Czech Republic

Responding institution:
Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic

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The Czech Republic has been taking part in the World Report since 2001. According to the respondent, official statistics indicate a total of 6 847 public libraries, 19 university research libraries, 4 151 libraries at schools and 85 government-funded research libraries (which includes 65 in the system of the Czech Academy of Sciences). This differs from the 7 005 public libraries and 123 research libraries mentioned in the 2005 report.

Levels of Internet access in libraries have increased from 21-40% in public libraries and 81-100% in research libraries to a level of access of 81-100% in all libraries. The library association is still in favour of filtering information in order to protect children, but filtering software is not widely used.

In statutory terms, users should be able to access the Internet free of charge, but the practice in some libraries deviates from this. The Library Internetisation Project of the Ministry of Informatics provides for ADSL connectivity for all public libraries that are registered with the Ministry of Culture and have submitted a formalised application, which is paid for by the national government.

No violations of intellectual freedom have been reported and no anti-terror legislation exists that might negatively impact on library users.

Libraries are not involved in programmes dealing with areas of special focus, as no need for such services exists. Libraries have adopted a code of ethics, as well as the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No special anti-terror legislation has been passed in the Czech Republic. The Code of Penal Procedure has for a long time stipulated the mandatory supply of this kind of information. No user records are kept.

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

No incidents of violation of intellectual freedom have been reported. This is supported by Reporters Without Borders, who praises the Czech Republic as a haven of freedom of expression.

HIV/Aids awareness

HIV/Aids awareness is only relevant for those public libraries that engage in community work with ethnic minorities. In general, therefore, no need for a special campaign on this subject exists.

Women and freedom of access to information

Similarly, issues concerning people who cannot read and the special information needs of women are only relevant for those public libraries that engage in community work with ethnic minorities. In general, no need for a special campaign on this subject exists.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted by the library association and a translation has been posted on the Internet. It has been a topic of discussion at a professional conference. Anecdotal evidence indicates that it is not always adhered to in practice. No open discussion on the subject in professional journals has, however, developed.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and a translation was posted on the Internet. It has been a topic of discussion at a professional conference. Anecdotal evidence indicates that it is not always adhered to in practice. No open discussion on the subject in professional journals has, however, developed.

Ethics

A code of ethics, adopted in 2004, is available on the Internet at http://skip.nkp.cz/CoKodex.htm and at http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/czlacode.htm.

Main indicators

Country name:	Czech Republic
Population:	10 228 744 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Czech 94.9%, Slovak 2%, other 2.3%, unidentified 0.8%
Literacy:	99%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99.9%

Population figures, language and literacy are from the
CIA World Factbook, 2007 edition
(https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html).

Czech Republic

Libraries and Internet access

The Czech Republic 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*:	6 847 public libraries, including their branches (2005: 7005)
Estimated number of school libraries:	4 151
Estimated number of university libraries:	19
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	85
Source of these numbers:	Official statistics

Internet access

Population online**:	5 100 000 Internet users as of Dec. 2005 (50.0%) (2005: 34.5%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 21-40%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
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:	Yes, to a certain degree (2005: Yes, to a certain degree)
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 public libraries, university libraries, school libraries and statutory research council libraries (2005: Yes, in research 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 (2005: Yes)

* 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.