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Course for Public Library Workers

A short course, aimed at public library workers in Malta and Gozo, was successfully organised and delivered by MaLIA during the month of November 2010.

The course, entitled *An introduction to library and information skills*, was organised with the assistance of the Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue and the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family. The Department of Libraries also cooperated with MaLIA during the preparations for this course and hosted the event held on the 14th December 2010 that included the distribution of participation certificates to all the public library workers who completed the course.

The programme, organised over six sessions and held at the MCAST library in Paola ran as follows:

- (1) The first session, delivered by Robert Mizzi and Joe Debattista, included a brief overview of the history of public libraries and the current services offered by the Central Public Library in Floriana. Victor Vella concluded the session by giving participants a guided tour of the MCAST library, explaining facilities and services offered.
- (2) The second lecture, delivered by Dr. William Zammit, focused on various issues related to collection development and stock selection.
- (3) During the third session, Robert Mizzi introduced participants to the basics of cataloguing and classification.
- (4) In the fourth session, Joseph R. Grima and Manuel Cachia discussed issues concerning the management of small libraries.
- (5) Laurence Zerafa conducted the fifth session which focused on reference services.
- (6) The last session, presented by Claudio Laferla, highlighted the importance of information literacy in the public libraries of today.

During the course, the overall response by participants was very positive with active participation from everyone. This was possible since enough time was allocated for discussions throughout all the sessions. The presentation night was attended by the Hon. Dr. Chris Said and the Hon. Dolores Cristina who both gave short but important messages to the participants of the course and MaLIA members present before the distribution of attendance certificates. Feedback by participants was most encouraging and augurs well future courses and activities that MaLIA might hold on the various aspects of library and information science.

See separate report on the certificate presentation ceremony and feedback by participants on page 2.

Don't Forget!**MaLIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***Date: 22nd February 2011**Venue: University Library, Msida*

Members are to look out for further details which they will be receiving. Members are also kindly reminded to renew their MaLIA subscription for 2011. Cost of subscription is EUR 12.

MaLIA Activities

Library and Information Skills for Public Library Workers - Presentation of Certificates

The National Library in Valletta was the venue of a certificate award ceremony held on 14th December 2010 for participants of the course *Library and information skills for public library workers* organised by MaLIA in November 2010. The evening kicked off with a welcome address by MaLIA Chairman, Mr. Laurence Zerafa, following which, guests were addressed by the Hon. Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue and the Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Employment and the Family. Attendance certificates were then presented to the course participants. After the ceremony, guests were treated to light refreshments. The occasion also served as MaLIA's Christmas gathering.



Photos:

http://www.doi.gov.mt/EN/press_releases/2010/12/self.asp

Library and Information Skills for Public Library Workers - Feedback by participants

Jeffrey Sammut, Mellieha Branch Library

'il-kors kien interessanti hafna u dejjem titghallem affarijiet ġodda; qatt ma stennejt li l-affarijiet javvanzaw daqshekk; inti tagħmel korsijiet iżda jekk ma tibqax taġġċorha ruhek...per eżempju fuq l-internet, kif tista' tużah iżjed, fuq il-website, kien hemm xi affarijiet qatt ma kont smajt bihom; dawn jgħinuk biex tagħti servizz aħjar lil min jiġi fil-librerija'.

Maria Valvo, Branch Xghajra (Kunsill)

'kors informativ hafna xtaqt li kien hemm aktar hin; kien hin qasir għax hemm hafna xi tgħid fuqu; certu lectures kien aktar interessanti minn oħrajn, kulħadd għandu l-mod tiegħu kif iwassal l-affarijiet. Nahseb li hija l-bidu...jekk tkun fil-librerija, huwa vera bidu, ihajrek biex tagħmel iktar affarijiet u tiskopri li hemm hafna aktar affarijiet li titghallem f'din il-linja'.

Rita Vella, Branch Librarian tal-Belt

'interessanti hafna, certu lecturers spikkaw aktar minn haddiehor forsi l-mod ta' kif spjegaw u wasslu l-lezzjoni, ovvajement li jippreżżaw li meta tmur id-dar tibqa' tiftakar u meta tirrevedi n-noti – għax hadna n-noti fuq CD u sibthom utli hafna – u ħajruni hafna u forsi l-quddiem nithajjar għad-diploma'.

Gloria Abela, Cospicua Library

'kors interessanti hafna, tgħallim hafna, u nispera li dak li tgħallim inkun nista' npoggieh fir-realta' fix-xogħol tiegħi'.

