

## Local Public Library Scene

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### Figures that speak for themselves

Statistics released by National Statistics Office on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010, on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010

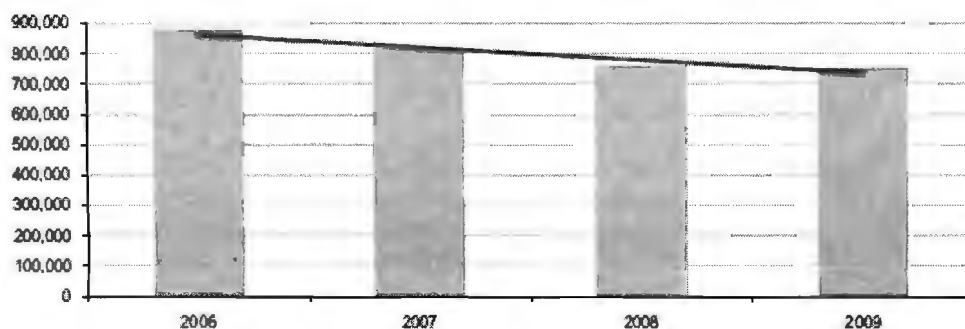


Chart 1: Four year trend in public library book loans (2006-2009)

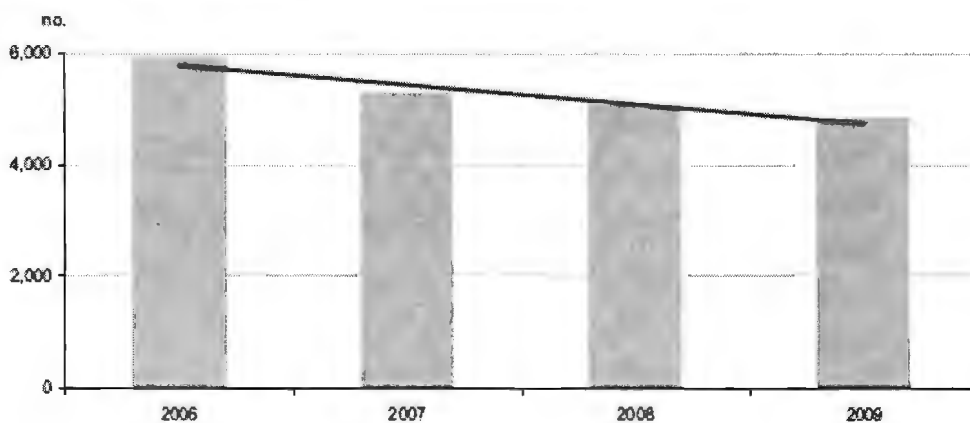


Chart 2: Four year trend in new public library membership (2006-2009)

Source: [http://www.nso.gov.mt/statdoc/document\\_file.aspx?id=2741](http://www.nso.gov.mt/statdoc/document_file.aspx?id=2741)

*On a positive note:* MaLIA acknowledges and supports the allocation of an extra EUR100,000 allocated in the last budget and hopes that such funds would result in an increase in library resources and a growth in the number of users. MaLIA recommends the allocation of more funds for public libraries, as well as for the National Library, in the forthcoming budget.

## MaLIA Activities

### MaLIA organises Sir Anthony Mamo memorabilia

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010, the President of the Republic, Dr. George Abela, inaugurated the Sir Anthony Mamo Hall at San Anton Palace. This hall is now housing memorabilia belonging to Malta's first President of the Republic, Sir Anthony Mamo.

The memorabilia, made available by Sir Anthony Mamo's family, consists mainly of official decorations, medals, insignias, certificates, speeches and talks in Maltese and English, as well as newspaper cuttings related to Sir Anthony Mamo's long and distinguished career.

