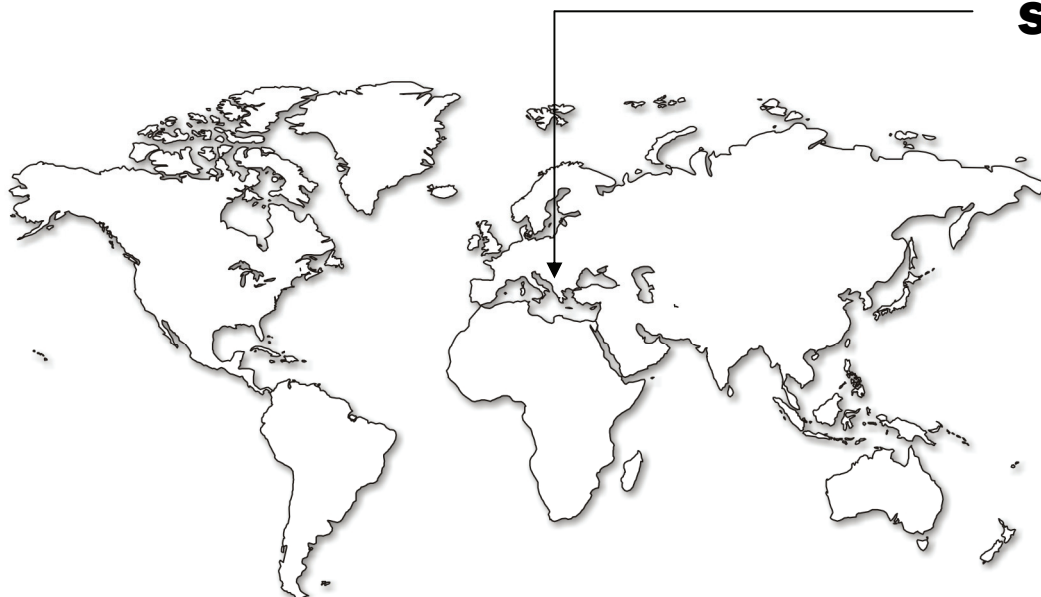


Serbia



Responding institution:
National Library of Serbia

The State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, which existed between 2003 and 2006, responded to the World Report in 2003 and 2005. The 2007 response, however, reflects only the situation of Serbia, which declared its independence 5 June 2006. This followed the independence of Montenegro on 3 June 2006.

The Serbian response concerns 2 000 public library service points and 1 855 research libraries, including 5 university libraries, 1 700 school libraries and 150 government-funded research libraries.

Internet penetration for Serbia was estimated at 13.9% in December 2006 (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition). It is estimated that 41-60% of public and 21-40% of school libraries offer access to the Internet for their users, while access provided by university libraries and government-funded research libraries is estimated at 81-100%.

There is average coverage of local content and very good coverage of the local languages on the Internet. The respondent has estimated the literacy rate for Serbia at 95% (96.4% in the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*).

Although access to the Internet is not free of charge to users of public libraries, it is at school, university and government-funded research libraries. As public libraries pay for expensive Internet service providers, they have to recover the cost from their users. University libraries make use of the academic network

paid for by the government and the Ministry of Science, while Internet access at school libraries is covered by the Ministry of Education. In some cases the state and other library authorities have made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system during the last two years. The Ministry of Education is, for example, trying to get all schools connected to the Internet.

The library association in Serbia is not in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals. The use of filtering software is also not widespread in the country. The respondent has explained that filtering is not practised in libraries in the country and that librarians are not very familiar with filtering software.

The respondent has indicated that libraries in Serbia are not troubled by anti-terror legislation. There have also been no incidents of violation of intellectual freedom. Several incidents have, however, been noted by third-party sources. No sources have been suggested by the respondent to provide more insight into the status of intellectual freedom in Serbia.

Libraries in Serbia have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness and in programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. Libraries are also involved in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy (e.g. through special libraries focusing on women's studies), as well as on women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning.

According to the respondent, both the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the IFLA Glasgow Declaration have been adopted. The Serbian library association adopted a code of ethics in 1999.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Serbia. The respondent is of the opinion that if such legislation were to be passed, it would impact on user privacy, and that the keeping of library user records would affect the individual Internet library user's freedom of expression.

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

According to the respondent, there have been no incidents of reported violation of intellectual freedom. Several incidents have, however, been noted by third-party sources. This includes an assassination attempt on a journalist, threats against journalists and confiscation of media equipment. In September 2006, the suspension of a journalist in a defamation case was reported. More detail can be found at:

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/75779/>

<http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/80125/>

<http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/82250/>

<http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/77322/>

<http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/77405/>

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Serbia have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness and in programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. Awareness programmes are carried out by health libraries and some media libraries, as well as websites. Only some special libraries are involved in providing information to members of the community who are unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Serbia are involved in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy (e.g. through special libraries focusing on women's studies), as well as in promoting women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning. The latter topics are also addressed by some of the special libraries.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted and is available on the website of the national library, as well as in printed form. It also appeared in *The Herald of the National Library of Serbia*. Librarians have made a copy of the Serbian translation of the Internet Manifesto available to IFLA.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and is available on the website of the national library, as well as in printed form. It also appeared in *The Herald of the National Library of Serbia*. Librarians have made a copy of the Serbian translation of the Declaration available to IFLA.

Ethics

The Serbian library association adopted a code of ethics in 1999, of which the English version is available at http://www.nbs.bg.ac.yu/view_fil.php?file_id=1496. The code appears on the websites of almost all libraries in Serbia and is also available in printed form. The code needs to be adapted to the changing information environment – something with which the Section for Professional Ethics of the library association was busy at the time of the response.

Main indicators

Country name:	Serbia
Population:	10 150 265 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Serbian 88.3% (official), Hungarian 3.8%, Bosniak 1.8%, Romany (Gypsy) 1.1%, other 4.1%, unknown 0.9% (2002 census) Note: Romanian, Hungarian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian are all official in Vojvodina; Albanian is official in Kosovo
Literacy:	96.4%
Literacy reported by respondent:	95%

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

Serbia as a separate entity participated for the first time in the IFLA/FAIFE World Report in 2007. No comparisons can therefore be made with the previous reports of Serbia and Montenegro.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	2 000
Estimated number of school libraries:	1 700
Estimated number of university libraries:	5
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	150
Source of these numbers:	Database of the National Library of Serbia

Internet access

Population online**:	1 400 000 Internet users as of Dec. 2006 (3.9%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	21-40%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
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:	Average
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Very much
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:	Yes, in university libraries, school libraries and statutory research council 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 – especially for school libraries

* 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.