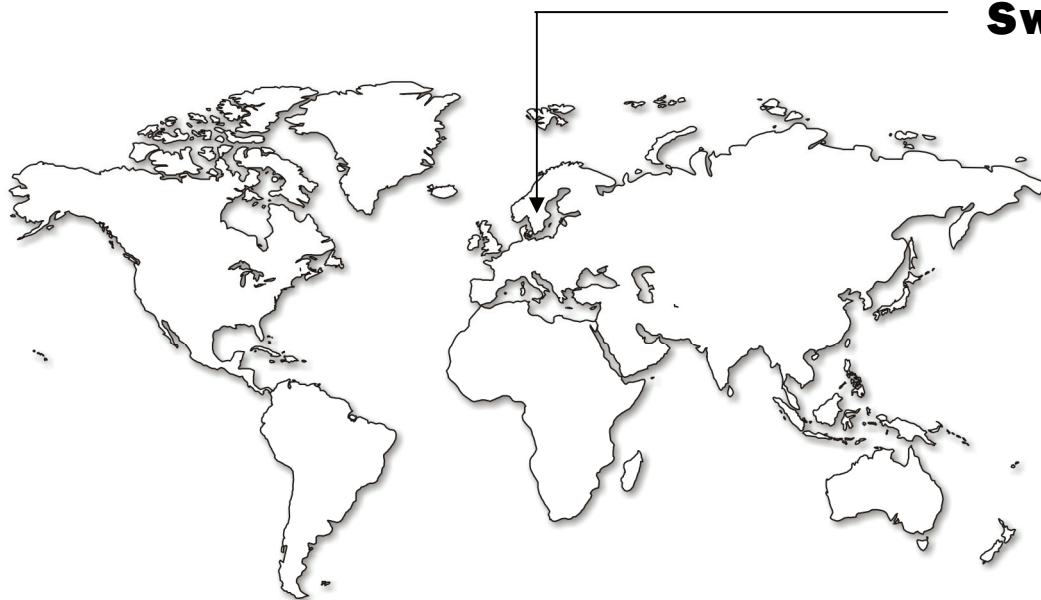


Sweden



Responding institution:

Swedish Library Association (SLA)

Sweden has been a respondent since 2001. There are 1 348 public libraries (290 main libraries and 1 058 branches). Although these figures differ from those in the 2005 report, it is the consequence of different ways of counting the branches in Stockholm, according to the respondent. The number of public libraries is in fact declining, and that is something the SLA is “deeply concerned about; since 1990, 400 branches have been closed, which is the same as 28 branches every year”. The 2007 response indicates 38 university research libraries and 36 government-funded research libraries (in addition to the national library). This differs substantially from the 2005 response which, according to the respondent, counted branch libraries separately. There are 4 300 school libraries.

Internet access ranges between 81-100% for all types of libraries, except for school libraries, where it is 41-60%. There is a great deal of local content available in local languages on the Internet. Internet access is free of charge to library users and is largely unfiltered. The literacy rate remains at 99%.

The respondent has recorded no anti-terror legislation which has been passed that affects the privacy of library users, and also no violations of intellectual freedom.

According to the respondent there have not been any large-scale, publicly financed projects concerning HIV/Aids during the two last years. (The 2005 report

confirms the involvement of libraries in such programmes in the past.) There have been no special programmes for women’s literacy or their special information needs, because a high percentage of women visit the libraries and acquire information themselves.

A code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been formally adopted, although the SLA has been very much involved in discussing these issues at international forums and has implemented the principles in its work.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

There is no indication of anti-terror legislation affecting the intellectual freedom or user privacy of library users in this response, which also indicates that keeping user records would not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

There have been no incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom, although the 2005 report described public concerns about the political bias in materials selected for Swedish libraries, and the freedom of expression on religious conviction and sexuality.

According to the respondent, these debates did not continue, but recently there has been another public debate about the selection of library materials. Some local politicians have decided that libraries should not purchase CDs, DVDs and films. Also, there has been a

debate about library fees, which are not permitted in Sweden in accordance with the Library Law.

HIV/Aids awareness

There have been no large-scale, publicly financed projects in this regard during the last two years.

Women and freedom of access to information

The respondent has mentioned that most women visit the library to get the information they need, and that is why there have been no special programmes focusing on women.

Ethics and IFLA initiatives

The SLA has been engaged in work concerning the issues of a code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration. It has supported these issues whenever they were on the agenda in international organisations. The SLA also tries to implement them in its work. According to the respondent, however, the SLA has not made any formal adoptions, for instance as a decision at its annual meeting. (This is contrary to the earlier reports stating that all the initiatives have already been adopted.)

Main indicators

Country name:	Sweden
Population:	9 031 088 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Swedish, small Sami and Finnish-speaking minorities
Literacy:	99%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99%

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

Sweden 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*:	1 372 (2005: 1 091)
Estimated number of school libraries:	4 300
Estimated number of university libraries:	37
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	36
Source of these numbers:	National Library of Sweden; Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs

Internet access

Population online**:	6 890 000 Internet users as of March 2007 (75.6%) (2005: 73.6%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 81-100%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
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:	Very much
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 (2005: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No (2005: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes in all libraries (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:	No (2005: 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.