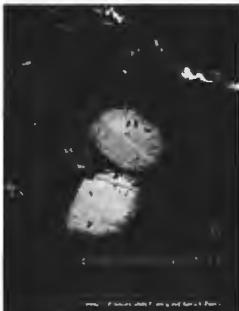
Grazziella Cassar Gellel, Isla Branch Library

'din hi t-tieni darba li attendejt il-kors tal-MaLIA, l-ieħor kien madwar 8 snin ilu, u dejjem 'lifelong learning – dejjem titghallem xi haġa ġidha'.

Sharon Mulvaney, Branch Library Hamrun

'kien tajjeb hafna, interessanti...kien hemm xi affarijiet li konna diġa nafuhom, imma kien hemm informazzjoni li tibqa' taħseb fuqhom u tipporova tużhom fix-xogħol tiegħek'.

Academic Publications



The Comprehensive Guide to Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery
 Frances C. Wilkinson, Linda K. Lewis, and Nancy K. Dennis
 ISBN: 13: 978-0-8389-8548-9
 Publisher: ACRL, 2009

This book offer a practical approach on disaster preparedness, including creating a plan, responding to an emergency, and recovering from a disaster. The publication presents case studies from six university libraries that recovered from earthquake, fire, flood, or hurricane damage. The text is further reinforce by photographs and a comprehensive appendix that includes an extensive bibliography, glossary, model disaster preparedness plan, useful Internet sites and print resources. The book serves as a tool kit for librarians and an essential resource for medium to large libraries.

Source: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3003>



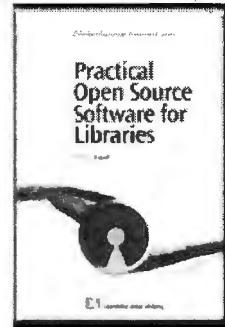
Envisioning future academic library services: Initiatives, ideas and challenges
 Sue McKnight, editor
 ISBN: 978-1-85604-691-6
 Publisher: Facet Publishing, 2010

This publication can be considered a “must read” for current and future leaders of the profession striving to meet the changing demands of the academic community and work environment.

It deals with such issues as:

- Engaging and supporting e-learning and social networking
- Being involved in institutional knowledge and information management strategies
- Supporting students and academic staff in the virtual learning space, in the library and on the web
- Being prepared to acquire, manage and make accessible information that is not traditionally the province of the library
- New paradigms for leadership that will be necessary.

Source:
http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/title.php?id=691-6&category_code=810



Practical open source software for libraries
 Nicole C Engard
 ISBN: 13: 978 1 84334 585 5
 Publisher: Chandos Publishing

This book presents practical software for use by librarians. It includes real life examples from libraries and librarians of all types and locations and provides librarians with tips for using open source software within their organizations. It also includes access to a companion website with up-to-date links and information.

The publication explains facts and dispels myths about open source software. Readers are provided with links to a toolbox full of freely available open source products to use in libraries.

Source:
<http://www.woodheadpublishing.com/en/book.aspx?bookID=2026&ChandosTitle=1>



Lighter moments

Three surgeons were taking a coffee break and discussing their work. The first one said, "I think accountants are the easiest to operate on. Everything inside is numbered." The second surgeon said, "I prefer to operate on electricians. All their organs are colour coded." But the third surgeon was quick to state, "I think librarians are the easiest. When you open them up all their organs are alphabetically arranged!"

International News on Libraries and Archives

Europeana offers online access to over 14 million examples of Europe's cultural heritage.

Digitised books, maps, photographs, paintings, film and music clips from across Europe are now available at Europeana. Launched by the European Union in 2008 with two million objects, this digital library has passed the initial target for 2010 of 10 million objects.

Europeana is a collaborative endeavour of Europe's cultural institutions. Yet, although all EU member states have contributed items, input remains uneven. France is the biggest contributor, with 18% of total exhibits. Malta's share covers <0.01%. In 2011 Europeana intends to experiment with user-generated content and will be inviting users to contribute material around the theme of World War I. Europeana also mounts virtual exhibitions, such as *Reading Europe* which presents a rich choice from Europe's rare books and literary works and an *Art Nouveau* exhibition which brings together cultural material from different countries.

