



Definitions of items on LMW Country Profiles

Items	Definitions
National library associations	National library associations listed on the LMW Country Profile are non-profit associations operating at the national level, either general in nature or specialised by the type of library. It includes national associations in the fields of librarianship, documentation, and information science, including associations formed by institutions or staff (both professional/qualified and non-professional). The meaning of national library associations in the broadest context includes all types of national associations in the information field. Associations covering only certain districts, provinces or regions within a country are not within a scope of the LMW Country Profile.
National libraries	A national library is a library that is responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all relevant documents published in the country in which the library is located. The definition of “national library” allows for more than one national library in a country.
Policy making institutions	National level governmental institution(s) (e.g. government department, ministry or other entity) which is responsible for development of policy (e.g. strategies, plans, actions, behaviours) and legislation in the library field as well as making decisions concerning libraries the in country.
Library support organisations	National level (public, private or non-profit) library support organisations (e.g. consortiums, agencies or centres etc.) which either make grants, perform the functions of, or implement projects/programmes in the library field.
National policy for libraries	A national policy for libraries is a document formally approved by the government which provides a framework for the planned and coordinated development of libraries, as well as for the delivery of library services in a country. National policy for libraries may be developed independently or be defined as part of wider policies, e.g. national information policies, national information technology strategies, national education policies, or national book policies. National policy documents listed on the LMW Country Profile include general library policy strategies or guidelines as well as policy documents covering the development of specific library types or library functions (e.g. national policy for development of public libraries; national digitisation strategies etc.).
Library law	Library laws are an expression of library policy in the form of legislation or regulation(s). Library laws provide a legal framework for running and

	<p>maintaining library services, defines tasks and official guidelines for libraries' work, and lays down statutory responsibilities in the library field. Library laws listed on the LMW Country Profile include general library acts as well as library acts covering selected library type (e.g. national library act or public libraries act).</p>
Legal deposit law	<p>Legal deposit is a key instrument in building national collections which preserve, develop and transmit national culture to future generations. It is a legal obligation that requires publishers, distributors and, in some countries, printers to provide copies of their publications for free to the repository of the national collection. In many countries this scope is being extended to include electronic resources together with other forms of non-print media. Legal deposit legislation can also impose obligations on the national bibliographic agency relating to material received via legal deposit concerning long-term preservation, description, access, and restrictions on the use or disposal of such material. Legal deposit can be the subject of discrete legislation or may be incorporated into another act or law (e.g., the national library act, or copyright law).</p>
Copyright law and library exceptions and limitations	<p>Copyright gives authors or creators of original works exclusive rights to do certain things with their works, i.e. copying, distributing, lending, placing online. In most countries, copyright laws include exceptions or limitations applicable specifically to libraries and archives – this is vital if they are to fulfil their mission to support education, research and reading. The most common subjects of library exceptions are making copies (usually a limited number), for readers, researchers, and other library users, and the making of copies for preservation. Library exceptions and limitations gives the library the possibility to use the work without permission from the author, copyright owner, or any other party.</p>
Professional qualification requirements	<p>In many countries, to become a librarian one would usually need to have formal qualifications (e.g. a diploma in library and information studies (LIS), an undergraduate library qualification, or an undergraduate degree in any subject and a postgraduate degree in LIS or accredited certification). Some librarian positions may additionally require specific subject knowledge or expertise, or certain in-job experience. Sometimes professional registration for librarians is required to be eligible working in the LIS sector. Information included on the LMW Country Profile describes formal professional qualification requirements for library staff (usually set by law or issued by statutory body in the library field in country).</p>
Education	<p>Education for librarians is often referred to as Library and Information Science (sometimes given as the plural library and information sciences) which is the term associated with schools of library and information science (abbreviated to "SLIS") or schools of librarianship. In some countries, the term "documentation science" is the preferred name of the field, where information science and communication studies form one interdisciplinary field. In some places, the fields of archival science, library science and museology, have been integrated as archival, library and museum (abbreviated to "ALM") studies. In addition, lately the tendency is to use all the terms of "library science" and "information science" as synonyms or to</p>

	<p>drop the term “library” and to speak about information departments or so called I-schools. Information included on the LMW Country Profiles refers to the LIS education system in its broadest sense, including any institutions providing LIS education and/or training programmes in the library field in a country.</p>
<p>Professional publications</p>	<p>Professional publications (e.g. professional journals or professional magazines) are important in the transfer of information. Professional publications for librarians provide a forum for communication within the profession as well as serve as a source of practical information for library professionals (e.g. provide popularized or simplified information on scientific research or trends and discoveries; or communicate up-to-date information about current events for library professionals), which drives informed decisions and development through sharing and learning from research or peer experience. Professional publications listed on the LMW Country Profiles are professional journals or magazines which are published at regular intervals throughout the year by professional organisations in the library field in country.</p>
<p>Professional events</p>	<p>Professional events (e.g. annual conferences or annual meetings) provide a platform to exchange a usable content on relevant topics, help to keep up to date with the latest developments and changes that are occurring in the library field, as well as encourage networking with other professionals. Professional events listed on the LMW Country Profiles are professional conferences or congresses (general or targeted at a specific library type) which are organized at regular intervals (e.g. annual or biennial) by professional organisations in the library field in country.</p>