

## MaLIA Position Statement on Internet Access

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### Position statement of the Malta Library and Information Association regarding restriction on full internet access to library staff at work

MaLIA is fully aware that unrestricted Internet access, like any other work tool, can be the cause of abuse and loss of productivity in any workplace and because of this, MaLIA is informed that some employers have implemented severely restrictive measures to preempt such abuse.



MaLIA believes that in the case of library staff, especially when carrying out professional qualified library work, Internet serves as a very powerful information tool. Most library staff need to access internet to be in a good position to fulfil their immediate contracted professional duties and also to meet their wider information duties. Examples include browsing general sites to be in good position to answer queries from library users, keeping up to date with current events in the library scene and keeping up to date with new emerging technologies such as social networking tools for new and innovative ways in information provision.

In this sense MaLIA feels that the practice in certain library work places, where Internet access is too severely restricted, should not be accepted as a normal professional practice. Rather, employers are encouraged to provide unrestricted internet access to staff and exclude only specific sites such as pornography and promotion of hate or racism. If access to such sites is needed for specific information seeking duties, authorisation should be sought from the Librarian in charge.

In this context, MaLIA fully understands that employers have the right to check workplace IT equipment accounts for abuse as long as the employer spells out clearly, through a written policy, what activities are allowed/not allowed on employer equipment during working hours. MaLIA also understands that any employer has the right to take disciplinary action against individual library staff who clearly abuse declared Internet work place policies after a due process of verification and as necessary legitimate defence and arbitration.

## MaLIA Activities

MaLIA Council members in the press:

- Comments by Laurence Zerafa, MaLIA Chairman, in report titled *National Library has no director* by David Schembri, *The Times*, 18/8/2010.  
Zerafa is cited as saying “Without a director, only day-to-day issues are being handled and other pressing problems are literally being shelved.” While acknowledging that lack of funds is a problem, Zerafa also insists that without management, it is difficult to move forward. Zerafa is reported as welcoming planned reform that will hopefully elevate the National Library to the place it deserves through the enactment of legislation that is expected to set up a National Librarian.
- Two similar letters by Robert Mizzi, MaLIA Deputy Chairman: *Libraries in the news*, *The Times*, 10/9/2010 and *Investing in libraries*, *The Sunday Times*, 26/9/2010.  
Mizzi refers to letter by William Zammit in *The Times* 27/8 titled *Hopes for new chapter in library services* (see p.8) and states that it is unfair “to link the dire situation at the National Library” with the absence of a director at this institution. He also reiterates MaLIA’s call for further investment in libraries, especially for the allocation of more funds in the forthcoming budget and the enactment of a new law on libraries.



### Mr. Laurence Zerafa presents paper at Library Conference in Bari

MaLIA chairman, Mr. Laurence Zerafa, has represented MCAST in his capacity as College Librarian, at the XIII workshop organised by the Consiglio Regionale Della Puglia “Teca del Mediterraneo” (Biblioteca Multimedia & Centro di Documentazione). This event was held in Bari, Italy on 24-25<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The theme for this year’s conference was *The library offers informal education: literacy, information, training, updating*.

Mr. Zerafa presented a paper on *Informal Learning within the Malta College for Arts Science and Technology (MCAST) Library and Learning Resources Centre (LLRC)*. This paper is expected to be published later on this year in the proceedings from this workshop but is already available online, together with all other papers, at <http://www.bcr.puglia.it/tdm/workshop10.htm>.

The workshop was attended by over 250 participants, mainly Italian library professionals. However, since there was a Euro-Mediterranean libraries’ workshop, the conference was also attended by a number of foreign librarians representing National or Academic libraries in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. A representative from Iran also gave a presentation. This occasion presented MaLIA Chairman with an opportunity to establish personal contact with several library practicing professionals.