Europeana website is: www.europeana.eu

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1524&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&uiLanguage=en>

Restoration of Charles Dickens Manuscripts
The Victoria and Albert Museum in London, UK launches appeal for funds for the conservation of original manuscripts of three of Charles Dickens works: *A tale of two cities*, *David Copperfield* and an unfinished novel called *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The manuscripts were bequeathed to the Museum in 1876 by John Forster, a close friend of Dickens. The V&A is hoping to restore the originals in time for celebrations marking the bicentenary of Dickens's birth in 2012.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/nov/07/museum-pleads-charles-dickens-manuscripts>

Reactions to cost cutting in library budgets across UK

Authors are among 1,000 people who signed an open letter to UK culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Minister Ed Vaizey, asking them to intervene over library cuts amounting to "cultural vandalism". Since the announcement of local authority budget cuts in the comprehensive spending review in October, councils have been announcing massive cuts to library services across the UK, with some proposing the closure of up to half their libraries.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/dec/06/writers-protest-vandalism-library-services>



Internet Librarian International 2010

Workshops, Conference and Sponsor Showcase held on 13,14 and 15th October 2010 at Novotel, London West, London, UK

Theme: *Get real. Stay relevant*

An event described as providing a cost-effective professional development experience, offering participants an opportunity to:

- Understand and introduce technologies to increase the relevancy and efficiency of information services
- Learn new techniques for using and managing electronic resources
- Raise the profile of one's information service within an organisation
- Learn and share experiences with peers from over 30 countries from around the world

An event with a focus on knowledge and information management, library systems, e-resources, search and discovery, and digital libraries. For more information visit:

http://conferences.infotoday.com/documents/109/ILI2010_FinalProgramme.pdf

The 2011 event is scheduled for 26, 27 and 28th October at Copthorne Tara Hotel, London, UK

Source: <http://www.internet-librarian.com/2011/>

75th Anniversary of Talking Books

It was on 7th November 1935 that the UK's Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) sent out the first Talking Books to blind and partially sighted people. The service was initially started to assist First World War soldiers who had been blinded in action. The service has now grown into the largest collection of unabridged audio books on CD in the UK.



Source:

http://www.rnib.org.uk/livingwithsightloss/readingwriting/rnib_nationallibrary/Pages/talkingbooks75.aspx

Editorial

Dear MaLIA members and friends,

Let me start by wishing you all the very best for 2011.

For many of us, the end of a year and the beginning of a new one is a time for setting goals and resolutions that might bring about a change in habits and lifestyles. Irrespective of whether or not one will eventually stick to any decisions taken, taking stock of one's situation is in itself healthy.

The passing of time can be a source of reflection. Pondering on the previous year and on the present should serve as a springboard, leading one to think about the future. Such an exercise is beneficial whether it is carried out on one's personal life, career or work environment. Fear of change, though real, should not hinder one from being forward looking since in today's fast-moving technological world there is no guarantee that one's comfort zone will not be eventually shaken by extraneous circumstances. This is especially true for libraries.

Locally, libraries cannot remain stuck in a time warp. The *status quo* should not be an option since library resources and users' needs and expectations have been changing and will continue to change. If we want to remain relevant in the coming years, we must look away from our shores, study the development of libraries overseas and understand the direction that these institutions are taking. This does not mean copying what others are doing but rather having a glimpse at another reality and becoming aware of what we might be facing in the near future.

The following news can definitely serve as an eye-opener of what might be in store for libraries:

- Last August Amazon reported that sales of e-books had overtaken those of hard cover books <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/08/05/farewell-libraries.html>
- E-books are being introduced in schools and libraries to children who are growing up in a world of computers, mobile devices and technological gadgets http://www.lisnews.org/using_ebooks_school
- E-journals are replacing hard copies in academic libraries <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128361395>
- In 2009, loans of DVDs at the Main Library in Kansas City, USA accounted for 59.5% of the adult circulation and 55.1% of the entire branch's circulation, despite the fact that DVDs represent only 7.6% (11,812) of the 155,347 total adult holdings http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/home/886815-264/at_main_library_in_kansas.html.csp

Such news, alongside many other developments in the book and publishing industry, is indeed food for thought at the start of this New Year; highlighting issues which should lead us to reflect whether our own libraries are heading.

Now is the time to decide on the direction that we want our libraries to take. So let us carry out a SWOT analysis... identify our strengths and opportunities and turn our weaknesses and threats into occasions for growth and a better future.

Cecily

Did you know?

27th October - World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

In 2005, UNESCO proclaimed 27th October as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage to raise awareness of the importance of audiovisual material and to stress the urgent need to safeguard such heritage. The Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archive Associations (CCAAA) is the body designated by UNESCO to oversee the yearly celebration. The theme chosen for 2010 is **Save and Savour your Audiovisual Heritage - Now.**



It is worth noting that UNESCO estimates that we have no more than 10 to 15 years to transfer audiovisual records to digital to prevent their loss.

Source: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=25563&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Does more IT access mean more knowledge? - by Claudio Laferla

The recently published report by the Malta Communications Authority calls for some observations from the library world.

