



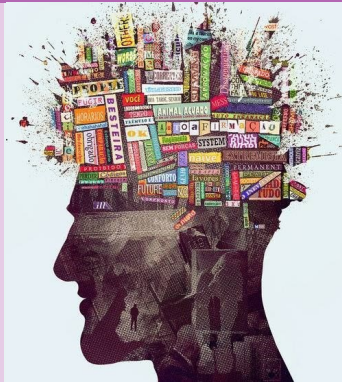
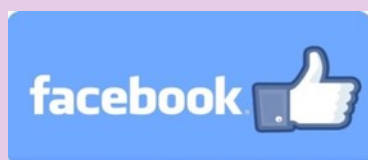
Editorial

A new academic year has started and we welcome all the old and new students at the Library (JCL). The Library is not only a place where you can study and borrow books, but also a place to meet, share ideas and indulge yourself in a favourite book.

JCL has an excellent Fiction section where you can borrow the latest fiction or else re-read your favourite book. In *Librarian's Choice*, we have recommended some of our favourite books for you to read. If you are unsure what to choose, don't be shy to ask for help.

This issue of BOOKMark also includes articles about the role of libraries and how to use online resources for your assignments. Check out the *Research Tip*, which gives you a valuable shortcut to improve your assignments. The *Did You Know Section* tackles a very common symbol, which we are sure that you are all familiar with.

This year we have introduced a new section entitled 'Getting to Know' where we provide a short biography of a person of interest.



In this issue ...

Libraries (In My Opinion)	1
Library News	2
Libraries (In My Opinion), cont.	3
The Oxford Very Short Introductions Series	4
Did you Know? /Research Tip	5
Getting to Know	6
Librarian's Choice	7
Using Academic Electronic Resources	8

LIBRARIES (IN MY OPINION)

By Mark Camilleri

I am quite often fascinated with how people instantly associate libraries with reading. To be honest, I am quite aware that in libraries reading is one of the principal methods to go through what they have to offer. However, what I mean here is "reading for leisure." It is not uncommon to see pictures of glorious libraries on social media and someone would comment, "I would live in there" or "Wow. I love it. I'm quite a bookworm." That is only true if you are a bibliophile, a person who loves books for the sake of collecting them for aesthetic reasons rather than what their contents can provide.

I ask how many have wondered, "What if none of the books that appear in these pictures of libraries (some of which are private libraries) hit my interests? What if the original owners were rich ignoramuses who collected books only to show their material wealth rather than their knowledge?" In short, a library of 100,000 hand bound-books might prove unfruitful to some of us. A library, especially a personal library, can be very biased in favour of some subjects and not to others. They might not even have books for leisure reading! Therefore, one has to reconsider "living" in beautiful libraries before examining the contents of their collections.

In essence, libraries are about what books (or other media) contain and not about the book as an *objet d'art*. Many of us, think about libraries as large bookcases where books (mostly fiction) are stored and read and that is only partially true. However, the main aim of a library is to provide both useful, non-fictional, and scholarly information to the seeker and a place where one can escape the hectic everyday life between the "pages" of a gripping story. (Continued on p. 4)



The National Library Of Prague, Prague, Czech Republic



Useful links

Collage: The London Picture Archive

An interesting way to discover London. Collage is one of London's finest picture archives. Managed by London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), it provides free online access to over 250,000 images of London from the collections at LMA and Guildhall Art Gallery.

<http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>

Wirt iz-Żejtun Information Page

A collection of articles about Żejtun ranging from art to archaeology to local history. These articles are all sources to the local Band Club or Festa magazines. Worth a look!

<https://wirtizejtunartikli.wordpress.com/>

Europeana Collections

Made up from museums, libraries and archives all over Europe, you are bound to find something which interests you. Whether it is for your assignment or just for fun, Europeana has something for everyone!

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>

LIBRARY NEWS



Interested in joining a book club? Book Clubs are a great way to discuss and gain new insights on books, as well as, an opportunity to make new friends!

For more information on the Book Club, come visit us at the Library!



6 BOOK CHALLENGE

Love reading?

Why not take part in the Six Book Challenge? All you have to do is to read 6 books from October till March.

Great Prizes to be won!

Please contact the Library staff for more information.

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

(1st October - 15th June)

Monday to Friday: 8am to 4pm

Saturday: Closed

PANDORA'S BOX

WE SPECIALISE IN MERCHANDISE & MEMORABILIA RELATED TO MOVIES AND VIDEO-GAMES.