## Academic Publications



### The book in the Renaissance

Andrew Pettegree

ISBN: 030011009X

Publisher: Yale University Press, 2010

The book examines the first 150 years of print culture in Europe, including its origins, spread and impact on the western world. Pettegree claims that early print culture was shaped "less by the idealism of scholars than by pragmatic businessmen for whom the only books that mattered were those that turned a profit" (p. xiv). He also suggests that, using new technologies we can "chart a coherent narrative of print, from the first experiments of the 1450s to the dawn of a mass information society" (p. xv).

Much of the book focuses on the Reformation's impact on the book world and print culture with the author concentrating on the religious conflict in Europe; a struggle that played a major role in shaping the book world during the 16th century and which led to the first decisive steps toward censorship, geographic shifts in printing centers and disruptions of the international book market.

Source: <http://www.librarything.com/work/9950735>



### Public libraries going green

Kathryn Miller

ISBN: 978-0-8389-1018-4

Publisher: ALA Publishing, 2010

In this publication, Miller focuses on the library's role in going green, including:

- collection development, disposal, and recycling issues
- green equipment, technology, and facilities
- programming ideas and supporting tables and figures
- ways to get the community involved in the process

It offers practical ideas and is ideal as a quick reference source for going green in the library.

Source: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2780>



### Assessing information needs: Managing transformative library services

Robert J. Grover, Roger C. Greer and John Agada

ISBN: 978-1-59158-797-2

Publisher: Libraries Unlimited, 2010

The book explains why information professionals *should* customize services and delves into the manner of collecting the relevant data.

A case study is also presented as a model for gathering community information. The book further demonstrates how such information is interpreted and used to plan information services that are transformative for individuals and groups. Rooted in a philosophy of customer service, the method presented here is ideal for public, school, academic, special libraries or any other types of information agencies.

Source: <http://www.abc-clio.com/visitortools/productSheet/preview.aspx?productid=112291>

## Lighter moments



Escorting a kindergarten class to the library, a teacher asks "Why is it necessary to be quiet in the Library?"

A girl promptly replies "Because people are sleeping."

## International News on Libraries and Archives

### Internet puts printed version of Oxford English Dictionary at risk

Demand for the digital version of the English Oxford dictionary is by far surpassing the printed publication. In fact, whereas the former is getting around 2 million hits a month from subscribers, the 20-volume printed edition, last published in 1989, has only sold about 30,000 copies. Nigel Portwood, chief executive of Oxford University Press, said in an interview that he didn't think the new edition will be printed.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38903663/>



### Online Reading sets Guinness World Record

Authors for Peace organised the world's largest ever live broadcast online reading session. Eighty authors participated in a 24-hour event held on 21st September. On the occasion of United Nation's International Day of Peace, authors read from their own works in solidarity with persons who are oppressed or who are caught in conflict.

Source: <http://www.authorsforpeace.com/the-event-2010.html>

### Vatican Library reopens for scholars

The Vatican Library reopened following a three-year renovation programme which had seen the library closing its doors since 2007. Improvements have been carried out to the cataloguing system for volumes and manuscripts and to security measures.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/europe/Vatican-to-Open-High-Tech-Library-for-Ancient-Volumes-102782169.html>

### Bloomsbury to digitise and publish Winston Churchill Archive

Agreement has been reached between Bloomsbury Publishing and Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust and Churchill Heritage Ltd that will see the digitisation and publication of the one-million-page archive of Sir Winston Churchill's papers. The digital archive, offering access to a collection of primary sources of such an important 20th century British politician, is expected to be made available to libraries and individuals in 2012.

Source: <http://www.bloomsbury.com/whatsnew/details.aspx?id=195>



Sir Winston Churchill

## New novel set in Malta

*Like bees to honey* by British author Caroline Smailes is a novel "of family, redemption and ghosts". As a child, Smailes, whose maternal grandmother was Maltese, used to spend summer holidays in Malta. Her own experience and connections with Malta find themselves into the novel which centres round a young Maltese lady who is disowned by her family for falling pregnant while studying in England. The character returns to Malta to make amends with her parents, carrying with her grief and hope, in search of healing.

