

## Algeria




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### Responding institution:

The respondent has requested to remain anonymous.

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This is the first time that Algeria has taken part in the World Report series. The respondent cites the Department of Culture and Provinces (“Directions de Cultures et Wilayas”) as a source when claiming that there are 2 000 public libraries in Algeria. Statistics obtained from the National Statistics Office indicate that there are 20 university research libraries, 500 school libraries and no government-funded research libraries.

Less than 20% of all libraries in Algeria provide access to the Internet. There is hardly any local content or any information in local languages available on the Internet.

The library association in Algeria is in favour of the filtering of information at library terminals. Filtering software is used for the protection of children, national security, the protection of religious values, public morality, national ethos and values, and crime prevention. In this regard the OpenNet Initiative notes, however, that although Internet access in Algeria is not restricted by filtering, the state controls the Internet infrastructure and regulates content by other means. Internet users and service providers can face criminal penalties for posting, or allowing the posting of, material deemed contrary to public order or morality (<http://opennet.net/research/profiles/algeria>).

In school libraries Internet access is free of charge. The respondent has indicated that additional funding was

made available during the past two years, but no detailed information has been given.

Many violations of intellectual freedom have been reported by outside sources. No anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users. Algeria is still in a state of emergency following political unrest in 1992.

Regarding areas of special focus, libraries in Algeria have to some extent been involved in raising HIV/Aids awareness. Libraries are, however, not involved in programmes for improving women’s access to information, as it is not regarded as their mandate.

The IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted and no indication has been given whether these would be adopted within the next two years. A “cultural moral code” of ethics exists, but has not been formalised in writing.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Algeria that could impact adversely on the privacy of users. The respondent is of the opinion that any such legislation or the keeping of user records would not affect the freedom of the individual, but has added that user records are not kept. It should, however, be noted that the state of emergency imposed in 1992 still remains in force, and that this most probably has an effect on user privacy.

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

The respondent has indicated that no reported

violations of intellectual freedom have occurred in the past two years. The 2007 annual report of Reporters Without Borders, however, mentions many instances of such violations, indicating that “presidential amnesty for journalists convicted of press offences and the release of several imprisoned journalists at the beginning of the year were not followed by a long-awaited reform of the press laws”.

Amnesty International also reports that journalists, civil society activists and government critics face harassment and intimidation, and risk imprisonment. Dozens of journalists who criticised representatives of the state and security forces, or reported on human rights abuses and corruption allegations, face charges of defamation, many of which were filed by public officials. Some 18 journalists were sentenced to imprisonment on defamation charges; others received suspended sentences and heavy fines. These actions are mostly due to press laws that allow detainment, especially for “referring to the President in offensive, insulting or defamatory terms”.

More information on the long list of violations of intellectual freedom can be seen at the following URLs:

- [http://www.rsf.org/country-43.php3?id\\_mot=142](http://www.rsf.org/country-43.php3?id_mot=142)
- [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=20750&Valider=OK](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20750&Valider=OK)
- <http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/dza-summary-eng>

#### **HIV/Aids awareness**

Libraries host awareness days and seminars, and screen documentary films to create awareness about HIV/Aids. Programmes for targeting people who cannot read, include awareness days, discussions and the exhibition of visual material.

#### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not organise any special programmes that focus on the promotion of women’s literacy because of lack of infrastructure. They also do not see it as part of their mandate. There are, according to the respondent, other national associations that focus specifically on the promotion of women’s literacy.

Similarly, no special provision is made by libraries to supply women with information, as access to information is free to all. The position of women does, however, appear to have improved in general. Regarding the amendments that were introduced into the Family and Nationality Codes where women’s rights were addressed, see <http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/dza-summary-eng>.

#### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, and no indication has been given whether it will be adopted within the next two years.

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

The respondent has not indicated whether or not the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted, or whether it will be adopted within the next two years.

#### **Ethics**

Algeria’s libraries have not adopted a code of ethics, although the respondent has mentioned that they have a cultural moral code. This code should be formalised into a written code consisting of regulations for the choice of books, audiovisual aids and the filtering of Internet access.

### Main indicators

Country name:	Algeria
Population:	33 333 216 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	Arabic (official), French, Berber dialects
Literacy:	69.9%
Literacy reported by respondent:	85%

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

Algeria 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*:	2000
Estimated number of school libraries:	500
Estimated number of university libraries:	20
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	Data not provided
Source of these numbers:	Department of Culture and Provinces ("Directions de Cultures et Wilayas") and the National Statistics Office

#### Internet access

Population online**:	1 920 000 Internet users as of Sept. 2006 (5.7%)
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:	Less than 20%
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:	Nothing, or practically nothing
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
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 safeguard religious values; to safeguard national ethos/culture; to prevent crime; and to safeguard public morality
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in school 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

\* 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.