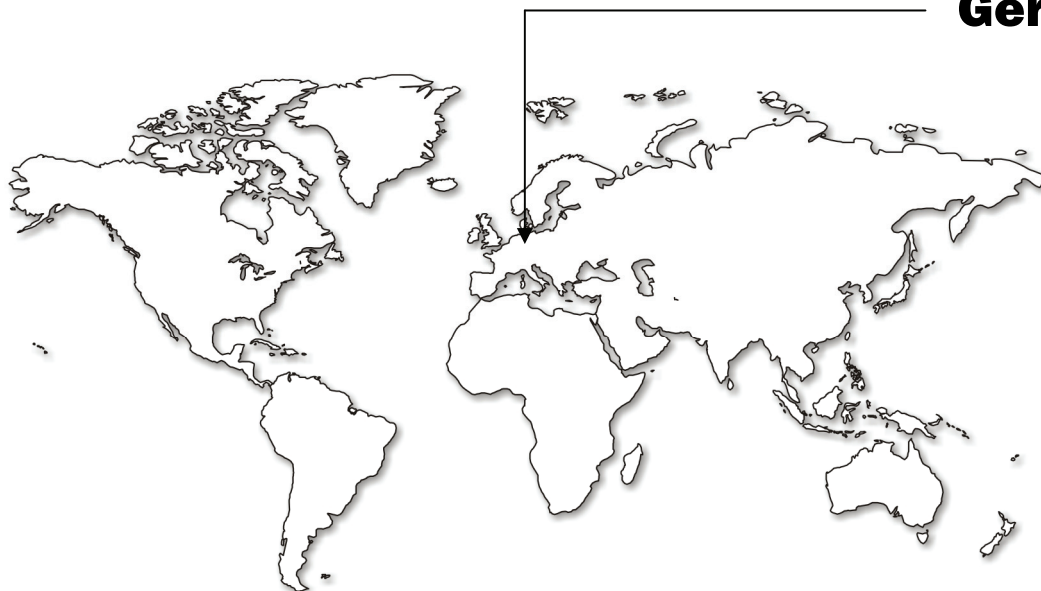


Germany



Responding institution:

Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID)

Germany is responding to the World Report for the fourth time, having previously contributed in 2001, 2003 and 2005. This year's report, from the Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations, refers to 10 339 public library service points and 1 008 regional libraries, university libraries, polytechnic libraries and special libraries. The figure does not include school libraries. (The 2005 report referred to 1 181 research libraries – also not including school libraries, as well as 10 584 public libraries. According to the respondent, the reason for the discrepancy can be ascribed to the varying number of answers from libraries, as only around 75-80% of the libraries give their data regularly to German Library Statistics.)

According to the respondent, no violations of intellectual freedom have been reported. The respondent provides a link to a report from Freedom House that summarises the German situation over the past ten years (<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=6968&year=2007>). In the international media there were, however, some concerns regarding intellectual freedom in Germany.

Internet penetration is estimated at 61.2% (*CIA World Factbook*, 2007 edition). This is an increase on the figures reported for 2003 (38.43%) and 2005 (56%). In public and school libraries Internet access for users is estimated at 81-100% (which is more than for 2003 and 2005), while Internet access in university and

government-funded libraries is estimated at 81-100% (the same as the estimates for 2003 and 2005).

Local content and local languages are very well covered on the Internet. Internet access is free of charge in university libraries and statutory research council libraries. The state and other library authorities have not made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years. The literacy rate is estimated at 90%. (The 2007 *CIA World Factbook* sets it at 99%.)

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals, and filtering software is to a certain extent widespread in the country. The motivation for use is the protection of children. According to the respondent, some filtering software may be implemented by the Internet service provider as a technical barrier to prevent access to websites of criminal relevance under German law (e.g. neo-Nazi propaganda). In research libraries, filtering software is not in use at all, and it is felt that research libraries should indeed offer non-filtered Internet access.

The respondent has indicated that anti-terror legislation was passed in Germany and came into effect on 1 January 2002 (extended in 2005 and amended in January 2007).

Regarding other areas of special focus, libraries in Germany have been involved in promoting HIV/Aids awareness, but not in any programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read. Libraries are involved in

special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. There are also special programmes where libraries focus on promoting women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning.