Smailes, C. *Like bees to honey*. London: HarperCollins, 2010

## Editorial

Dear MaLIA members and friends,

Today we frequently hear of persons or organisations ready to champion something they truly believe in; people dedicated to a cause making their voice heard, initiating petitions, holding demonstrations and doing all it takes to raise awareness about issues, be they environmental, humanitarian, animal welfare, etc.

Campaigns get organised on a regular basis, both locally and internationally, on all sorts of themes. Years get dedicated to biodiversity, creativity and innovation, fighting poverty and discrimination, and the like. Moreover, such words as *endangered*, *threatened* and *at risk* are bandied about to justify the concern expressed. One cannot help but admire the energy and dedication invested in projecting a dire situation and attempts to stem the tide of destruction and, if possible, the taking of any remedial action. I believe that such attitudes should serve as a lesson for all of us.

Turning our thoughts to the library world, one wonders whether librarians are themselves becoming "endangered species". We live in an environment where people pride themselves on being independent, where information is available from the comfort of one's home or office at all times of the day and night, where self-service has become the

custom and a do-it-yourself approach encouraged. In such a scenario people might question whether librarians are still relevant and whether there is still place for information intermediaries.

No one enjoys feeling redundant, yet what are we doing to show that librarians offer an indispensable service and that our work is vital in a knowledge-based society. I turn to all of you involved in libraries and archives and ask what are you doing to promote our profession and to raise awareness about our contribution to education, culture, entertainment, business, students and the general public. If we truly believe in ourselves, we should definitely strive to make our voice heard amid the competition that surrounds us.

MaLIA attempts to be such a voice for all of us, ensuring that we are seen as a growing rather than a dying profession. Yet MaLIA Council cannot do it alone... it needs your encouragement, needs more feedback, more support and above all more members. Please help us find more members so that we can continue campaigning for libraries and archives as well as for all information specialists.

Cecily

*Did you know?*

**September is Library Card Sign-up Month in libraries across America—a campaign supported by the American Library Association**

During September, the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries all over America remind parents that "a library card is the most important school supply of all".

The initiative to set up the **Library Card Sign-up Month** was launched in 1987 when William J. Bennett, then Secretary of Education, declared: "Let's have a national campaign...every child should obtain a library card - and use it."

The campaign also emphasizes the important role that libraries play in the education and development of children. According to ALA, studies show that children who are read to at home and who use libraries, perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

Source: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/pio/mediarelationsa/factsheets/librarycardsign.cfm>



## Mr. Anthony Mangion Retires

**Anthony Mangion, Director, Library Services Retires** by Joanna Felice

The staff of the University of Malta Library hosted a retirement celebration on August 27, 2010 to thank the outgoing Director Mr Anthony Mangion for his 34 years of service.

Fr Mario Jaccarini, Reverend Professors Vincent Borg, Emmanuel Agius, George Grima and Reverend Paul Sciberras, concelebrated the thanksgiving Mass at the University Chaplaincy. Staff members Edward Camilleri directed the choir whilst Mona Lisa Azzopardi, Ramona Caruana Fino, Maria Dolores Chircop, Donatella Gatt, Jason Pawney, and Max Zammit were lectors. Family, faculty colleagues and past and present Library staff then gathered on the terrace of the University Library to munch on hors d'oeuvres, drink refreshments, mingle and recapture memories. Member of staff Godfrey Monreal played background music during the reception.

The evening was opened by the newly appointed Director Mr Kevin J. Ellul who recalled Mr Mangion's accomplishments, direction and inspiration. He also stated that Mr Mangion was the primary reason why the University Library had a distinct and assorted collection of materials. This legacy will be appreciated by users for years to come. Deputy Director, Ms Joanna Felice then spoke about Mr Mangion's talent for recalling facts, titles and authors; how he assisted thousands of students and how he encouraged the introduction of electronic databases. As a librarian he had also supported and encouraged many to pursue diploma and post-graduate programmes in library science. His secretary, Maria Abdilla, in a light humorous speech touched upon Mr Mangion's positive impact, his wide knowledge on almost every discipline and his leisure pursuits. Pro-Rector, Professor Alfred Vella remarked about Mr Mangion's understanding, support, and exceptional service to the University and stated that both academics and support staff will dearly miss him.

