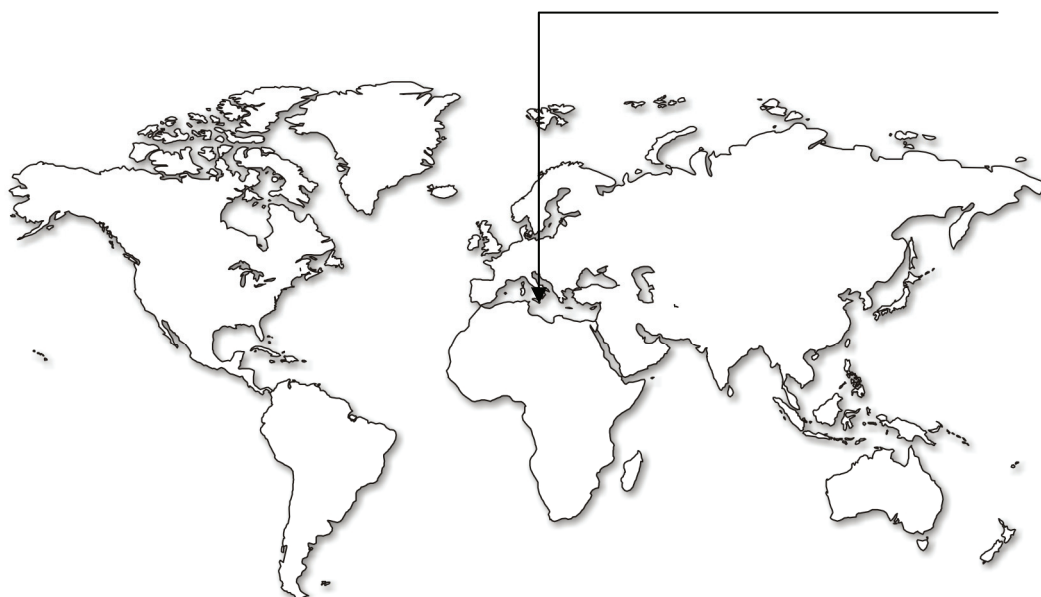


Malta**Responding institution:*****Malta Library and Information Association (MaLIA)***

This is Malta's second contribution to the World Report series; its first contribution was in 2003. This report relates to the estimated 54 public libraries in the country. There are 2 university/college libraries, each with a number of branches. There are an estimated 65 secondary school libraries, but no data on primary schools is available. An estimated 10 government-funded research libraries exist, including special libraries in government departments and authorities.

There has been an increase in Internet penetration in Malta. According to the respondent, official statistics indicate that Internet access in households increased from 31.3% in 2003 to 46.1% in 2005. (According to Internet World Stats, however, the increase was less, namely only 33.0% in 2006.)

Very little content is available on the Internet in the local language, but Internet content in English is accessible to the vast majority of the Maltese population, given that English is the second official language of the Maltese Islands. The reported literacy rate for Malta is 92.8%.

When compared with 2003, Internet access in public libraries has remained constant at 41-60%. Some 41-60% of school and government-funded research libraries and 81-100% of the university libraries offer Internet access. Users have free Internet access in public, university and school libraries. In some cases,

extra funding has been made available for Internet access. An example is the launch of a wifi hotspot in a public library by the Ministry for Investment, Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

MaLIA is to a certain degree in favour of the filtering of information on the Internet. In contrast with the 2003 report, the use of filtering software is indicated as being widespread in libraries. The motivation for such use includes the protection of children and safeguarding of public morality.

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Malta and the respondent is of the opinion that such legislation would impact on user privacy. Also, the keeping of user records would 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 have been cited by the respondent.

Libraries in Malta are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes and also do not offer special programmes to promote women's literacy, or access to information especially for women.

MaLIA adopted a code of ethics in 2003, but has not yet adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. The intent to adopt both within the next two years has been indicated.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Malta and the respondent is of the opinion that such legislation would impact on user privacy. The respondent also

feels that the keeping of user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

No incidents of violation of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression have been reported by the respondent. Malta does not yet have a Freedom of Information Act and certain government departments do not supply information which, under normal circumstances, should be made public. A White Paper entitled "Towards greater transparency and accountability", published during 2007, represents the government's proposal for a Freedom of Information Act in Malta. MaLIA's position statement on this White Paper is available at <http://www.malia-malta.info/library/>.

The 2006 annual report of Reporters Without Borders (http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=577) indicates that Malta, as one of the countries that joined the European Union in 2004, "has made impressive advances in press freedom" and is considered a "haven of freedom of expression along with northern European countries". The 2007 Amnesty International report, however, cites attacks on journalists, human rights activists and others for speaking out against racism (<http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Europe-and-Central-Asia/Malta>).

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Malta are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes, and they also do not have special programmes to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read.

Women and freedom of access to information

In Malta, libraries do not have special programmes for promoting women's literacy and also no special programmes promoting women's access to information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but the library association intends to do so within the next two years. The respondent has explained that most libraries in Malta are still moving towards the stage where "libraries and information services provide essential gateways to the Internet".

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but the respondent has indicated the intention to do so within the next two years.

Ethics

MaLIA adopted a code of ethics in 2003 (see <http://www.malia-malta.info/code-of-ethics/>).

Main indicators

Country name:	Malta
Population:	404 962 (2005 Census of Population and Housing)
Main language:	Maltese (official), English (official)
Literacy:	92.8%
Literacy reported by respondent:	92.8%

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

Malta contributed to the World Report series in 2003. The following section compares data and answers from 2007 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from the respondent's estimates, where possible.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	54
Estimated number of school libraries:	Not officially available; about 65 in secondary schools; no information about primary schools
Estimated number of university libraries:	2 (with various branch libraries)
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	Not available; about 10, including special libraries in government departments and authorities
Source of these numbers:	Department of Libraries; MaLIA records; Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment

Internet access

Population online**:	127 200 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (33.0%) (2003: 14.84%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60% (2003: 41-60%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60%
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Very little in Maltese and average in English
<i>To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:</i>	Very little
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain extent, motivated by the desire to protect children from harmful content)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes – for the protection of children and to safeguard public morality (2003: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in public, university and school libraries (2003: Yes, and the state or other library authorities have provided extra funds to help increase internet access in 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 – the MIIT has launched a wifi hotspot service in a public library, but no follow-up information is available

* 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.