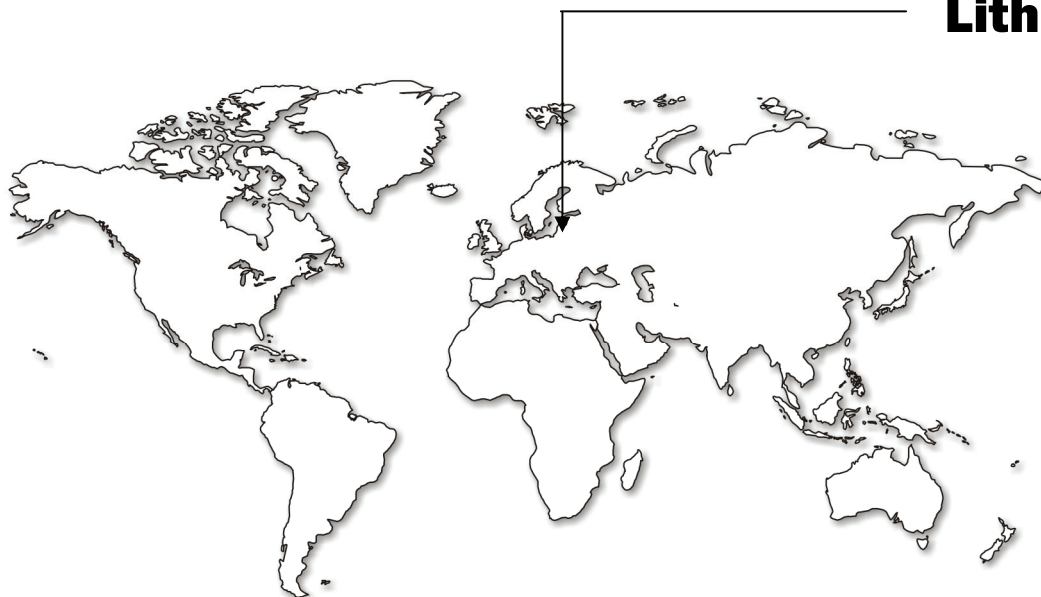


## Lithuania




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### Responding institution:

***Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania***

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Lithuania previously responded to the World Report in 2001, 2003 and 2005. According to the library statistics available at the Library Science Centre at the national library, the country's public library service points have increased from 1 418 in 2005 to 1 469 in 2006. The same source indicates a decrease in research libraries from 1 914 in 2005 to 1 336 in 2006. Of the research libraries, 18 are university libraries, 6 are government-funded libraries and 1 312 are school libraries.

Levels of Internet access in public libraries have gone up from 21-40% in 2003 to 41-60%. University and government-funded libraries show a stable increase to 81-100%, while school libraries and public libraries are both at 41-60%. Lithuania has an average amount of local content, as well as an average amount of content in the local language, on the Internet.

The library association has changed its position on Internet filtering. It is now in favour of selected filtered Internet access and the use of filtering software, mainly to protect children.

Internet access is free of charge for all Internet users in all libraries in Lithuania. Several initiatives aim to increase access as well as the number of Internet users. "Window to the Future", an alliance formed between 13 private companies and the Ministry of the Interior, established public Internet access sites, some of which were placed in public libraries. This was

followed by the establishment of public Internet access points in rural areas, a project implemented by the Ministry of the Interior. A public access computing programme for increasing public access to the Internet in public libraries is in its preparation phase and is supported by the Global Libraries Programme of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lithuanian government. The foundation has donated US\$220 396 to the Ministry of Culture to provide computers, Internet access and training to public libraries.

Regarding areas of special focus, Lithuanian librarians have been involved to some degree in promoting HIV/Aids awareness and women's access to information.

Lithuanian libraries have adopted a code of ethics, as well as the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration. Both have been disseminated and promoted in library journals.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent's view is that keeping user records would harm the individual's right to freedom of expression.

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

According to the respondent, no reported violations of intellectual freedom have occurred during the last two years. Reporters Without Borders and IFEX, however, report on an incident where all the copies of the

8 September 2006 issue of the Lithuanian weekly *Laisvas Laikrastis* ("Free Newspaper") were confiscated for "revealing state secrets" (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/76967> and [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=18827](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=18827)).

The 2007 Index on Censorship considers Lithuania a country with free media and places it 29th on the list (<http://www.indexonline.org/en/news/articles/2007/2/russia-freedom-report-hits-raw-nerve.shtml>).

#### **HIV/Aids awareness**

In contrast with previous reports, the respondent has indicated that libraries have been involved in raising awareness about HIV/Aids by exhibiting books and other publications dedicated to HIV/Aids problems.

#### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Similarly, this year's questionnaire mentions libraries' involvement in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Such programmes include exhibitions of books and other publications, art performances and workshops. Some libraries are also involved in improving women's access to information.

#### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto. It was translated and published in the library journal *Tarp knygy* ("In the World of Books") in the October issue, No. 10 of 2002, as well as in the publication *Šiandien aktualu* ("Up-to-date News"), No. 29 of 2003. Libraries are free to use it.

#### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The library association has also adopted the Glasgow Declaration, and disseminated and promoted it in the same way as the IFLA Internet Manifesto.

#### **Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1998 (1999 according to the 2005 report). No cases going against the code have been observed during the last two years. (The code of ethics is available on the Internet at both <http://www.lbd.lt/lbd/kodeksas.htm> and <http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/llacode.htm>.)

### Main indicators

Country name:	Lithuania
Population:	3 575 439 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Lithuanian (official) 82%, Russian 8%, Polish 5.6%, other and unspecified 4.4% (2001 census)
Literacy:	99.6%
Literacy reported by respondent:	99.7%

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

Lithuania 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*:	1 469 (2005: 1 418)
Estimated number of school libraries:	1 312
Estimated number of university libraries:	18
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	6
Source of these numbers:	Library statistics for 2006 from the Library Science Centre, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

#### Internet access

Population online**:	1 221 700 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (35.9%) (2005: 20.3%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60% (2005: 21-40%)
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:	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:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children (2005: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree (2005: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2005: Yes, in research libraries only)
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](http://www.Internetworldstats.com)).

\*\*\* Local content is defined as content that originates in the country.