New Caledonia

Responding institution:
Association of Information Professionals of New Caledonia (API)

This is the third time that New Caledonia has contributed to the World Report. This response refers to the 24 public libraries, 20 mini-libraries (a kind of extension of municipal libraries) and documentation centres, as well as 4 university research libraries and 69 school libraries. No government-funded research libraries have been mentioned.

More than 80% of the school and university libraries provide Internet access to users, while only 41-60% of the public libraries do so. The respondent has indicated that there is a great deal of local content on the Internet, but that hardly any information is supplied in local languages.

The API remains in favour of selected filtering of information on terminals in libraries and filtering software is used selectively, mainly to protect children, safeguard national security, prevent crime and protect public morality. Most of the educational institutions, both private and public, therefore use a filtering system prescribed by the Minister of National Education.

In most libraries Internet access is free of charge, except for some public libraries where users have to pay a fee. In the past two years the government has established two "cyberbases" (centres similar to telecentres) in Koné and Poindimié in the Northern Province of New Caledonia.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been adopted and the respondent is of the opinion that such a law would compromise user privacy, but that the keeping of user records would not have the same effect.

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

The respondent has mentioned one case in which the intellectual freedom of users has been violated: some local libraries do not subscribe to newspapers whose editorial policy is not in agreement with the local majority. Evidence from external sources affirms local tension between the union representing the indigenous Melanesian workforce, the Union Syndicale des Travailleurs Kanaks et des Exploités (USTKE), and the territory's only public broadcaster, the French-run Reseau France Outre-Mer (RFO).

This conflict finally appears to have been resolved in November 2006 with the signing of an accord between the USTKE and the RFO management reaffirming "their joint commitment to media pluralism and freedom of expression in New Caledonia" (http://www.freemedia. at/cms/ipi/freedom_detail.html?country=/KW0001/ KW0007/KW0200/).

HIV/Aids awareness

No special library programmes exist to create an awareness of HIV/Aids. Documentation on HIV/Aids is available in the library, as for any other subject. No special programmes exist to avail people who cannot read with information on HIV/Aids.

Women and freedom of access to information

Similarly, no special programmes to provide women with specific information exist.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. The matter was discussed in meetings of the API, but no decision was taken due to more immediate priorities and a lack of time, energy and resources.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted. It was discussed in meetings of the API, but no decision was taken due to more immediate priorities and a lack of time, energy and resources.

Ethics

A code of ethics has not been adopted, because it is felt that the small library association has other priorities.

Main indicators

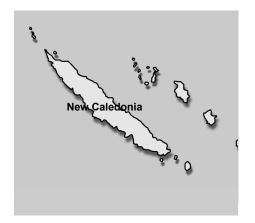|	
Country name:	New Caledonia
Population:	221 943 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	French (official), 33 Melanesian-Polynesian dialects
Literacy:	96.2%
Literacy reported by respondent:	No data provided

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

New Caledonia

Libraries and Internet access

New Caledonia contributed to the World Report series in 2005 and 2003. 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*:	24 libraries and 20 mini-libraries (2005: 23)
Estimated number of school libraries:	69
Estimated number of university libraries:	4
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source for these numbers:	Bernheim Library; Association des Professionnels de l'Information (API)

Internet access

Population online**:	76 000 users as of Sept. 2006 (31.2%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	41-60% (2005: 41-60%)
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:	No data provided
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:	Nothing, or practically nothing
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree (2005: Yes)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children; national security; to prevent crime and to safeguard public morality (2005: No)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries; in some public libraries a fee is charged
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

* 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.