In reply, Mr Mangion thanked staff, academics and family for their support throughout his career. He recalled the early years of the University when only a few scattered buildings existed on campus. He spoke about the various rectors he had served under during his tenure, the prominent professors and their hard-working dedication to facilitate the educational process; the progress achieved and the modernization of the Main Library. After taking the podium, Mr Mangion unveiled two watercolour paintings by artist John Martin Borg, gifts donated by his colleagues in the University Library. A silver plaque was also presented to him to acknowledge his thirty-four years of service, commitment and dedication.



Photo: Mr Anthony Mangion cutting the celebration cake surrounded by family and staff

### Biographical note

Mr Anthony Mangion was born in Zurrieq in 1949. He studied at the Lyceum, and at the University of Malta where he pursued courses in literature and theology. He graduated Bachelor in Divinity in 1972 and obtained his Licentiate in Theology in 1974. In 1976 he was appointed Reference Librarian at the University of Malta Library, then headed by Librarian Dr. P. Xuereb. In 1981-82 Mr. Mangion proceeded to the U.K. on a residential scholarship grant to read for a Master's in Library Science at the University of Sheffield School of Librarianship which was then directed by Prof. Wilfred Saunders. Mr Mangion's Sheffield dissertation covered a feasibility study on the creation of an information network for Malta. Mr Mangion was appointed Deputy Librarian (Reader Services) in 1984; Senior Deputy Librarian in 1992 and Director Library Services in

December 1997, following the retirement of Dr P. Xuereb. Mr Mangion's tenure in office has been highlighted by massive developments in library operations. These have included a heavy investment in bibliographical databases, online journal packages and ebooks; the acquisition of important legacy collections; the launching of an ongoing outreach programme with an emphasis on student library instruction and information literacy; intensive professional staff training; and the introduction of an EU-funded library management software. Mr. Mangion is an active member of Din l-Art Helwa and has been custodian of the Hal Millieri medieval chapel for the past forty years. His favourite pastimes include archival research, reading, and swimming. He is married to Michelle nee' Buhagiar and has three boys.

**MaLIA would like to thank Mr. Mangion for taking the science and practice of academic librarianship in Malta great steps forward. On a more personal level, MaLIA thanks Mr. Mangion for his continued support towards MaLIA by still making the University of Malta Library premises available for its activities. MaLIA wishes Mr. Mangion a long and fruitful retirement.**

## News on Archives

### New acquisitions at the National Archives

A collection of old Lyceum registers was presented to the National Archives of Malta. Records deposited date back to the mid/late 1800's and include names of past Lyceum students who later made a name for themselves as scholars.

### New Digital Laboratory inaugurated at the National Archives (Gozo section)

The investment will see the digitisation of archival documents in Gozo. The new digital laboratory was inaugurated during Archives Awareness Week, on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the opening of the National Archives in Victoria. An exhibition, titled *Gozo Domestic Architecture – a dwindling heritage*, on display at the National Archives Gozo section, was also inaugurated.

### New publication launched

Prof. Horatio C.R. Vella launches *The Earliest Church Register in Gozo 1554–1628*. The book is a transcription and a study of the oldest register housed at the Gozo Bishop's Curia. The publication throws new light on the history of the Church in Gozo and offers insight into social history on the island.

### Exhibition at the Notarial Archives

Documents were exhibited on the occasion of Notte Bianca held in Valletta on 25th September. Among the documents on display was Pietru Caxaro's Cantilena, the oldest record available in Maltese.

### Doctorate in manuscript conservation

Theresa Zammit Lupi obtains doctorate degree in the conservation of manuscripts from Camberwell College, University of the Arts, London. This is the first doctorate in conservation awarded to a Maltese student.

