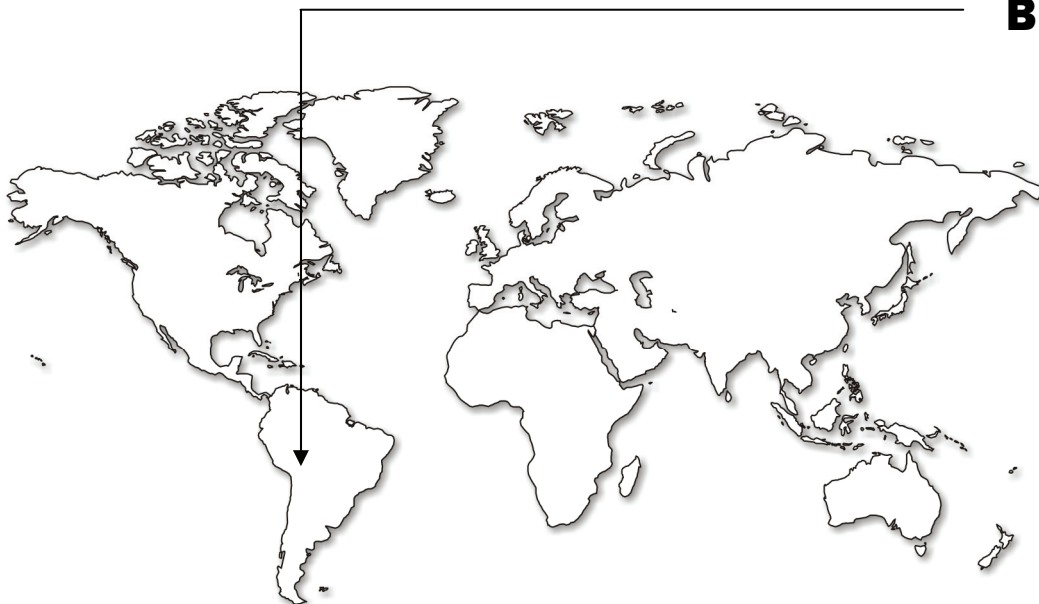


Bolivia



Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

Bolivia contributed to the World Report in 2003, but not in 2005. According to the Bolivian Directory of Libraries and Documentation Centres, the country has 361 public libraries. Research libraries consist of 53 university research libraries, 22 school libraries and 54 government-funded research libraries.

Only 21-40% of the university research libraries and government-funded research libraries offer Internet access. More public libraries (61-80%) do, however, while less than 20% of the school libraries have Internet facilities. This is a great improvement on the figures in the 2003 report. Very little local content is available on the Internet and also very little content in local languages. The 2007 *CIA World Factbook* sets the literacy rate at 86.7%.

The library association in Bolivia has changed from not being in favour of Internet filtering to a position where selected filtering is now proposed in areas concerning children, national security, crime and the preservation of the national ethos/culture and public morality. Filtering software is, however, not widely in use.

Internet access is free of charge only in university libraries and, although the respondent indicates that "in some cases" funding is provided for Internet access in libraries, no specific example has been given.

No violations of intellectual freedom have been reported by the respondent, and no anti-terror

legislation exists that might negatively impact on library users. Regarding areas of special focus, the contribution of libraries in Bolivia is mainly seen as providing links to appropriate websites.

According to the respondent a code of ethics has been adopted, but no detail has been given. The IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted, the reason being that the library association is not aware of the content. It is indicated that both will be adopted within the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation exists in Bolivia that can adversely affect the intellectual freedom and privacy of library users. The respondent does not feel that keeping user records would affect the freedom of the library Internet user.

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

According to the respondent, no incidents of violation of intellectual freedom or freedom of expression have been reported during the last two years. Yet the OpenNet Initiative reports that, in 2006 and 2007, journalists in Bolivia were threatened, physically attacked or murdered, while others disappeared (<http://opennet.net/research/regions/la>).

Reporters Without Borders furthermore indicates that "with only 13 physical attacks on journalists recorded in 2006, Bolivia did better than neighbouring countries", but this is tempered by journalists seldom tackling sensitive topics, a very volatile political

situation (http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/rapport_en_bd-4.pdf), and a “thin-skinned” President who is making reporters’ working conditions increasingly difficult. For a description of this and other specific incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom in Bolivia, see <http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/82623/>.

HIV/Aids awareness

Some libraries in Bolivia help raise awareness about HIV/Aids by providing links to the Bolivian Web of Health Sciences Information (REBICS) and the International Web of Health Sciences Information (BIREME). These libraries are also involved in raising awareness about HIV/Aids among people who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Bolivia are linked to websites in “the social area” for projects focusing on the promotion of women’s literacy and the provision of information to women. Such projects include the Community Programme (PAC) and the Integral Health Project of the Minister of Health. Development programmes through the Local Socio-Economic Information

Network (RELISE) and the National Union of Institutions for Social Action Work (UNITAS) provide special initiatives for promoting women’s access to information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

Bolivia has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto, as it does not “acknowledge [know?] the content of the mentioned Manifesto”. Yet, according to the respondent, the country intends to adopt the Manifesto within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Libraries in Bolivia have not adopted the Glasgow Declaration because they are not aware of its content. The respondent has nonetheless indicated that it is the intention to adopt the Declaration within the next two years.

Ethics

The respondent has stated that a code of ethics has been adopted, but does not elaborate on the year of adoption, how libraries have implemented it, and its availability on the Internet.

Main indicators

Country name:	Bolivia
Population:	9 119 152 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara (official)
Literacy:	86.7%
Literacy reported by respondent:	13%

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

Bolivia contributed to the World Report series in 2003. The following section compares data and answers from 2007 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from the respondent's estimates, where possible.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	361
Estimated number of school libraries:	22
Estimated number of university libraries:	53
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	54
Source of these numbers:	Bolivian Directory of Libraries and Documentation Centres

Internet access

Population online**:	480 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (5.2%) (2003: 0.92%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80% (2003: Less than 20%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
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
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Very little
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children; national security; to safeguard the national ethos/culture; to prevent crime and to safeguard public morality (2003: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in university libraries (2003: Yes, in public 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, in some cases

* 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.