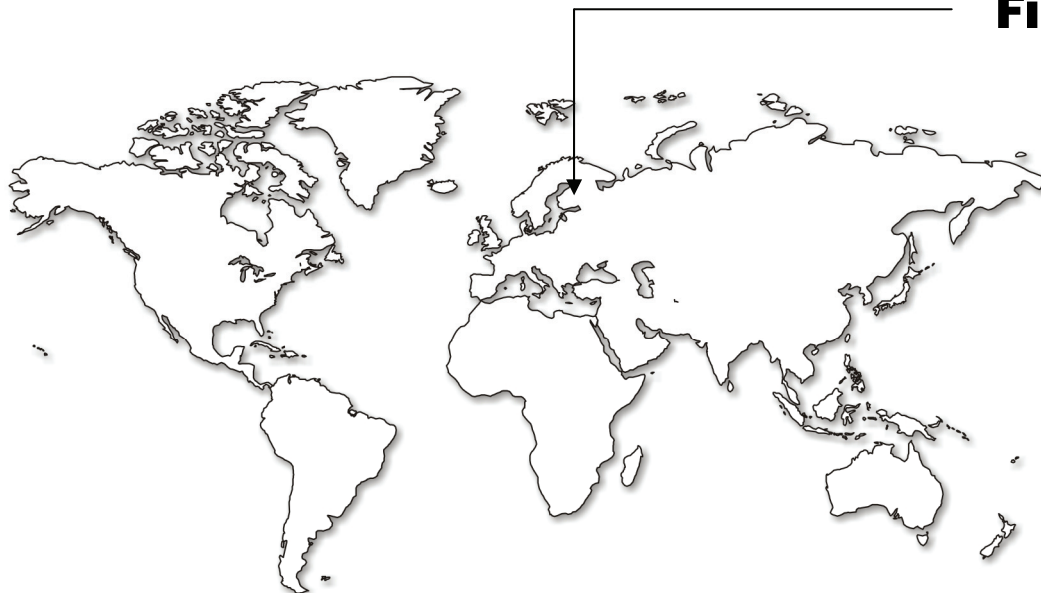


Finland



Responding institution: ***Finnish Library Association***

Finland is responding to the World Report for the third time, having previously contributed in 2003 and 2005. The response refers to activities in 858 public library service points and 37 research libraries, which includes 21 university libraries and 16 government-funded research libraries. According to the respondent, data was not available for school libraries. (In 2005, 968 public library service points and an estimated 600 research libraries were reported.) The fact that data on school libraries was not available may explain the large discrepancy between the 2005 and 2007 estimates.

No violations of intellectual freedom were indicated in the 2005 report. For 2007, both “yes” and “no” have been marked – with no elaboration provided or sources suggested for verification. The European Digital Rights Monitor Watch and OpenNet have reported incidents of, and initiatives for, information filtering. Finland is, however, considered one of the countries with the best record of intellectual freedom (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/78571>).

No anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users. It has not been stated whether such legislation, if passed, would have an impact on user privacy. The respondent is of the opinion that keeping user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user, and that users have the right to seek information freely.

Levels of Internet access in Finland are very healthy. Between 2003 and 2005, Internet penetration increased by 10% to 62.1% and in September 2005, it was estimated at 62.3%. (No new data is available from Internet World Stats.) Internet access for all library types is estimated at 81-100%. (Similar to the 2005 response, the respondent has not indicated the position at academic libraries.) Access to users is free of charge in all library types. As in 2005, the state has in some cases supported the purchase of computers for users in small libraries.

The respondent has indicated that the library association is not in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals. Some libraries are using filters, although such use is not widespread in the country. Certain municipalities have decided to equip the terminals in schools and libraries with filters. The library association is also administering a project where the filters used in libraries were tested during 2007. According to the 2005 report, the library association was involved in an active discussion on filtering at the time.

There is an average amount of local content and coverage of local languages on the Internet. The literacy rate for Finland is indicated as 100% by both the respondent and the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*.

Regarding other areas of special focus, libraries in Finland have not been involved in promoting HIV/Aids awareness, or in programmes to provide information on HIV/Aids to members of the community who cannot read. The libraries are also not involved in

special programmes focusing on women's access to information or women's literacy.

A code of ethics for Finnish librarians was adopted in 1989. No URL has, however, been provided. The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted, but the respondent has expressed the hope that they would both be adopted within the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Finland that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent has indicated that keeping user records harms individuals' freedom of expression.

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

No specific violations of intellectual freedom have been reported by the respondent, who has indicated both "yes" and "no" to the question concerning violations of intellectual freedom. Although no sources have been suggested in the report to verify and/or supplement information, mechanisms for filtering information have been reported in the international media. Finland is, however, also noted as being one of the countries with the best record of press freedom (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/78571>).

European Digital Rights Monitor Watch (<http://www.edri.org/edrigtam/number3.18/censorshipFinland>; 25 September 2005) reported an announcement on 26 August 2005 by Ms Leena Luhtanen, Minister of Transport and Communications, that Finnish Internet service providers will implement a censorship system to curb access to foreign webpages containing child pornography. The announcement was accompanied by a study conducted by the ministry exploring the legal and practical aspects of such a system. The study concluded that the system would not be efficient in curtailing child pornography distribution and could result in legitimate pages being blocked. The legal basis of the system was considered somewhat suspect. The OpenNet Initiative (<http://opennet.net/research/regions/europe>) has also reported on programmes for

social filtering implemented in Finland and other countries.

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Finland have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness. Although there is information on HIV/Aids in libraries, there are no programmes specifically on this theme. Libraries have also not been involved in programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read, as HIV/Aids information is delivered mainly through health centres.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or women's access to information, as the rate of literacy is high. There are also no programmes focusing specifically on promoting women's access to social information and information on the economy, education, health and family planning. This is because libraries in Finland offer information on these topics to all users.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

Although the library association has been informed of the IFLA Internet Manifesto, it has not been adopted. The association intends to adopt it within the next two years. (This is similar to the 2005 response.)

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Declaration has not been adopted by the library association. It is hoped that this will be done within the next two years (as was also indicated in 2005).

Ethics

The Finnish Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 1989, but the respondent has indicated that it has not been actively implemented. The code of ethics is currently out of date and has not been implemented in everyday life in libraries. Although there have been discussions on the need for a code of ethics, at the time of the response the association had not started any concrete action as regards revision.

Main indicators

Country name:	Finland
Population:	5 238 460 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Finnish 92% (official), Swedish 5.6% (official), other 2.4% (small Sami and Russian-speaking minorities)
Literacy:	100%
Literacy reported by respondent:	100%

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

The following section compares data and answers from 2007 with the 2005 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from the respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public, school, university and government-funded research libraries.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	858 (2005: 968)
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data available
Estimated number of university libraries:	21
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	16
Source of these numbers:	Ministry of Education

Internet access

Population online**:	3 286 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2005 (62.3%) (2005: 62.1%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2005: 81-100%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	No data provided
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:	Average
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2005: At the time of response the Finnish Library Association was involved in an active discussion on filtering)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No – some libraries are using filters, and some municipalities have decided to equip the terminals in schools and libraries with filters; the Finnish Library Association is administering a project where the filters used in libraries were tested during the fall of 2007
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:	Yes, in some cases (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.