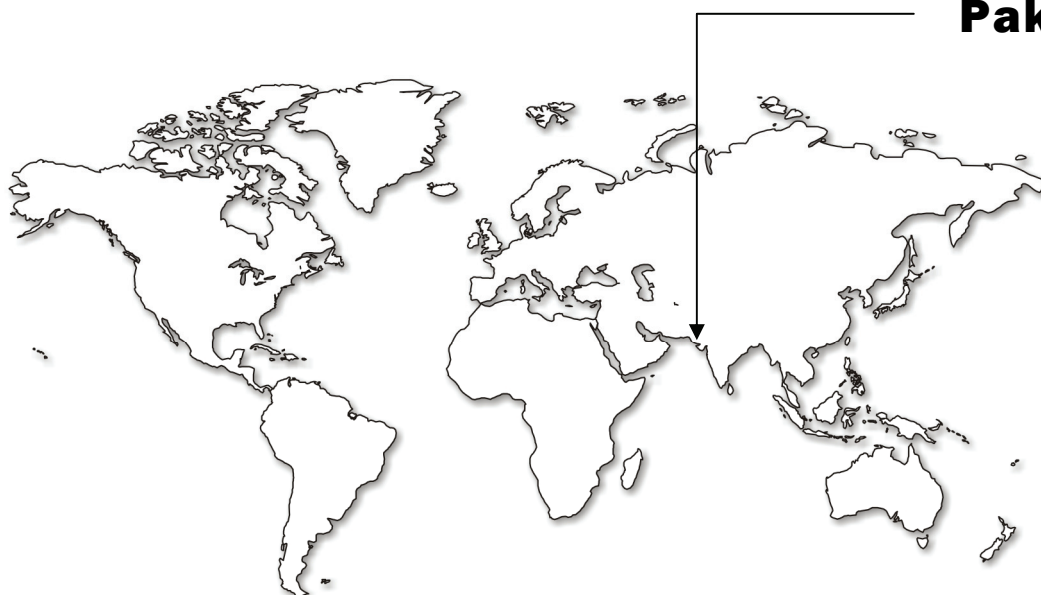


## Pakistan




---

**Responding institution:**  
***National Library of Pakistan***

---

Pakistan responded to the IFLA questionnaire previously in 2005. There are an estimated 400 public libraries in Pakistan, as well as 7 000 school libraries and 103 university libraries. The number of government-funded research libraries is given as 75.

Internet penetration is fairly low in Pakistan, with 7.2% of the population being Internet users. Levels of access in most of the country's libraries are correspondingly low. Less than 20% of all public libraries and school libraries, 81-100% of university libraries and 41-60% of government-funded libraries offer Internet access to their users. In all the libraries where Internet access is provided, it is free of charge. The state has, in some cases, made extra funding available to improve Internet access in the last two years.

The respondent has indicated that very little local content is available on the Internet and also very little in local languages. The literacy rate is given as 49%.

Although the library association is in favour of filtering information to a certain extent (e.g. for children), the use of filtering software is not widespread in libraries. Reasons for using filtering software are to safeguard national security, religious values, the national ethos/culture and public morality, to protect children and to prevent crime.

The IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted due to the

inactivity of the library association. For the same reason a code of ethics has not been adopted.

The respondent has indicated that no incidents occurred during the last two years that adversely affected the freedom of access to information and the freedom of expression, as "such concepts have not yet paved their way into libraries in Pakistan". Third-party sources, however, report on violations of intellectual freedom. Journalists have been attacked and threatened, and the government has intensified and expanded Internet censorship (see details below).

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

No anti-terror legislation has been passed. It is felt that keeping user records would not affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

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

The respondent has indicated that no incidents occurred in the last two years that adversely affected the freedom of access to information or the freedom of expression. Third-party sources, however, report as follows:

- Regarding freedom of expression, IFEX (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/84262/>) reports on several attacks on journalists, bookshops and Internet cafés.
- Regarding freedom of access to information, the OpenNet Initiative (<http://opennet.net/research/profiles/pakistan>) makes the following statement: "Building on past attempts to filter blasphemous

content, the Pakistan government expanded and intensified its Internet censorship campaign in February 2006, initiated in response to the Danish cartoons that depicted images of the prophet Muhammad. In addition to the Supreme Court ban on publishing or posting sites deemed to be presenting blasphemous material, the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) has filtered content determined to be irredentist, secessionist, antistate, or antimilitary.”

**HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries in Pakistan do not have special programmes to promote awareness of HIV/Aids.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries have no special programmes focusing on the promotion of women’s literacy, and none focusing specifically on women’s access to certain topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health

and family planning). This is because “such concepts have not yet paved their way into libraries in Pakistan”.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, as the library association has not been active in the recent past. The library association does not intend to adopt the Manifesto within the next two years.

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

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, as the library association has not been active in the recent past. The association does not intend to adopt it within the next two years.

**Ethics**

Although the library association has not been active in the recent past, a new council has been elected, but it is not on their agenda to adopt a code of ethics.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Pakistan
Population:	164 741 924 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki (a Punjabi variant) 10%, Pashtu 8%, Urdu (official) 8%, Balochi 3%, Hindko 2%, Brahui 1%, English (official; lingua franca of Pakistani elite and most government ministries), Burushaski and other 8%
Literacy:	49.9%
Literacy reported by respondent:	49%

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

Pakistan contributed to the World Report series in 2005. 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*:	400 (2005: 500)
Estimated number of school libraries:	7 000
Estimated number of university libraries:	103
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	75
Source of these numbers:	Various surveys by the Department of Libraries

#### Internet access

Population online**:	12 000 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (7.2%) (2005: 0.9%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20% (2005: Less than 20%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
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
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Very little
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children; to safeguard national security, religious values and the national ethos/culture; to prevent crime and safeguard public morality (2005: Yes, motivated by the same reasons)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	No (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.