Her thesis was entitled: *The codicological study on the L'Isle Adam illuminated graduals: manufacture, condition and proposals for conservation treatment*. Her research involved the study on the musical manuscript collection housed at St John's Co-Cathedral Museum in Valletta.

### Documents Archive Management

DAM launches new Document Archiving package for small and medium enterprises, offering professional and secure off-site archiving. The company provides archiving solutions with a 24x7 access via its web portal.

## Birth of Agatha Christie commemorated

This year marks the 120th anniversary of the birth of Agatha Christie. This prolific British writer, considered as *The Queen of Crime*, whose books have been translated into over 45 languages, was born on 15th September 1890.

To commemorate this occasion, various activities were organised in Britain. These included a *Christie Week* between 12-19th September. Google also launched a special logo, known as Google doodle, featuring one of Christie's well-known fictional characters, Hercule Poirot. Other authors that have been commemorated by Google doodles in the past are H.G. Wells, Mary Shelley, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and Hans Christian Andersen.

Meanwhile, libraries have been invited to celebrate the event by implementing suggestions outlined in the *Agatha Christie Limited* website:  
<http://www.agathachristie.com/footer/help-info/im-a-librarian/>

Suggestions for librarians include organising a quiz night, hosting a display of Christie's books, audio-tapes, CDs and DVDs, holding a talk on the history and development of crime fiction, staging a reading of one of Christie's plays and other entertaining and educational activities.



## Local News

### Malta exhibits at Frankfurt Book Fair for the first time ever

Representatives from the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, the National Book Council and other members from the local book industry attended the Frankfurt world-famous fair held between 6-10 October. The Maltese delegation's aim was the promotion of Malta's book and the local literary scene and the establishment of new collaborations with foreign writers, printers and publishers.

### Increase in the use of Public Libraries

Statistics released by the Department of Information show that the number of books on loan from public libraries between January and July 2010 amounted to 475,725. The figure denotes an increase of around 60,000 compared to the figure for the same period the previous year.

### Floating book shop visits Malta

*Logos Hope*, the world's largest floating book fair berthed at Valletta Waterfront. It was open to the public between 29th September and 17th October. The ship offered a selection of over 7,500 books covering a range of subjects.

### University Library

A new library management system, Aleph 500, has been installed. The new system includes an easy to navigate online catalogue. This web-based catalogue indicates location and availability of books.

### Book Donations

Bank of Valletta donated a collection of Maltese books to St Paul's Bay Public Library.

### Funds for Book Restoration

Air Malta assists in the restoration of books at the National Library. The airline has committed itself to donate one euro for every online booking from Malta between 12th August and 12th September.

### Letter published in The Times 27/8

*Hopes for new chapter in library services* by Dr. William Zammit, Head Division of Library, Information & Archive Studies, University of Malta. The letter focuses on the shortcomings in the library sector, especially at the National Library, but Zammit expresses the hope that the forthcoming legislation will address these issues and attract "much needed qualified and enthusiastic professionals to work in the sector".



## PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL tabled in Parliament

Motion No. 170 - Public Libraries (Amendt) Bill - (1st Reading) - 24/9/2010

All men by nature  
desire knowledge.

- Aristotle

Source:  
[http://www.quotationspage.com/  
subjects/knowledge/](http://www.quotationspage.com/subjects/knowledge/)

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### National Book Council activities

Source: *Folju Nru. 100* at <http://www.ktieb.org.mt/>

- Book fair being organised between 10-14th November at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.
- New radio programme on the book on Campus FM as from October. Aptly called *Il-Ktieb*, it focuses on the Maltese book. Historians, librarians, authors and publishers are expected to take part. Presented and produced by Gorg Mallia, with the participation of Sergio Grech.
- Conference on Bedtime Reading held at Grand Hotel Excelsior on 23rd October.
- Books on the Beach Initiative, launched by the Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Culture and the National Book Council, was held over summer.

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