The report shows that 97% of students between 8 and 15 year old have access to the internet. Whilst the Internet penetration is to be applauded, my first observation revolves around the fact that this percentage includes primary school children (66%). In furthering my argument, I would like to ask what good enough reason there may be in wanting a child to search the internet rather than use a book? Expressing her opinion online, Bakewell (2010) wonders from where we are getting our wisdom. Although she is not preoccupied by the fact that both students and academics use internet to access information more quickly, I would like to ask whether access speed is equivalent to accuracy, reliability and authority in the acquisition of information. My opinion regarding primary students is that though introduction to computers might be a good thing, researching (actually they do not do research but surfing) the internet might not be a positive approach. Rather, younger students are to be encouraged to look for information in print media, lest we may produce citizens without the basic know-how of using books to locate information. Moreover, most probably, it is their parents who get the job at the end of the day, resulting in the child not learning anything along the way.

A Common Trend?

The idea to commence one's research from online sources seems to be the general trend since the introduction of the internet. In my recent research work with secondary students, this trend strongly suggests that the way they approach research work is by going online (60.5%; n=127). This phenomenon is further strengthened by the fact that only 1.6% (n=127) start their research by using books. This lack of 'book knowledge' is evidenced by the fact that 28.2% and 27.8% get their references from the index and the contents of the book respectively. This contrasts sharply with the fact that only 8.6% ask for help from the librarian.

Another common trend found among our students which is very evident from my research is that it seems that Google is the only search engine used and the source of information they resort to is the Wikipedia! They start their research with Google (75.6%; n=127) followed by Wikipedia (17.3%; n=127).

A recent survey published by the Wall Street Journal, shows that people with ereaders are reading more books (40% more) than they did with the print. Additionally, '58% read the same amount' (Fowler and Baca, 2010). Whether you read an ebook or a book in print format is immaterial. What is important is that you read. An interesting thing which was reported in the survey is that, reading print media is faster than reading with an ereader or the iPad.

My final observation, in view of the Malta Communications Authority report, addresses the importance of being information literate which, unfortunately, our students are lacking. As I had the opportunity to write locally about this issue (Laferla, 2008), having computer access or high levels of computer and internet penetration are not enough to make one an information literate citizen.

Conclusion

Returning to the original question in the title, the answer might be '...it depends on the context'. In my opinion, pushing towards the concept of making available computers to our students to access information without any guidance in information literacy is a dangerous avenue. Today, more than ever, I am wholly convinced that our students need to be taught how to become information literate citizens, a concept that to-date, has been completely ignored. Yet, international research points differently. It will be good that we set up sail and start moving in this direction.

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Controversy on School Library Book

Lately, local publishing house, Horizons Ltd, complained that one of its publications, a work by author Mario Azzopardi, titled *Vampir u rakkonti ohra*, had been banned from state school libraries. Horizons claimed that the Library Services Section for schools had listed the young adult fiction publication as "adult fiction", deeming the book unsuitable for young readers.

This statement led to a barrage of reactions including the launch of an official investigation by the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, statements by the National Book Council and the Front against Censorship, letters to the editor and other articles in the local media. The following are some of the sources that give a picture of the ongoing controversy:

7/12/2010: *State school told not to stock Mario Azzopardi's Vampir in library* - <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/state-school-told-not-to-stock-mario-azzopardi%E2%80%99s-vampir-in-library>

12/12/2010: *Ban on literature counterproductive, detrimental to creativity* - *Book Council* - <http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=116912>

12/12/2010: *Ic-censura ta' letteratura ghall-adoloxxenti*, by Anna Camilleri - <http://www.it-torca.com/news.asp?newsitemid=10777>

12/12/2010: *Il-Vampir ikkundannat*, by Aleander Balzan - <http://www.it-torca.com/news.asp?newsitemid=10756>

12/12/2010: *Vampir imblukkat fl-iskejjel minn id mohbija*, interview with Mario Azzopardi, Illum, p.13

19/12/2010: *Young adult literature in school libraries - Minister requests investigation* - <http://www.independent.com.mt/news2.asp?artid=117355>

28/12/2010: *School libraries' manual contradicts ban on Mario Azzopardi works - publishers* - <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/school-libraries-manual-contradicts-ban-on-mario-azzopardi-works-publishers>

30/12/2010: *Probe into ban on Mario Azzopardi works to report findings by early 2011* - <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/probe-into-ban-on-mario-azzopardi-works-to-report-findings-by-early-2011>

5/1/2011: *The Vampir controversy*. 2 letters to The Times by Alfred Palma and by Charles Briffa - <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110105/letters/the-vampir-controversy-1> and <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110105/letters/the-vampir-controversy-2>

12/1/2011: *No hidden hand in Vampir censorship*. Letter by Joseph Boffa, Schools Library Service, MaltaToday, p.8

15/1/2011: *Front against Censorship decries ban of Azzopardi's teen fiction as purely ideological* - <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/front-against-censorship-decries-ban-of-azzopardi-s-teen-fiction-as-purely-ideological>

Local News from the National Archives

Annual Public Lecture

On 30th November 2010, Andrew Alamango delivered a public lecture entitled *Malta's lost voices* - a lecture about a project that has brought to light Malta's lost voices of the inter-war years.