THIS IS NOT A HOBBY... IT'S A WAY OF LIFE!



- ACTION FIGURES
- STATUES & BUSTS
- COMICS
- GRAPHIC NOVELS
- T-SHIRTS
- BOARD GAMES
- KEYCHAINS

COLLECTABLES

Shop: 84, Triq Hal Tarxien, Tarxien
Phone: 21667114
E-Mail: info@pandorasboxmalta.com
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 16:30 - 19:00
Saturday: 9:00 - 13:00



like us on facebook



Agendabookshop

LIBRARIES (IN MY OPINION)

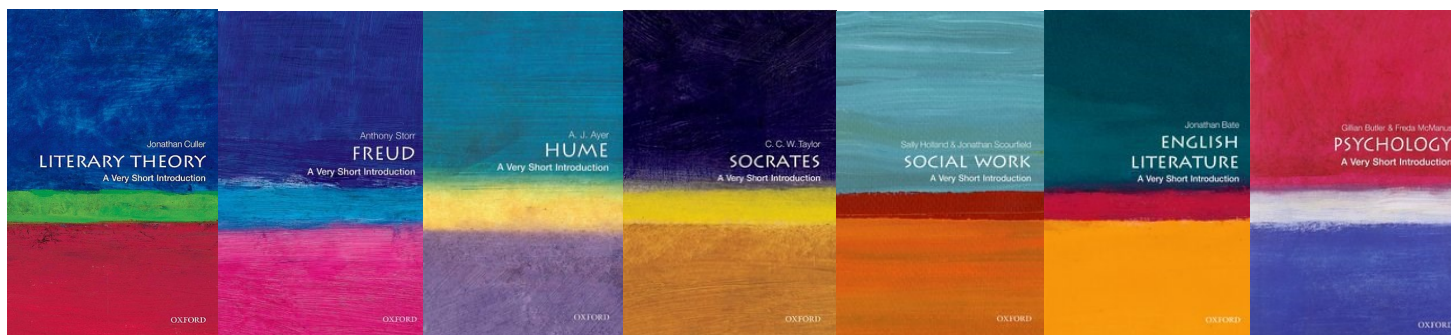
Continued from p.1

Another role one expects from a library is to teach literacy to a certain extent. There are various types of literacies, three of which are our more pressing concern: *basic literacy*, *information literacy* and *digital literacy*:

- **Basic literacy** - Without disregarding the important role that schools hold in teaching basic writing and reading, libraries are important tools that enforces what has been taught in the classroom. The first library one encounters out of the classroom should be the school library. It holds curriculum approved books, containing information which is appropriate for school children and serves as aid to teachers in order to prepare their teaching material. Some school library users might also trickle out of the school environment and into the more generic and often larger public library. Public libraries, however, are more apt to organize reading and story-telling sessions for children.
- **Information literacy** - Once basic literacy is acquired one feels confident to search for information. It is unfortunate, therefore, that there is a multitude of information all of which claims to be the truth. Information literacy has two functions (a) learn how to effectively search for information and find what one wants without spending too much time to find it, and (b) to discern between good and reliable information and the dubious or outright false information.
- **Digital literacy** - It is imperative to know at least basic literacy and information literacy will be of a great asset in order to learn digital literacy. Digital literacy in simple words is the ability to use digital media with efficiency for one's informative and entertainment needs. Naturally, a digital literate person has to some extent keep up to date with new developments in digital platforms in order to use these platforms for their needs effectively.

Therefore, while libraries can still preserve their traditional image of large halls with hundreds of shelves full of books, they can simultaneously be leaders in the information arena and instruct their patrons how to glean information effectively from every type of medium, be it a traditional manuscript, printed text or web-based digital resource.





THE OXFORD VERY SHORT INTRODUCTIONS SERIES MAKES A WELCOME APPEARANCE IN OUR LIBRARY!

By Charmaine Falzon

I have been excited, recently, by our library's acquisition of several titles in the Oxford Very Short Introductions series. Each of these books provides the reader with an excellent brief introduction to a particular academic field (often much more than just an introduction, really!) or to the work of a well-known writer or intellectual (a philosopher, a theoretician, a scientific innovator, etc.) and each is written by an expert in the field, normally an established academic.

