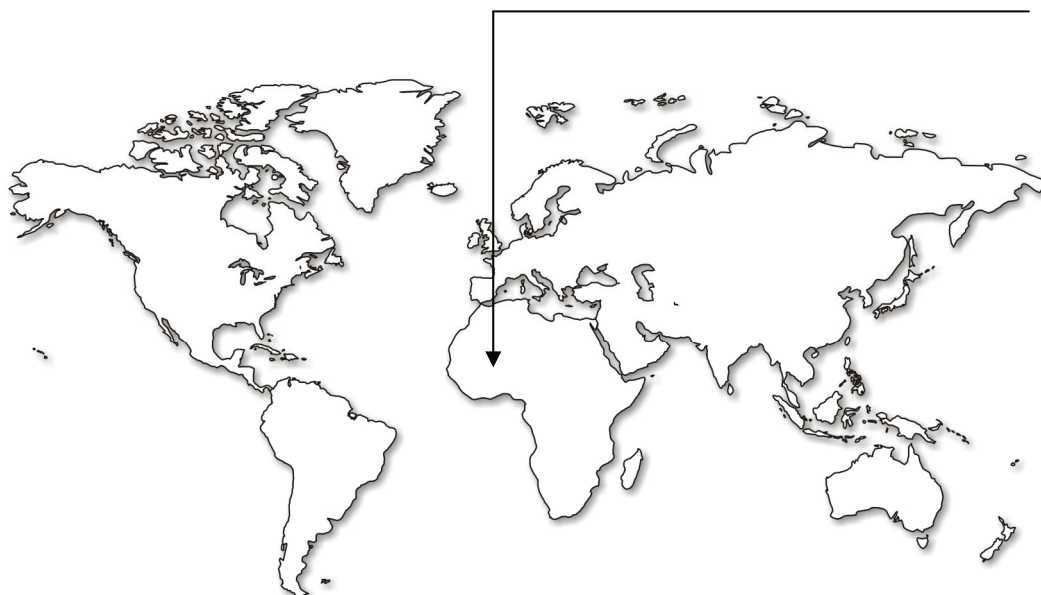


Mali



Responding institution:

Direction Nationale des Bibliothèques et de la Documentation (DNBD)

This is Mali's first contribution to the World Report series. This report relates to the 87 public libraries and 90 school libraries in the country. No data was provided on other libraries (university libraries and government-funded research libraries) in Mali.

The 2007 *CIA World Factbook* sets the literacy rate in Mali at 46.4%. According to Internet World Stats, Mali had an Internet penetration of 0.5% in September 2006. Less than 20% of public and school libraries offer their users access to the Internet.

The respondent has indicated that very little local content is available on the Internet, and also that nothing or practically nothing is available in local languages. Internet access is not free of charge in libraries. Users pay a nominal fee (compared with, for example, the fees charged by cyber cafés), which helps the library to cover its operating costs.

The state and/or other library authorities did not make special funding available in the last two years for improving Internet access in the library system, but support was provided by the French-Mali Support for Books Project in Mali (Le Projet Franco-Malien d'Appui à la Filière du Livre au Mali – AFLAM) and other non-governmental organisations.

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals.

This is motivated by the need to protect children, safeguard the national ethos/culture, prevent crime and safeguard public morality. The use of filtering software, however, is not widespread in the country's libraries.

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Mali. The respondent has indicated that such legislation would impact on user privacy, as it would not respect the user's freedom of access to information. The keeping of user records might also affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

No reports of violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years have been cited by the respondent. The respondent has stated that there is no Internet censorship in Mali and that the existence of public libraries, school libraries, centres of documentation, newspapers, radio, TV and cyber cafés supports the principle of freedom of access to information.

Libraries in Mali are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes and do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy and women's access to information.

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. The respondent has indicated the intent to adopt these within the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Mali. The respondent has indicated that such legislation would

impact on user privacy, as it would not respect a user's freedom of access to information. Also, the keeping of user records might affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

No reports of violations of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years were indicated by the respondent. There is no Internet censorship in Mali. The 2006 annual report of Reporters Without Borders states that, despite various factors, "press freedom is a reality" in Mali (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=17390).

Consulted third-party sources, however, have revealed some concerns. The 2007 annual report of Amnesty International cites an incident involving radio journalists which, according to the report, brought freedom of expression under attack (<http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Africa/Mali>).

From two other incidents reported by IFEX and Reporters Without Borders, criticism of the government appears not to be tolerated well. One incident in March 2007 involved a radio station that was "targeted over critical broadcasts in the wake of presidential polls" (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81734/>).

In the other incident, an essay about a fictitious president written by a high school student was published and the journalists and teacher involved were arrested, fined and jailed before their sentences were eventually suspended (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84403/>; <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84286/>; http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22702). During the trial and appeal Reporters Without Borders stated: "Mali's political stability in recent years has been widely hailed, partly because press freedom violations had ended and the

media had been peacefully incorporated into the country's democratic development. This case sullies this image and shows that press freedom is still fragile" (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22597).

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes and are also not involved in any programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read. The respondent has noted a lack of awareness of the role libraries could play in this regard.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Mali do not have special programmes for promoting women's literacy, as there is an information resource centre that focuses on the promotion of women in all domains. Libraries also do not have programmes focusing specifically on promoting women's access to topics such as social information, the economy, education, health and family planning. The respondent has stated a lack of financial and human resources as a possible reason in this regard.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto. The respondent has indicated the association's intent to do so within the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Glasgow Declaration, but intends to do so within the next two years.

Ethics

The library association has not yet adopted a code of ethics, but intends to adopt such a code within the next two years.

Main indicators

Country name:	Mali
Population:	11 995 402 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	French (official), Bambara 80%, numerous African languages
Literacy:	46.4%
Literacy reported by respondent:	No data provided

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

Mali 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*:	87
Estimated number of school libraries:	90
Estimated number of university libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source of these numbers:	Centre National de la Lecture Publique (CNLP); Cellule des Bibliothèques Scolaires (CBS)

Internet access

Population online**:	60 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (0.5%)
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:	No data provided
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:	Very little
<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, to a certain degree – to protect children, safeguard the national ethos/culture, prevent crime and safeguard public morality
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No
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.