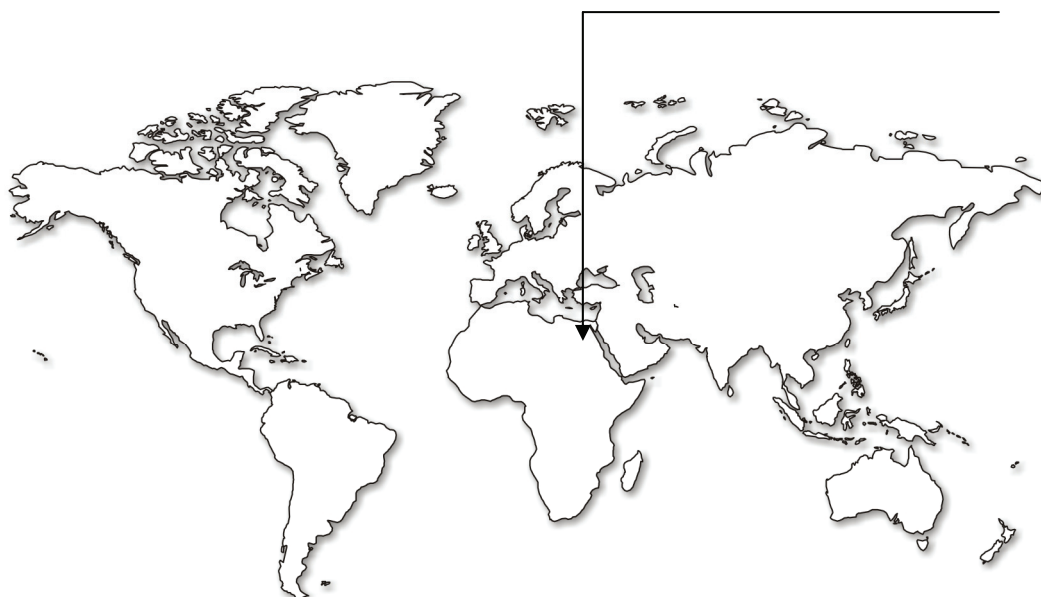


Egypt



Responding institution:

Drar-el-kotob

This is Egypt's fourth response to the World Report. A different responding institution from the 2005 report may account for the wide discrepancies in the numbers of libraries given. Whereas the previous report refers to 120 public libraries and 340 research libraries, the 2007 response indicates 1 257 public libraries, 917 university research libraries and 100 government-funded libraries. The respondent has also mentioned that there are 20 000 school libraries.

Some 61-80% of university libraries and 81-100% of government libraries offer Internet access to their users, while for public and school libraries the figures are 41-60% and 21-40% respectively. There is very little local content available in local languages. The literacy rate is 40%, according to the respondent (71.4% according to the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*).

Although the library association is against the filtering of information on the Internet, software to protect children and safeguard religious values and public morality is used to a certain degree in libraries.

None of the libraries provide access to the Internet free of charge, and in some cases libraries charge users per hour of use. The government has, however, provided additional funding in some cases in the past two years.

The respondent has indicated no anti-terror legislation that would affect user privacy, and has indicated that keeping user records will not affect the individual's freedom of expression.

While there is no mention in the report of violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years, it appears from the reports of organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Freedom of Expression Exchange that the situation in Egypt has not improved since 2005. Several incidents of censorship, banning, harassment and intimidation have been documented since the previous report.

The respondent cites lack of awareness as the reason for libraries' non-involvement in HIV/Aids awareness programmes and the provision of information to women, but unfortunately does not elaborate. This report mentions that the library association adopted a code of ethics in 1985 (the 2005 report, however, indicated that this had not happened and that there was no intention of doing so).

The respondent has also indicated that the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted, once again citing lack of awareness.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed since 2005 that would affect user privacy.

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

There have been no violations of intellectual freedom according to the respondent. Third-party sources, however, point out that in several instances bloggers have been harassed and websites shut down by the Egyptian authorities. There have also been reports of the detention of an *Al-Jazeera* journalist, Internet censorship, the repression of academic freedom, and the banning of the French newspaper *Le Figaro* and the German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, for articles on the prophet Muhammad and violent events in Islamic history.

Sources:

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81732>

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/82353>

<http://www.indexonline.org/en/indexindex/articles/2006/3/egypt-government-bans-foreign-newspapers.shtml>

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/01/17/egypt15063.htm>

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries are not involved in providing HIV/Aids awareness programmes, and the reason given of lack

of awareness is unusual, given global media coverage of HIV/Aids and the focus on Africa in particular.

Women and freedom of access to information

There are no special literacy and information programmes for women. It is possible that the literacy programme mentioned in the 2005 report has been discontinued.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Manifesto has not been adopted, and there is no intention to do so within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The same applies to the Glasgow Declaration. Lack of awareness of both IFLA initiatives has been cited as reasons for them not being adopted, and it is also not the intention to adapt them in the near future.

Ethics

Although the 2005 report indicated that there was no code of ethics and it was not the intention to adopt one in the future, this report mentions that the library association adopted a code of ethics in 1985. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina adopted its own code of ethics in 2002.

Main indicators

Country name:	Egypt
Population:	80 335 036 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Arabic (official), English and French (widely understood by the educated classes)
Literacy:	71.4%
Literacy reported by respondent:	40%

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

Egypt contributed to the World Report series in 2005, 2003 and 2001. 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*:	1 257 (2005: 122)
Estimated number of school libraries:	20 000
Estimated number of university libraries:	917
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	100
Source of these numbers:	http://www.libdirectory.idsc.gov.eg/

Internet access

Population online**:	5 000 000 Internet users as of Dec. 2005 (6.9%) (2005: 4.1)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60% (2005: 61-80%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
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:	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:	No (2005: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children, and to safeguard religious values and public morality (2005: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	No, some libraries ask users to pay a limited fee per hour on the Internet (2005: 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, in some cases (2005: 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.