The format of these books is particularly handy, with each volume being not much bigger or thicker than your average smartphone. It must also be said (and this seems to be an approach that is followed throughout the series) that each of the volumes I have read so far is written in clear, unstuffy English that is easy to follow. The use of field-specific vocabulary and technical jargon is kept to a minimum. The publisher's aim seems to be that of making challenging concepts and complex thinkers as accessible as possible to the less experienced reader. In the course of the past few months I have read several of these precious little books - our Library owns the volumes on Psychology, Philosophy and Literary Theory as well as the books in the series on such key intellectual figures as Immanuel Kant, David Hume, Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud. One endearing aspect of these books is that, close to the opening, the writer will invariably apologize for the brevity with which he has to deal with his subject and for having to cut corners in his treatment of complex issues. I can say - from my experience as a reader - that this apology almost always proves to be disingenuous. This is because the writers of these volumes have a knack at pulling off the seemingly incredible feat of putting into a tiny volume rarely longer than 120 pages as much key information about a subject as one would normally expect to encounter in a book of at least twice that length! The information one encounters in these books is excellent for students seeking to become familiar with the basic aspects of a given subject before beginning their exploration of specific areas of the subject in question in a more detailed fashion. Each of these books, besides, is not only helpfully divided into (titled) chapters but also comprises an Index. It is therefore easy for students looking for information about some specific topic to locate that information in a given volume.

In spite of this, though, I would advise a student interested in a given subject to read the Oxford Short Introductions volume on that subject from cover to cover. It will, I'm sure, prove to be a fount of valuable information and will not only help deepen the student's interest in the subject but also introduce them to new avenues for exploration and, last but not least, boost their exam grade!

Ms. Charmaine Falzon is a lecturer at the Junior College English Department

Very Short Introductions



DID YOU KNOW?

Origin of the @ symbol

Some countries called it 'the monkey's tail', others 'the snail', 'maggot', 'pig's tail' or 'elephant's trunk' but the @ sign is one of the most recognised symbols of the modern world. The origin of the symbol itself is something of a mystery, however, its modern popularity can be attributed to Ray Tomlinson, a computer scientist back in 1971.

Traditionally the origin of the @ symbol is linked with medieval monks, who shorthanded the Latin 'ad' meaning toward to 'a' with the back part of the letter 'd' merging with the letter 'a'. Another possible origin may be from the French 'à' meaning 'at', where scribes swept the nib of the pen around the letter 'a' for the sake of efficiency.

Giorgio Stabile from La Sapienza University in Italy discovered the first documented use in 1536 in a letter by Francesco Lapi. The Florentine merchant, used @ to denote units of wine called amphorae, which were shipped in large clay jars. These amphorae were used as a standard size vessels by merchants carrying wine and/or grain. This led to the symbol taking on a commercial role. Merchants and tradesmen used it to indicate "at the price of" for example 10 apples @ \$1.

The symbol became a standard key on typewriter keyboards in the 1880s and a standard on QWERTY keyboards in the 1940s. However, it was through Ray Tomlinson in 1971 that the @ symbol became what it is today. Tomlinson wanted to connect computer programmers with each other. At that time, each programmer was typically connected to a particular mainframe machine via a phone connection and a teletype machine - basically a keyboard with a built-in printer. Tomlinson's difficulty was how to connect individuals through different computers. The address needed an individual's name, he reasoned, as well as the name of the computer, which might service many users. And the symbol separating those two address elements could not already be widely used in programs and operating systems, lest computers be confused. That is where the @ comes in. Using this method, he sent himself an e-mail, which travelled from one teletype to another.

References:

http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-accidental-history-of-the-symbol-18054936/?utm_source=facebook.com&no-ist

<http://www.webopedia.com/DidYouKnow/Internet/HistoryofAtSign.asp>



RESEARCH TIP

Bring out your inner Sherlock – sift through the **Bibliography**.

If you have found a book or article which is useful, try having a look at the bibliography. This is usually found at the back of the book or chapter, at the end of an article or a wiki page. Chances are that this will lead you to other useful and relevant sources which you can use to write your assignment. The best part of all? It can be used for both books and digital material!

GETTING TO KNOW

Vera Brittain (1893-1970)



Brittain as a VAD nurse stationed in Malta

Vera Mary Brittain was born on the 29th December 1893 in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire into a middle class family. Vera viewed her femininity as a disadvantage when it came to her individuality and also the right to pursue an education and a career. Throughout her childhood, Vera formed a close relationship with her younger brother Edward that was to last until his death in 1918.

