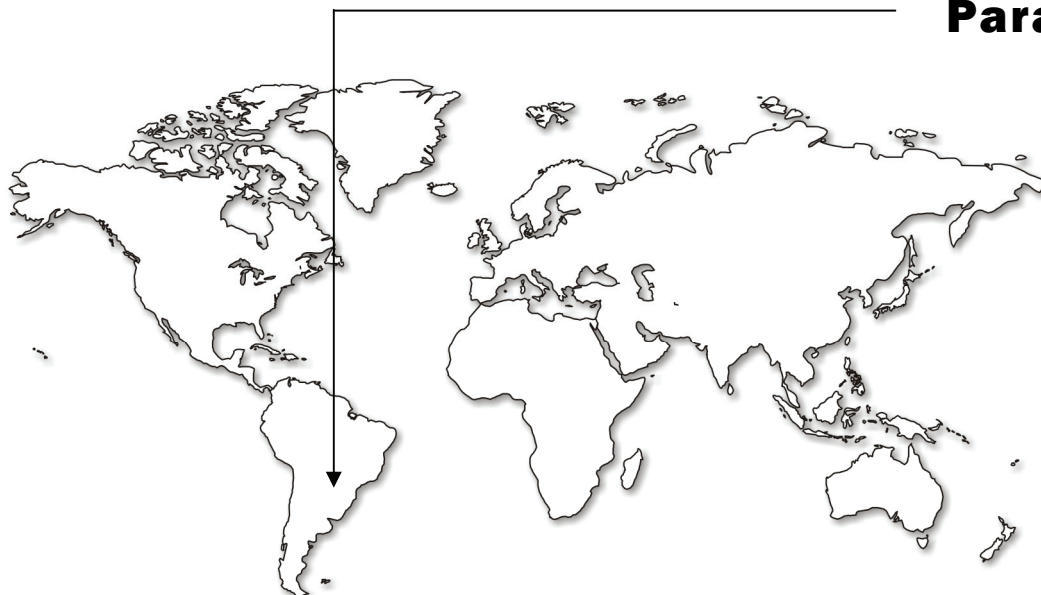


Paraguay



Responding institution:

Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados del Paraguay (ABIGRAP)

This is the first time that Paraguay has contributed to the World Report series. This report relates to the reported 35 public libraries and 240 research libraries, consisting of 40 university libraries and 200 school libraries, in the country. No data was given for government-funded research libraries.

Paraguay had an Internet penetration of 3.5% in September 2006, according to Internet World Stats. Less than 20% of public, school and government-funded research libraries, and 61-80% of university libraries, provide Internet access to their users. Internet access is free of charge in all libraries. In some cases, the state and/or other library authorities have made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system during the past two years.

An average amount of local content is available on the Internet, but nothing or practically nothing is available in local languages. The literacy rate is 94%, according to the 2007 *CIA World Factbook*.

The library association is to a certain degree in favour of the filtering of information on library terminals, and filtering software is also used to a certain extent in the country's libraries. The motivation for such use includes the protection of children and the safeguarding of public morality.

Although anti-terror legislation that adversely affects

library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Paraguay, the respondent has indicated that such legislation would impact on user privacy. Moreover, the keeping of user records would affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

No violation of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years has been reported by the respondent. Consulted third-party sources, however, have revealed some concerns, which will be discussed below.

Libraries in Paraguay are not involved in HIV/Aids awareness programmes or programmes for the promotion of women's literacy and women's access to information. The library association has also not adopted a code of ethics. The questions regarding the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been answered.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Although anti-terror legislation that adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Paraguay, the respondent has indicated that such legislation would impact on user privacy. Regarding the keeping of user records, the respondent has indicated that it would 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 the violation of intellectual freedom, access to information and/or freedom of expression in the last two years have been cited by the respondent.

Consulted third-party sources, however, reveal various concerns regarding the freedom of expression and press freedom in Paraguay, in particular.

The 2007 annual report of Amnesty International summarises the situation thus: "... journalists were subjected to threats and attacks because of their investigative work on politics, drugs and the environment" (<http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Americas/Paraguay>).

This statement is echoed in the 2007 annual report of Reporters Without Borders (<http://www.rsf.org>), citing incidents involving journalists and the fact that "in such a fragile democracy with deep-rooted corruption, journalists do not dare probe too deeply into scandals involving politicians" (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20540). Various incidents involving journalists are also reported on by IFEX (<http://www.ifex.org>).

The Inter American Press Association (IAPA) noted in February 2007 that "freedom of the press will remain uncertain in Paraguay until the disappearance of a local journalist is solved and as long as impunity surrounds murder cases, disproportionate punishment is dispensed against journalists and news media in libel cases, and there is no law on free access to public information" (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81389>). The Paraguayan President recently signed the Declaration of Chapultepec, affirming commitment

to press freedom as reported by IFEX (<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/81550>).

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries in Paraguay are not involved in any HIV/Aids awareness programmes.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Paraguay do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy or women's access to information. Lack of funds has been stated as a possible reason in this regard.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The questions regarding the IFLA Internet Manifesto have not been answered.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The questions on the Glasgow Declaration have not been answered.

Ethics

The respondent has indicated that the library association has not adopted a code of ethics. The association is in the process of collaboration, but no indication has been given as to the possible intention to adopt such a code within the next two years.

Main indicators

Country name:	Paraguay
Population:	6 669 086 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Spanish (official), Guaraní (official)
Literacy:	94%
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

Paraguay 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*:	35
Estimated number of school libraries:	200
Estimated number of university libraries:	40
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	No data provided
Source of these numbers:	Research done by student librarians

Internet access

Population online**:	200 000 users as of Sept. 2006 (3.5%)
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:	61-80%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	Less than 20%
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Average
<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
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – to protect children and to safeguard public morality
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all 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

* 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.