The project, initiated by Alamango and supported by the National Archives and the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, forms part of the *National Memory Project*. Alamango set out to collect, catalogue and render available early Maltese gramophone records. The music was transferred to digital form and is now available in two compact discs as part of a publication called *Malta's lost voices*.

Sources: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101116/local/maltas-lost-voices-to-be-heard-again>
http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/whats_on/malta-s-lost-voices/malta-redisovers-its-lost-voices



Launch of new Journal on Archives

Arkiyju is the title of a new archival journal launched by the National Archives of Malta and the Friends of the National Archives.

The launch was held during annual public lecture held on 30th November 2010 at the National Archives in Rabat. The journal is edited by Dr. George Cassar.

Source: https://secure2.gov.mt/nationalarchives/Default.aspx?page_info_id=24



Article on the National Archives of Malta

Unfolding Treasures by Charles J Farrugia in *Treasures of Malta*, Christmas 2010, Volume 17, Issue 1

Published by Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti

Charles J. Farrugia, Malta's National Archivist, provides a concise history of Malta's young National Archives.

Source: <http://www.patrimonju.org/patrimonju/content.aspx?id=244329&subId=133955>

Local News

Restoration of books at the National Library

Seven rare volumes of the Hortus Romanus have been restored and returned to the National Library. The project was carried out thanks to an initiative by Lion's Club Sliema. The club managed to obtain funds from businesses. The Hortus Romanus contains botanical engravings published between 1772 and 1793, credited to Giorgio Bonelli.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101121/local/historical-and-rare-books-rescued>

Donation of Maltese books to European school in Brussels

A number of Maltese books were presented to the school library to be placed at the students' disposal. The books were donated by Michael Deguara of Colour Image, Mgarr and by BDL of San Gwann. The presentation was held during Malta Day celebrations at the school.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101017/social/maltese-books-donated-to-european-school>

Exhibition at the National Library

Maltapost marked the 150th anniversary of the first Malta stamp, the Queen Victoria Half Penny, with an exhibition at the National Library. The display featured Malta's first stamps, artwork concerning



the stamps' designs by various Maltese artists and other postal items used over the past years. Malta's first stamp was issued for local use in December 1860. A philatelic commemorative miniature sheet entitled *150th Anniversary First Malta Stamp 1st December 1860* was also issued.

Source: <http://www.maltapost.com/page.asp?n=newsdetails&i=5880>

Books destroyed in fire

Hundreds of books, mostly old and unused, were destroyed during the night between 16th and 17th November in an arsonist attack at Hamrun Junior Lyceum. Intruders broke into store room located under the school library. Fire fighters had to be called in to extinguish the flames.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101119/local/aronist-destroys-school-books>

... and once again

Another arson attack took place just a week later, when flammable liquid was used in the incident that took place in the library at the same school. Volumes of the Encyclopaedia Birttanica were among books set alight. A computer was also set on fire. The attack coincided with a book fair being held in the library.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101124/local/aronists-target-school-books-for-second-time>

Bill No. 69 titled the Malta Libraries Act, 2010 has been published in the Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,685, dated 10th December 2010

<http://www.doi.gov.mt/EN/bills/2010/Bill%2069.pdf>



To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.

- Victor Hugo

National School Library of the Year
St Martin's College Library wins the National School Library of the Year award for the second time. The award was presented during seminar organised by the Schools Library Service within the Directorate for Educational Services of the Department of Education.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101114/education/library-of-the-year>

Library of the Year

Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary of Naxxar wins Library of the Year award. The determining criteria for winning this award takes into account the library's environment, up-to-date state of books, use of library books and the library's technology.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20091122/education/maltas-best-school-library>

A new vision for a Maltese Public and National Library system

Article by Dr. William Zammit
The Malta Independent on Sunday, 28th November 2010

Zammit refers to the draft *Malta Libraries Act* that hopefully will transform the current library situation in Malta. He presents some initiatives that would provide citizens with the public cultural experience they deserve and focuses on a vision for Malta's National Library, expanding on major areas to be addressed on a short and long term basis.

Source: <http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?ewsitemid=116158>

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