In 1913, Brittain was accepted to study at Somerville College Oxford to study English Literature. Here she met and fell in love with Roland Leighton, her brother's school friend. They eventually became engaged in 1915.

War broke out in August 1914. Edward Brittain, Roland Leighton, and their friend Victor Richardson applied for commissions in the British Army. Meanwhile, Vera had decided to leave her studies at Oxford in order to become a VAD nurse. She began her nursing activities at the Devonshire Hospital, Buxton in June 1915 and in November, transferred to a military hospital, the 1st London General Hospital in Camberwell, south-east London.

In December 1915, Vera learned that her fiancé Roland had been killed in France by a German Sniper. Continuing her nursing, Vera was given her first foreign posting in Malta in 1916. Her stay in Malta lasted until June 1917, when she decided to go back to England to take care of and marry Victor Richardson who was blinded during combat. However, this was not to be as he died two weeks after her return. She then requested VAD service in France and was stationed at 24 General Hospital at Étapes. At the height of the Spring Offensive of 1918, Vera returned home to take care of her parents. Shortly after, she learned of her brother death in action on the Austro-Italian front, on 15th June 1918.

After these many losses, Vera found her main comfort in writing. *Verses of a V. A. D.* was published in August 1918. Vera worked for some time at a civilian hospital and was later transferred to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital in Millbank, where she remained until April 1919.

Vera returned to Oxford in April 1919, this time to study modern history. Here she met with Winifred Holtby, who some argue replaced the comradery she had with her brother. The two women left Oxford for London in 1921 and they set up a joint household together. This period proved to be a positive and fruitful experience for both as they established successful parallel careers as journalists, lecturers, social activists, and novelists.

On 27 June 1925 Brittain married George Edward Gordon Catlin, a political scientist of feminist and socialist sympathies. The couple had two children John Edward, born in December 1927, and Shirley Vivien, born in July 1930.

In 1933, Vera published her most important work: 'Testament of Youth'. This book is a memoir based on her War experience as a nurse, and of the great personal losses, those of her fiancé and her brother.

Vera proclaimed herself to be a pacifist in 1937 and pledged to join Canon Dick Sheppard's Peace Pledge Union (PPU). She continued to be a prolific writer, vocal activist for peace and a great feminist all throughout her life. Vera Brittain died on 29th March 1970 after several years of illness. Her ashes were scattered over Edward's grave at the cemetery of Granezza in Italy, in accordance with her last wishes.

Sources :

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/collections/brittain>

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/32076?docPos=1>

"Politics is the executive expression of human immaturity."

Vera Brittain

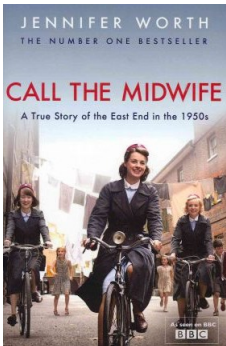


Vera Brittain leaning out of her window

LIBRARIANS' CHOICE

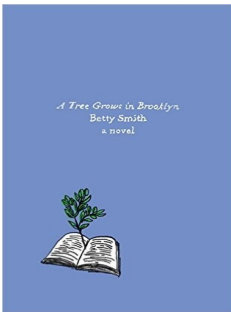
Recommended readings from our bookshelves

Call the Midwife : a true story of the East End in the 1950s by Jennifer Worth



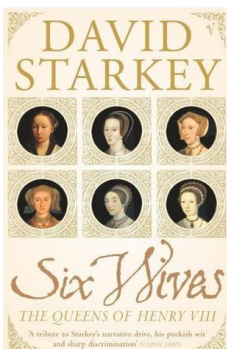
Jennifer Worth came from a sheltered background when she became a midwife in the Docklands in the 1950s. The conditions in which many women gave birth just half a century ago were horrifying, not only because of their grimly impoverished surroundings, but also because of what they were expected to endure. But while Jennifer witnessed brutality and tragedy, she also met with amazing kindness and understanding, tempered by a great deal of Cockney humour. Attached to an order of nuns who had been working in the slums since the 1870s, Jennifer tells the story not only of the women she treated, but also of the community of nuns (including one who was accused of stealing jewels from Hatton Garden) and the camaraderie of the midwives with whom she trained. Funny, disturbing and incredibly moving, Jennifer's stories bring to life the colourful world of the East End in the 1950s.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn : a novel by Betty Smith



