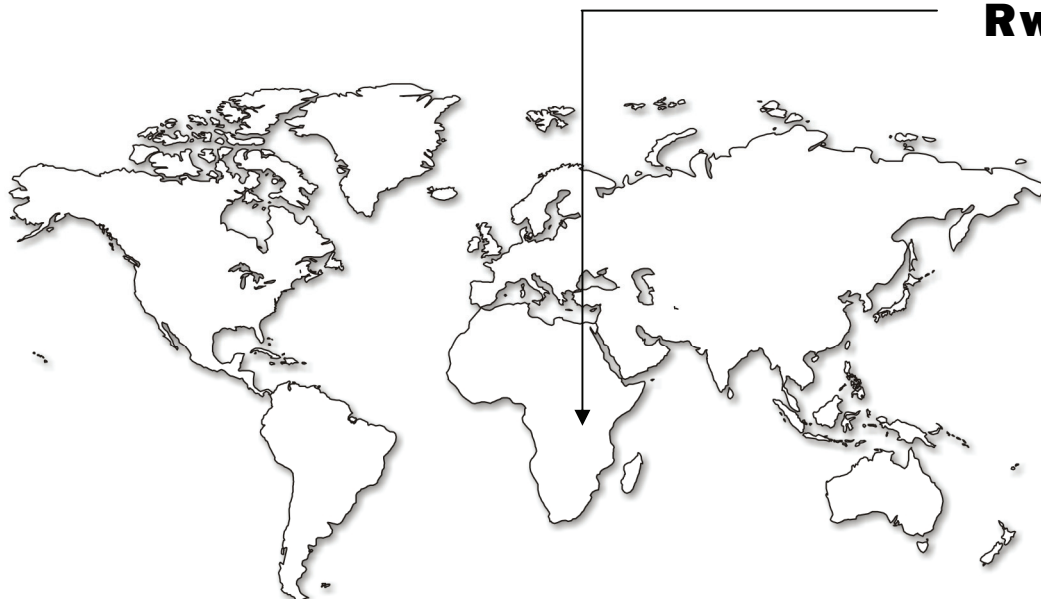


Rwanda



Responding institution: ***National Library of Rwanda***

This is Rwanda's second contribution to the World Report series, having last responded in 2001. There are 5 public libraries in Rwanda. Research libraries include 10 university research libraries, 2 school libraries and 1 government-funded research library. This data is quoted from a survey the respondent has conducted.

Less than 20% of the public libraries, 41-60% of the university libraries and 21-40% of the school libraries provide Internet access. (It is not clear whether the government-funded library has Internet access.) There is some local information available on the Internet, but very little in local languages.

The respondent is not aware of any filtering of information on the Internet and no filtering software is used. No Internet access is free of charge because of a lack of funding. The government has also not provided any funding for Internet access in the past two years. The respondent has ascribed this to the fact that Rwanda is a country where the importance of libraries is not sufficiently realised. There is a need for funds to organise a conference in Rwanda to raise awareness of the importance of libraries.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been adopted, but the respondent has stressed that Rwanda is strongly against terror. Some anti-terror decrees as well as anti-terror branches or departments are in place. It is not

felt that such legislation would affect the users' privacy. The keeping of user records would also not impact on user privacy. The respondent has mentioned that individual freedom has its limits and that keeping user records is part of the discipline of good management and of security.

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

Although the respondent has indicated that there have been no violations of intellectual freedom, it is noted that "many people write in newspapers or write books that raise or stir up sensationalism towards users, but [these] are censored because of the fruitlessness of messages to build the nation". The House Press of Rwanda, the Ministry of Local Administration or Local Public Services, local newspapers and the websites of government institutions are cited as sources of information about Rwanda's position with regard to freedom of information.

HIV/Aids awareness

Some libraries are involved in special programmes to promote HIV/Aids, through the initiative of youth-friendly centres, coordinated by the national library in partnership with different sponsors. No funds are currently available to include people who cannot read in programmes about HIV/Aids awareness, but this is something that will get immediate attention if funds become available.

Women and freedom of access to information

Although programmes have been designed specifically

to provide in the needs of illiterate women, the funds to execute these programmes do not exist. A library management policy has been put in place and will be published in the official government journal. Once that has been attained, a national conference (to be funded by an outside donor) would help to achieve the mentioned objectives.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted because there is no library association. Meetings to institute one are currently being organised. It is hoped that such an association will be operational in two

years' time. The respondent has indicated that financial as well as technical support to attain this ideal would be highly appreciated.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted because there is no library association.

Ethics

No code of ethics has been adopted, but the respondent has indicated the desire for such a code.

Main indicators

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Country name: | Rwanda |
| Population: | 9 907 509 (July 2007 est.) |
| Main language: | Kinyarwanda (official; universal Bantu vernacular), French (official), English (official), Kiswahili (Swahili) used in commercial centres |
| Literacy: | 70.4% |
| Literacy reported by respondent: | More than 70% |

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

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

Library services

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Estimated number of public libraries*: | 5 |
| Estimated number of school libraries: | 2 |
| Estimated number of university libraries: | 10 |
| Estimated number of government-funded research libraries: | 1 |
| Source of these numbers: | Respondent's own survey |

Internet access

| | |
|--|---|
| Population online**: | 38 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2005 (0.4%) |
| Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users: | Less than 20% |
| Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users: | 21-40% |
| 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: | 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: | No |
| 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: | 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.