Cambodia

Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

Cambodia has responded once previously in 2001. There are an estimated number of 1 100 public libraries in Cambodia, as well as 1 000 school libraries and 13 academic libraries. The number of government-funded research libraries is given as 28. The source of the data is given as the 2006 CDNL report by the national library of Cambodia.

Internet penetration is currently very low in Cambodia, with only 0.3% of the population being Internet users. Levels of Internet access in the country's libraries are correspondingly low, as less than 20% of all public libraries, school libraries and government-funded research libraries offer Internet access to their users. Of the university libraries, 41-60% offer Internet access. In those libraries where Internet access is provided, it is not free of charge, due to budget constraints. No government funding has been made available in the last two years to improve Internet access in libraries.

The respondent has indicated that very little local content is available on the Internet and that very little is available in local languages. The literacy rate is given as 68% in the questionnaire, and as 73.6% in the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*.

The library association is in favour of filtering Internet content to a certain extent (e.g. for children). Filtering software is widely used in libraries where Internet access is offered, the reason being to safeguard the national ethos/culture and public morality.

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration, and a code of ethics has not been adopted.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. The respondent is not sure whether such legislation would have an impact on user privacy. It is felt that keeping user records will affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user, as the information will be regarded as confidential.

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

The 2006 Amnesty International Report (http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/khm-summary-eng) indicates that critics of the government have been detained and imprisoned. Journalists received death threats and were forced to flee abroad after reporting on alleged corruption by military and government figures. Reporters Without Borders states that 2006 was a "bad year for press freedom" (http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/report.pdf) after the arrests of several journalists and radio reporters due to their criticism of the government. In June 2007, the editor of the French language daily newspaper in Cambodia was dismissed for publishing extracts of a document that was critical of the government, and the paper was forced to close down (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article =22533).

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries have no specific programmes for raising awareness of HIV/Aids. Traditionally, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government ministries have undertaken this role.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Cambodia have no special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, or on women's access to specific topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health and family planning). NGOs and government ministries may have undertaken this role.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, because many libraries do not have Internet access for either staff or users. The library association does not intend to adopt the Manifesto in two years' time.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted. The respondent has indicated that the library association is not aware of the existence of the Declaration. It does not intend to adopt the Declaration within the next two years.

Ethics

No code of ethics has been adopted by the library association. The respondent has indicated that "a code of ethics has never been considered a priority by the association", but that the library association intends to adopt one within the next two years.

Main indicators

Country name:	Cambodia
Population:	13 995 904
Main language:	Khmer (official) 95%, French, English
Literacy:	73.6%
Literacy reported by respondent:	68%

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

Cambodia

Libraries and Internet access

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

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	1 100
Estimated number of school libraries:	1 000
Estimated number of university libraries:	13
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	28
Source of these numbers:	CDNL report (2006) by the National Library of Cambodia

Internet access

Population online**:	44 000 Internet users as of April 2007 (0.3%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
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 little
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 safeguard 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:	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.