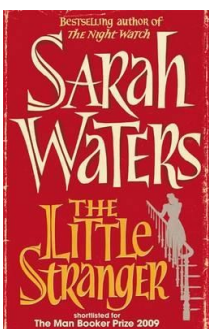
Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness - in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

Six Wives : The Queens of Henry VIII by David Starkey



Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived CATHERINE OF ARAGON: the pious Spanish Catholic who suffered years of miscarriages and failed to produce a male heir...ANNE BOLEYN: the pretty, clever, French-educated Protestant whose marriage to Henry changed England forever...JANE SEYMOUR: the demure and submissive contrast to Anne Boleyn's radical and vampish style...ANNE OF CLEVES: 'the mare of Flanders' whose short marriage to the overweight Henry followed a farcical 'beauty contest'...CATHERINE HOWARD: the flirtatious teenager whose adulteries made a fool of the ageing king...CATHERINE PARR: the shrewd, religiously radical bluestocking who outlived him...In this dazzling study, David Starkey gives us a richly textured picture of daily life at the Tudor Court from the woman's point of view. Above all, he establishes the interaction of the private and the public, and demonstrates how the Queens of Henry VIII were central in determining political policy.

The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters



In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to a patient at lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once grand and handsome, is now in decline, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds, its owners - mother, son and daughter - struggling to keep pace. But are the Ayreses haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life? Little does Dr Faraday know how closely, and how terrifyingly, their story is about to become entwined with his.

Using Scientific Electronic Resources

by Ryan Scicluna

Are you writing your assignment and cannot find what you need? Have you searched on Google and still did not manage to find any relevant material? Are you getting fed up of not being able to obtain useful resources for your project?

Why not try searching in an **academic database**? The Library subscribes to over 52,000 electronic journals and a wide spectrum of online databases. Articles available through these electronic journals are free to download and makes researching a little less tedious!

Here are a couple of things you need to know to get you started:

Journals and databases can be accessed through **HyDi** which is the Library's search tool and allows users to search for both print and electronic resources. To access HyDi all you have to do is log in with your IT user account on the Library's website (<https://www.um.edu.mt/library>), click on HyDi and you can start searching for material for your assignments, projects or dissertations.

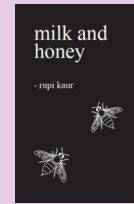
A **database** is an organised collection of information and is usually classified by subject or types of content so that it can be easily accessed, managed and updated. Through databases, users are able to search through a number of journals at one go to retrieve the most relevant articles for their research.

A **journal** is an academic magazine that contains the most recent research being carried out in a particular subject. It can cover every research topic including health and medicine, engineering, social sciences, arts and literature, languages, anthropology, physics, technology, computing and much more. This research is published in the form of a **peer reviewed article**. Peer reviewed means that before the academic research is published, it is evaluated by other experts in the field to verify that the content of the article is correct. Before the article is given the final approval, the methodology, results, errors and conclusions are all checked. Journals are highly regarded for their academic importance and are one of the best sources to go for reliable scientific research.

If you need any more information on using HyDi or on how to research using the Library's subscribed journals and databases, you can ask your librarian, call us on 23402541 or send an email on hydi.lib@um.edu.mt

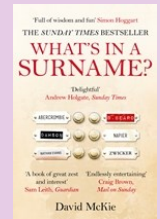
Ryan Scicluna is an Assistant Librarian at the University of Malta Library and a member of the Outreach Team.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY



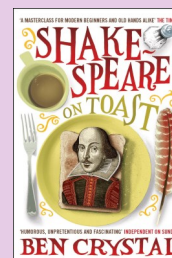
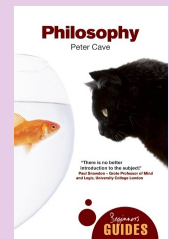
milk and honey
by Rupi Kaur

What's in a surname
by David McKie



1984
by George Orwell

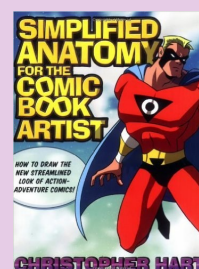
Beginners Guides to Philosophy
by Peter Cave



Shakespeare on Toast
by Ben Crystal

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Based on an original new story by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany and Jack Thorne



Simplified anatomy for the comic book artist

by Christopher Hart