MaLIA had been approached to help in the organisation of this material which has now been placed in four chest drawers within the hall formerly known as the Blue Room. It is planned that besides drawing up a catalogue of these items, a digital copy of each item is also created, thus offering the possibility of setting up a digital library. Discussions are in progress to assess how this digital library can be made accessible, possibly online, for the benefit of researchers, historians and the general public.

Joseph R. Grima and Robert Mizzi from MaLIA Council are working on this project. A meeting with the Department of Information has been held to discuss the digitisation part of the project.

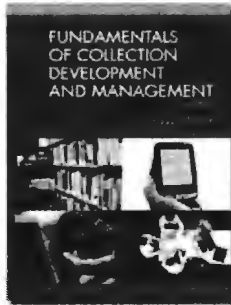


### Mr. Laurence Zerafa participates at workshop in Italy

On 24-25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Mr. Laurence Zerafa, Librarian at MCAST, represented the College at the XIII workshop organised by the Consiglio Regionale Della Puglia "Teca del Mediterraneo" (Biblioteca Multimedia & Centro di Documentazione), held in Bari, Italy. The theme of this year's workshop was *The library offers informal education: literacy, information, training, updating.*

Mr. Zerafa presented a paper on *Informal learning at the MCAST Library and Learning Resource Centres.* Moreover, in his capacity as present Chairman of MaLIA, Mr. Zerafa also sought to establish links with members of both the national Associazione Italiana Biblioteche and its Puglia section.

## Academic Publications



### Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management, 2nd Edition

Peggy Johnson  
ISBN: 978-0-8389-0972-0  
Publisher: ALA Editions, 2009

In this fully updated revision, Johnson addresses the art in controlling and updating a library's collection. Each chapter offers complete coverage of an aspect of collection development, including suggestions for further reading and a narrative case study. Johnson also integrates electronic resources throughout the book, covering topics on:

- Organization and staffing
- Policymaking and budgeting
- Purchasing and weeding

The publication offers a comprehensive tour of this essential discipline and presents the fundamental ideas of collection development and management in a historical and theoretical perspective, bringing this modern classic fully up to date.

Source: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2499>



### How to Give Your Users the LIS Services they Want

Sheila Pantry & Peter Griffiths  
ISBN: 978-1-85604-672-5  
Publisher: Facet Publishing, 2009

Benefits of analysing user behaviour are self-evident: better strategic planning, cost benefits and better use of budgets, better marketing, satisfied customers, satisfied management, and a library or information unit that is central to the needs of the parent organization.

This publication goes back to the basics and investigates the following issues:

- Defining and understanding users
- User behaviour and needs
- How LIS professionals can manage and train users
- Keeping abreast of changes in what users want
- Tracking the future: electronic and social networking

The book will help library professionals to take a fresh look at this important area so as to ensure that their users will always obtain what they want.

Source: <http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/title.php?id=672-5>



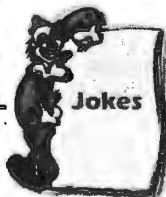
### Teaching Literary Research: Challenges in a Changing Environment

Kathleen A. Johnson & Steven R. Harris  
ISBN: 978-0-8389-8509-0  
Publisher: ACRL, 2009

A collection of essays in which professors and librarians provide perspectives on the relationship between information literacy and literary research through presentations of best practices in teaching students from undergraduate to graduate levels.

Their work focuses on the significance of information literacy to the teaching of research methods in literary studies. "The book" continues to be of utmost importance to the disciplines of language and literary study, but networks, databases and digital works all have an impact on the research process of the literary scholar. This collection of essays confronts these challenges and presents effective practices as experienced by the teaching faculty and by librarians.

Source: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2719>



## Lighter moments

Q: Why is the library book one is trying to find always in the last place one looks?

A: Because once it's found one stops looking!

Q: Which building has the most stories?

A: Obviously... a library!

## News from the Library World

### EUROPEANA

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010, EU Youth and Culture Ministers adopted conclusions on the European digital library Europeana, an online multilingual access point to European digital cultural material in diverse formats, such as books, photographs, documents and films.

