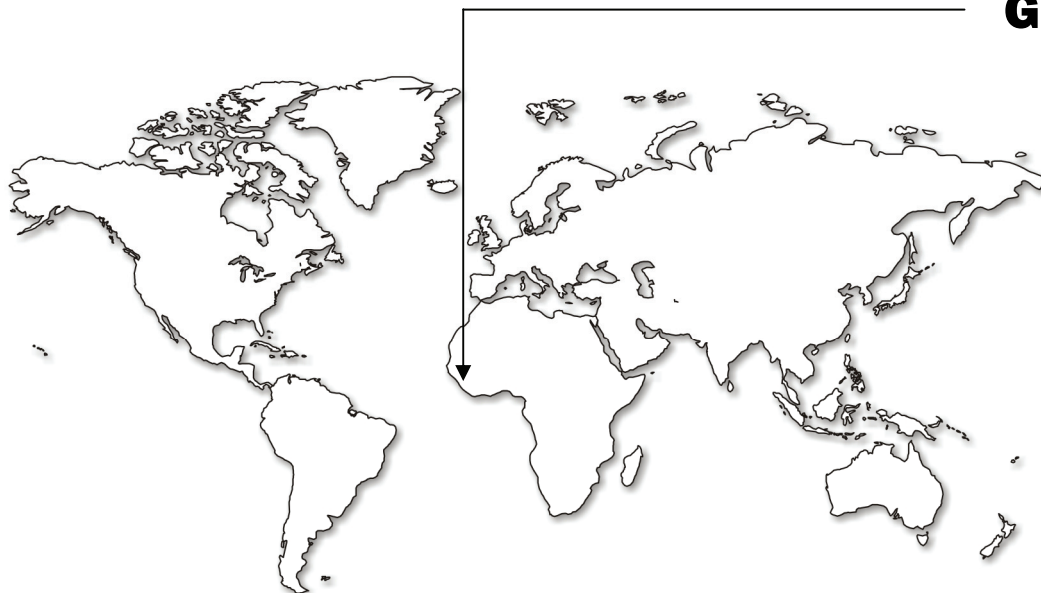


## Guinea




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

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This is the first time that Guinea has responded to the IFLA/FAIFE questionnaire. There are 31 public libraries, as well as 38 school libraries, 2 university research libraries and 1 government-funded research library.

Internet penetration is currently very low in Guinea, with only 0.6% of the population being Internet users. Less than 20% of all libraries offer Internet access to their users. In those libraries where Internet access is provided, it is free of charge. The state has, in some cases, made extra funding available to improve Internet access in the last two years.

An average amount of local content is available on the Internet, but very little content is available in local languages. The literacy rate is given as 35% (in the questionnaire) and as 29.5% (in the *CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition).

The library association is in favour of filtering information to a certain extent (e.g. for the protection of children), but the use of filtering software is not widespread in libraries. This could be due to the low percentage of libraries offering Internet access. The reasons given for the use of filtering software is to protect children and to safeguard national security, religious values and public morality.

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration, and no code of ethics has been adopted.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. It is felt that the keeping of user records will affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

The respondent has indicated that libraries and archives were destroyed, but gives no details.

Amnesty International reports that in August 2006, the state monopoly on broadcasting was ended and a new law was passed that allows private citizens and organisations to broadcast. Political parties or religious movements are still not allowed to broadcast. Freedom of expression continues to be curtailed. Journalists, lawyers and others who criticise state representatives are at risk of being beaten, arrested and imprisoned (<http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/gin-summary-eng>). Several incidents in the last two years of journalists being suspended, assaulted and detained were also reported by IFEX (<http://www.ifex.org/>).

On 12 February 2007, a state siege was proclaimed by authorities, which resulted in a news blackout that lasted until 23 February. Newspapers and radio stations were prevented from operating and Internet access was blocked ([http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=20993](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20993)).

According to Freedom House's 2007 global survey of civil liberties, Guinea is considered "not free": "Citizens of Guinea cannot change their government

democratically. The government controls the national election commission, as well as registration and election procedures. The government has wide powers to bar any communications that insult the President or disturb the peace, and defamation and slander are considered criminal offences” (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81205/>).

#### **HIV/Aids awareness**

The respondent has indicated that libraries in Guinea have special programmes to disseminate information about HIV/Aids, although none specifically for members of the community who cannot read. The reasons supplied are lack of appropriate communication support and lack of funding.

#### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries in Guinea have no special programmes that focus on the promotion of women’s literacy, due to

lack of coordination between libraries and the National Service of Literacy. There are, however, programmes for the dissemination of information that focus specifically on women’s access to certain topics.

#### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it has been indicated that the library association plans to do so within the next two years.

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

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but the library association plans to do so within the next two years.

#### **Ethics**

The library association has not yet adopted a code of ethics, but plans to do so within the next two years.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Guinea
Population:	9 947 814 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	French (official); each ethnic group also has its own language
Literacy:	29.5%
Literacy reported by respondent:	35%

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

Guinea participated for the first time in the IFLA/FAIFE World Report in 2007. No comparisons can therefore be made with previous reports.

#### Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	31
Estimated number of school libraries:	38
Estimated number of university libraries:	2
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	1

Source of these numbers: Direction du livre et de la lecture publique (Ministère en Charge de la Culture); Projet d'Appui au Développement de l'Enseignement Supérieur (PADES) (Ministère de l'Education Nationale); Service Information Documentation et Archive (SINDA)

#### Internet access

Population online**:	46 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2005 (0.6%)
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:	Less than 20%
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:	Average
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 – to protect children, and to safeguard national security, the religious ethos/culture and public morality
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No
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, in some cases

\* 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.