A code of ethics for German librarians was adopted in 2007. The IFLA Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have also been adopted.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Anti-terror legislation was passed in Germany and came into effect on 1 January 2002 (extended in 2005 and amended in January 2007). This new "Anti-terror Supplementary Law" is strongly discussed and there is serious concern about potential interference in the private sphere (e.g. online investigation on private computers). However, anti-terror legislation only authorises the police to investigate library user records in the case of urgent suspicion, and only if the investigation is officially ordered by a public prosecutor. In practice anti-terror legislation is therefore, according to the respondent, of very low relevance to library work. It is, however, likely to impact on user privacy and the keeping of library records may also affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

In the 2005 response it was mentioned that libraries have refused access to records, in the concern that the legislation was being used for everyday criminal investigations such as theft or assault, and not for specific activities concerning anti-terrorism. According to the 2005 report, libraries in Germany were standing firm against interference from law enforcement, and intended to monitor the situation with vigilance to ensure that "mission creep" (e.g. using legislation for everyday criminal investigation) does not set in.

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

According to the respondent, there have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in libraries. Some general concerns related to intellectual freedom have, however, been noted in the international media. These include a ruling on 27 February 2007 by the German constitutional court that a federal police raid in September 2005 on the offices of *Cicero*, a political magazine that had published details from a leaked police report about Al-Qaeda, and the copying of data from its computers were "unconstitutional" (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81452/>).

Concern has also been expressed about the German Parliament (Bundestag) revealing on its website (<http://www.bundestag.de/aktuell/pkg/index.html>)

that the country's external intelligence service, the BND, has been spying on journalists. Such concern is noted in reports from:

- *IFEX*: <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/74735/>
- *UNESCO*: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/24497/11787872331Aidian_White_IFJ.pdf/Aidian+White+IFJ.pdf
- *Reporters Without Borders*: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=19384

Initiatives by search engines in Germany to filter content harmful for their German audience have also been reported at <http://www.edri.org/edriagram/number3.5/search>.

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries have been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness, but not in any programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read. (No reasons are offered for the latter.) Public authorities and private foundations produce brochures, posters and other information materials, and make them available to almost all libraries, especially to children and youth libraries.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Germany are involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy and their access to information. The special programmes focus mainly on the promotion of use of the Internet. In 2002 and 2003, many public libraries participated in a programme called "Frauen ans Netz" (Women to the Net – <http://www.frauen-ans-netz.de>). This was an initiative by the Federal Ministry, a major women's journal and others to increase women's user rates to 50%. In the framework of this project, libraries provide free Internet access for women. They also offer training courses for women in the use of the library or the Internet.

Some libraries offer language course materials and meeting points for female immigrants. There are also special programmes focusing on promoting women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning. Information courses and meetings are organised mainly by smaller public libraries or branch libraries.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted. German libraries accept the principle of free access to libraries for everybody; on-site use is free of charge;

many services are offered free of charge; there are special offers for handicapped users; there are guided tours and information courses for children and the youth; and cultural events are also offered.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has been adopted. German libraries regard themselves as institutions that support lifelong learning. They offer information for everybody in all kinds of media formats; there is no discrimination of users and no censorship. The privacy of users is also strictly protected. (It is, however, not clear whether this still applies to all situations after the passing of the anti-terror legislation.)

Ethics

A code of ethics for German librarians was adopted and published at the Congress of Library and Information held in March 2007. It summarises and confirms the ethical principles library and information professionals have traditionally practised, even though there was no written document in the past. It is therefore not expected that the daily work of libraries will change.

The code is available at <http://www.bideutschland.de/dokumente/EthikundInformation.pdf>, while the English translation can be found at http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/germany_code_of_ethics-en.htm.

Main indicators

Country name:	Germany
Population:	82 400 996 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	German
Literacy:	99%
Literacy reported by respondent:	90%

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

Germany 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*:	10 339 (2005: 10 584)
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of university libraries:	1 008
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source of these numbers:	Deutsche Bibliotheksstatistik (2006) – the figures do not include school libraries

Internet access

Population online**:	50 471 212 Internet users for Dec. 2006 (61.2%) (2005: 56%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 61-80%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	61-80%
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
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Very much
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children; some filtering software may be implemented by the Internet service provider to prevent access to websites of criminal relevance under German law (2005: Yes, to a certain degree, in order to protect children)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree; in research libraries filtering software is not used at all, and there should indeed be no filtering software (2005: The same response)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in university libraries and statutory research council libraries (2005: Yes, in research libraries only; Internet access is free in nearly all libraries – where a fee is charged it is set as low as possible)
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.