The conclusions, *Europeana—next steps* call on all member states and cultural institutions to continue striving to improve the portal, “including a more coherent and appealing presentation of the digitised items”. Recognising linguistic diversity as part of Europe’s heritage, the conclusions also call for the development of the multilingual features of the site, especially by “tackling cross language search and automatic translation”.

Europeana, launched in 2009, is considered as a European answer to Google’s digital library and aims at having 10 million digitised works available by the end of 2010. *Europeana—next steps* are accessible at:  
[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/114328.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/114328.pdf)

### SHAKESPEARE’S COLLECTION

Shakespeare collection is being offered free as eBooks on YUDU Library at yudu.com to mark the anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

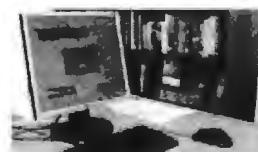
The collection includes well known plays such as *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest* as well as other lesser known works such as *The Passionate Pilgrim*, *Cymbeline* and *The Phoenix and the Turtle*.

Source:  
<http://www.yudu.com/blog/2010/04/23/shakespeare%E2%80%99s-entire-collection-free-on-yudu/>

See also news on overseas National Libraries on p.6

## MaLIA Position Statement on Internet Access

Please give us your feedback



MaLIA would like to announce that it is in the process of issuing a position statement regarding the restriction on full internet access to library staff at work.

In this regard, MaLIA would like to invite you to submit your feedback on this position statement; a draft copy of which is being forwarded to you with this newsletter.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would dedicate some time to reflect on this draft position statement and to send in your comments and suggestions to MaLIA c/o University Library MSD 2080 or by email to [info@malia-malta.org](mailto:info@malia-malta.org) by not later than **16th August 2010**.

## Editorial

*Dear* MaLIA members and friends,

Time really does fly. It seems just like yesterday that I was writing my first editorial, but the months have rolled by ever so quickly and here I am communicating with you in another newsletter.

Summer is once again with us. It is that time of the year that many love and others dread... a time that many look forward to, perhaps because of a slower and more relaxed lifestyle, holidays, barbecues and a more vibrant social life – in short more time to share and spend with families and friends, despite the stifling heat and the scorching sun which others find unbearable. For some there are also half-days or prolonged holidays to enjoy, giving them more free time. Even for those who, like me, still have to work full days, the longer hours of daylight plus the cooler starry Mediterranean nights, allow us to find time for rest and leisure over and above our day's work.

Speaking of work, I guess all of us hope that summer brings with it a less hectic environment at our places of work. Yet, as many of us know, at libraries, this is usually the ideal period to carry out stock taking and weeding of the collection, as well as other maintenance work, such as

redecorating or shifting around of furniture. However, even though such work might mean more physical exertion for library staff, one can embrace a positive outlook and view this period as a renewal of our surroundings and an occasion when we can breathe new life into our libraries.

Moreover, from a professional point of view, one also hopes that people experiencing a slower tempo of life would find more time to read and to visit libraries, to browse and borrow books. Over and above all else, one definitely hopes that more children are encouraged by word and example to take books to the seaside and to experience the joy of reading. Yes, despite having to work, this can be the time of the year when we can show the rest of the world that libraries serve an important function and have a lot to offer to the community even during the summer season.

Wishing you all the best,

*Cecily*

*Did you know?*

**June is Audio Book Month—a campaign promoted by Audio Publishers Association**



Audio Publishers Association (APA) was set up in USA in 1987. It is a non-profit trade organisation for audio publishing companies, suppliers and retailers of spoken word products. Its aims include the promotion of policies and activities that advance the audio book industry's growth.

Readers of audio books can include young children, people learning a new language or who are illiterate, those visually impaired and even those wishing to read while involved in other activities, such as commuters. Statistics released by APA show that the popularity of audio books is still strong. In fact, results of a survey of sales in 2009, released on 28th June 2010, show a 4.7% unit sales increase, even though a drop in revenue was experienced. It is to be noted that, because of the recession, publishers selectively reduced prices on audio books in 2009 and that consumers responded by buying more audio books.

