of these numbers:	National Library of Uganda records

#### Internet access

Population online**:	500 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (1.7%) (2005: 0.4%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20% (2005: Less than 20%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
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:	No (2005: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No – it is not an issue that has come up for serious debate; it may be mentioned from time to time (2005: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in university libraries (the tuition fee often includes a computer fee); not in public libraries (may charge a fee to pay the ISP) (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:	Yes – to university libraries, but not to public libraries, which are still struggling to acquire the basics that make a library (2005: Yes)

\* 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.