



Responding institution:
National Library of Vanuatu

This is Vanuatu's first response to the World Report. Vanuatu has one public library, and no indication has been given of any service points. There is one university library and no government-funded research library (no information has been given for school libraries).

The public library does not provide Internet access, but the university library does. There is practically no local content and nothing in local languages available on the Internet. The respondent estimates the rate of literacy at 35%; this has improved from 30% in 1999. (The 2007 *CIA World Factbook* estimates the literacy rate at 74%.)

The national library separated from the Port Vila public library and was established on separate premises under the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in 2004. It now houses two rapidly growing Vanuatu and Pacific collections. The Vanuatu collection is unique and some 8 000 items have already been catalogued and entered on the computerised database. This collection includes rare items, as well as numerous publications in most vernacular languages.

The national library has recently become responsible for the national archives. Funding is currently being sought for the construction of a two-storey national archives/national library building within the Vanuatu Cultural Centre complex.

The national library offers free access to students, researchers and the general public. Books and other materials may be borrowed from the Port Vila public library for a small annual membership fee.

The library association supports the filtering of information, and there is some filtering software in the libraries for the purpose of protecting children and safeguarding religious values, culture and public morality. Libraries cannot afford free Internet access and there have been no additional funds forthcoming for increasing Internet access in the past two years.

There has not been any impact of legislation on intellectual freedom and this does not seem to pose a potential threat to user privacy. No incidents that violate intellectual freedom have occurred in the past two years.

The Wan Smol Bag community library provided information on HIV/Aids to illiterate members of the community during Public Library Awareness Week. This library also runs a general literacy programme that includes the special needs of women.

The library association is only just getting organised and has therefore not yet adopted a code of ethics or any of the IFLA initiatives. It intends to consider these matters in the near future.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

There have been no user privacy problems resulting from legislation.

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

No incidents have occurred in the past two years.

HIV/Aids awareness

The Wan Smol Bag Library is active in providing HIV/Aids information to illiterate community members.

Women and freedom of access to information

A general literacy programme accommodates the special information needs of women.

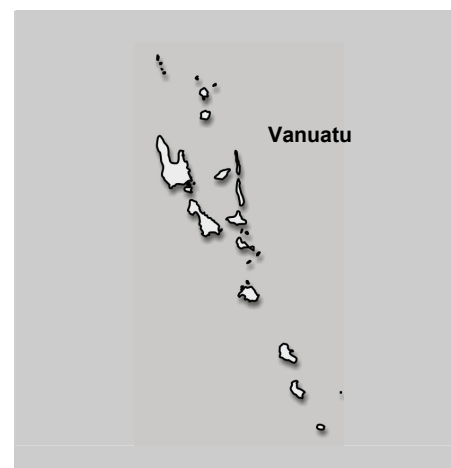
Ethics and IFLA initiatives

The library association is in the early stages of development and will consider adopting a code of ethics and the IFLA initiatives in due course.

Main indicators

Country name:	Vanuatu
Population:	211 971 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Local languages (more than 100) 72.6%, pidgin (known as Bislama or Bichelama) 23.1%, English 1.9%, French 1.4%, other 0.3%, unspecified 0.7%
Literacy:	74%
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

Vanuatu 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*:	1
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of university libraries:	1
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	0
Source of these numbers:	National Library of Vanuatu

Internet access

Population online**:	7 500 users as of Sept. 2005 (3.4%)
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:	81-100%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	No data provided
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Nothing, or practically nothing
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Nothing, or practically nothing
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children and safeguard religious values, the national ethos/culture and public morality
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.