More information is available on APA website: <http://www.audiopub.org/index.asp>  
This site dedicates a section to librarians, offering resources to help them offer a better service to

## International News on National Libraries

### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*April 2010*

USA's Library of Congress announces archiving of every public tweet ever made since the social networking service Twitter went live in 2006.

One of the Library's official bloggers, Matt Raymond says that important tweets include the first ever tweet by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey and President Barack Obama's tweet about winning the Presidential election in 2008. However, the Library of Congress will not be selecting special tweets for archiving but will be storing the whole collection for posterity, seeing this as another step in the library's preservation of digital media. Thus, the archive will serve as a source of social history, providing future generations with a better understanding of time and place and the way people thought and lived.

*Source:*

<http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2010/04/library-of-congress-were-archiving-every-tweet-ever-made.ars>

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36525336/news/technology\\_and\\_science-tech\\_and\\_gadgets/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36525336/news/technology_and_science-tech_and_gadgets/)

### BRITISH LIBRARY

*May 2010*

The British Library reveals plans to digitise 40 million pages of historic newspapers going back to the 18th century.

This material will eventually be placed online where it would be fully searchable and accessible. At present, most of the British Library's newspaper collection is available on microfilm or as bound volumes. The project is expected to take 10 years. Newspapers that are to be scanned will cover such historical events as the Crimean War, the Boer War and the suffragette movement. The cost of the project could run over £40 million since the process from cleaning a single page to making a file of it is estimated at £1 per page. A spokesman for the British Library, Ben Sanderson describes the project as being "the largest mass digitisation of historic newspapers the UK has ever seen".

*More information at:*

<http://www.techeye.net/internet/british-library-to-digitise-40-million-newspaper-pages>

### ÖSTERREICHISCHE NATIONALBIBLIOTHEK

*June 2010*

Austria's National Library reaches a €30 million agreement with Google to digitise 400,000 copyright-free books, spanning 400 years of European history.

The project will involve the digitisation of around 120 million pages, comprising one of the world's five biggest collections of 16th to 19th century literature. Under the deal, ÖNB will be covering expenses for the preparation of books for scanning, the storing of book data and the provision of public access to the collection. The cost of digitisation, estimated at around €50 to €100 will be borne by Google. Scanning is expected to begin in 2011 and will last about 6 years.

Johanna Rachinger, head of ÖNB hopes the project "will help preserve its original works, as well as providing digital back-up copies in case of a disaster". In due course, the digitised books will be accessible on ÖNB's website, Google Books library and EU's Europeana.

*Source:*

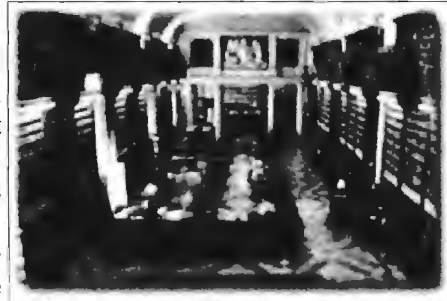
<http://news.theage.com.au/technology/google-to-scan-400-years-of--history-20100616-ydnu.html>

## News on our National Library

MALTA'S NATIONAL LIBRARY COLLECTION IN *The Times*:

28<sup>th</sup> May 2010: *Priceless books rot due to lack of funds.*  
A front page report by Claudia Calleja

The report highlights the fact that the National Library does not have a budget for the restoration of books and the necessary equipment to carry out major book repairs. It also announces a National Library Book Restoration Project thanks to Lions Club Sliema in collaboration with Heritage Malta. This project kicks off with the restoration of three books from the *Hortus Romanus*, an eight volume collection of botanical engravings published between 1772 and 1793.



31<sup>st</sup> May 2010: *Minister to lobby for more funds for book restoration.*  
A report by David Schembri (p.3)

Dolores Cristina, the minister responsible for libraries, reacts to the above report by pledging to "lobby" Cabinet for more funds for the restoration of books.

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010: *Saving the national published heritage.*  
A back page article by Robert Mizzi, MaLIA deputy chairman (p.68)

Mizzi points out that over the past years MaLIA has attempted to draw the attention of the competent authorities to the state of our National Library and to other library related issues. He also states that MaLIA feels that funding for the preservation of our published heritage should be allocated on a regular basis. Mizzi writes that MaLIA has been expressing concern about the preservation of our national digital heritage, including audio and visual recordings, online content and digital publications.

8<sup>th</sup> June 2010: *Saving Malta's national heritage in print.*  
*The Times* editorial (p.9)



The editorial comments on all the above contributions, stressing that what stands out is the lack of a national appreciation of the value of our heritage in print. It also states that a way can always be found to ensure the financing of such restoration.

**On a positive note:** One has to acknowledge that there have been efforts to improve the local library scene. Worthy of mention are the launch of a page on Facebook for the National Library and various activities, including meetings with authors and exhibitions, as part of a campaign aimed at promoting libraries. This campaign, organised by the Department of Libraries and the National Book Council, came to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> June but is set to resume in October.

# Other Local News

MaLIA is pleased to note:

◆ *Children's literature promoted by Maltapost*

Malta Philatelic Bureau issues a set of 2 stamps titled "Europa 2010 Children's Books", consisting of:

- (1) €0.37 stamp featuring characters from Philip Farrugia Randon's book *Puttinu u Toninu* and
- (2) €1.19 stamp featuring artwork of *Meta l-Milied ma giex*, a book written by Clare Azzopardi and illustrated by Mark Scicluna.

◆ *Books for Maltese emigrants in Australia*

Agius & Agius donates books on Maltese language, Maltese history, and Maltese literature to Partit Laburista, to be sent to the Maltese Australian community in Australia.

◆ *New ceramic mural at MCAST Library*

MCAST students following the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, under the direction of ceramics lecturer George Muscat, create an original mural titled the *Tree of Knowledge*, for display at main campus library. MCAST Librarian Laurence Zerafa and the director of the MCAST Institute of Art and Design, Stephen Vella were behind the initiative. The design is based on the idea of the library as a container of knowledge and of sources of inspiration for its users.



◆ *Donation to Zurrieq public library*

HSBC presents grant to Zurrieq local council to revamp its public library.

◆ *Open reading session in Valletta*

Informal literary evenings hosted by Café Premier in Valletta, offering authors and poets an opportunity to share original works in a relaxed environment.

◆ *Library loans increase*

The Department of Information announces that, according to Department of Libraries statistics, libraries in Malta loaned 51,000 more books between January to May, compared to the same period in 2009.



Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.

Samuel Johnson

◆ *Launch of MIM Brain*

Malta Institute of Management launches an electronic reference library for its corporate members. Called MIM Brain, the resource portal serves as a tool for managers to improve their skills in their day to day operations and when taking strategic decisions. The project was partly financed by European Regional Development Fund.

◆ *Donation of audio tapes*

A collection of audio recordings of interviews by Gużè Aquilina with Ninu Cremona, Dun Karm Psaila, Gorg Pisani, Pietru Pawl Saydon, Rużar Briffa, Gużè Delia, Karemnu Vassallo and other personalities were presented by Roderick Bovington to the University Library. Interviews by Gużè Cassar Pullicino and by Bovington were also donated.



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Web: [www.malia-malta.org](http://www.malia-malta.org)

◆ *Computerisation in libraries*

Branch libraries hosted by local councils in Safi, Kalkara, M'xlokk, Pembroke and Tarxien local councils join list of libraries that have already been computerised. All branch libraries are expected to be computerised by the end of 2010.

