# MaLIA

Malta Library & Information Association

# MaLIA Newsletter

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# Malta Libraries Act 2011 - the dawn of a new era

## EDITORIAL

The Malta Libraries Act 2011 was published on the 20 May 2011 and came into force on the 29 July 2011 (Legal Notice 312 of 2011). There is no doubt that MaLIA did play a major role during the preparation of this Act and the association has been highlighting the need for a new act on libraries for many years.

The article on page 6 is being reproduced from The Times of Malta (6 July 2011) and gives a short overview of the main points of interest of this new Libraries Act. A lot of hard work by many stakeholders has been put in to ensure that this Act provides the right structure for the Maltese libraries to be able to embrace the changes that have been going on in libraries worldwide and which have seen libraries evolve.

The Act per se is not the point of arrival. Indeed, I consider it to be the departing point of a voyage on which we have to embark together to ensure that the National Library of Malta is in a position to provide access to it's treasurers in both the traditional as well as innovative ways. The same principle applies for our public libraries. It is sincerely hoped that the forthcoming budget will provide the necessary funding for this change to start taking place.

The *Malta Libraries* is a good idea, but we need the commitment of politicians. It is hoped that our politicians are open minded enough to realise that this particular area is worth investing into, even though many consider that there is no tangible return on investment when investing into libraries. There is plenty of evidence in library science literature to suggest otherwise, of course, but if we are hoping that our politicians are going to read the library science literature we would indeed be living an utopian dream.

It is up to us, as an association, and as professional or para-professional librarians to make our voices heard and highlight the benefits of upgrading our national library to the status it deserves. We should point out the needs of public libraries and indicate how we can serve our users more professionally if provided with adequate resources and training.

The Malta Libraries Council has been appointed and it is with great pleasure that we can announce that MaLIA is represented on this advisory council. Two current MaLIA council members (Robert Mizzi and Cecily Rizzo) have been appointed by the Minister on this Council. Charles Farrugia, Dr Lillian Sciberras and Dr William Zammit, all MaLIA members, are also on this council. More on this on Page 2.

In the meantime, all school librarians will be back to work by the time this is published. May I take this opportunity to wish them a fruitful and eventful new scholastic year.

This issue is being published as Issue 138/139 due to various factors beyond the control of the MaLIA Council. If there are members of MaLIA who would like to help in the preparation of the MaLIA Newsletter on a quarterly basis, kindly contact any MaLIA Council member or send an email on info@malia-malta.org.

# MaLIA Activities

- MaLIA is currently working on the organisation of a short course on Library & Information Skills aimed at public library workers in Gozo to be held during October 2011. The Department of Libraries and the Office of Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue are cooperating with the MaLIA council in the organization of this course.

- The MaLIA Council is working on a set of guidelines and standards for public libraries which will be forwarded to the relevant authorities so that they can be applied for the public libraries in Malta and Gozo. A sub-committee made up of Laurence Zerafa, Joseph R. Grima and Mary Samut Tagliaferro has been set up to finalise the draft guidelines prepared by Joseph R. Grima.

- MaLIA has continued with its proposal for a new, state of the art public library in Valletta and is currently considering alternative sites following the disappointment of seeing the proposed public library as part of the city gate Renzo Piano project turned down at the eleventh hour.

- Work on a new Directory of Library and Information Units in Malta and Gozo is under way. A sub-committee has been set up made up of the MaLIA Chairman, Laurence Zerafa, Ms Marion Borg (main editor), and Ms Yvonne Schuerer. A data collection exercise will be taking place in the coming weeks and months to ensure that the information is as accurate as possible. All libraries are asked to      cooperate so that this important reference tool is published as soon as possible.

- The MaLIA Council has reached an agreement with the University of Malta Library to become the official depository of the MaLIA archives. Special thanks go to the University Library Director, Kevin J. Ellul and to council member Mary Samut Tagliaferro.

- Loreanne Avsar has resigned from the MaLIA Council for personal reasons. Mary Samut Tagliaferro has been  appointed as a full member on Council with voting rights.

# Malta Libraries Council appointed

Following the coming into force of the Malta Libraries Act 2011, the Minister responsible for libraries, the Hon. Dolores Cristina, has appointed the Malta Libraries Council as stipulated in Article 15 of the same Act. The first Council is made up as follows:

**Chairman**: Robert Mizzi; **Members**: Charles Farrugia, Dr Lillian Sciberras, Dr William Zammit, Ms Cecily Rizzo, Mr Carmel Abela, Ms Doris Cini.

MaLIA notes with satisfaction that the Council is made up of two current Council members as well as three MaLIA members.
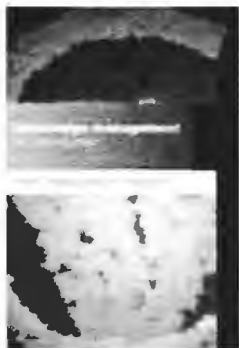
# Digital Libraries News

### Breakthrough Gives EU Principles For Digitising Out-Of-Print Books

Key European stakeholders have approved a "ground-breaking" set of principles for digitising and making publicly available out-of-print books and journals. The accord could serve as a template for dealing with the vexing problem of orphan works, those for whom the copyright owner cannot be found, according to International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations CEO Olav Stokkmo. To read the report, go to **http://pressandpolicy.bl.uk/imagelibrary/downloadMedia.ashx?MediaDetailsID=1197**

### AXES : AXES - Access to Audiovisual Archives

The goal of AXES is to develop tools that provide various types of users with new engaging ways to interact with audiovisual libraries, helping them discover, browse, navigate, search and enrich archives. In particular, apart from a search-oriented scheme, the project will explore how suggestions for audiovisual content exploration can be generated via a myriad of information trails crossing the archive. This will be approached from three perspectives (oraxes): users, content, and technology. Go to **http://wwwhome.cs.utwente.nl/~hiemstra/2011/axes-access-to -audiovisual-archives.html**

# New Publications

## Knowledge Management
## An introduction
*Kevin C Desouza and Scott Paquette*
August 2011; 256pp; paperback;
ISBN: 978-1-85604-735-7;
£49.95

Written by experienced KM project leaders and teachers, this new textbook has been designed to introduce this growing, multi-disciplinary subject to students in an engaging and effective manner. The book balances the theory and practice of KM and considers the issues organizations encounter in the global marketplace. This book is the first to integrate social media and networking into KM practice.

The book's nine chapters are divided into three major parts:

- Part I covers foundational concepts and introduces the reader to the key elements of knowledge management.
- Part II explores critical activities of knowledge management.
- Part III offers a strategic view of knowledge management in organizations.

*Source:*
http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/title.php?id=735-7

## Graphic Novels in Your School Library
*Jesse Karp, Illustrated by Rush Kress*
160pp; paperback;
ISBN-13: 978-0-8389-1089-4
Price: $50.00

Many educators now agree that graphic novels inform as well as entertain, and to dismiss the educational potential of the graphic novel is to throw away a golden opportunity to reach out to young readers. This dynamic book takes a look at the term "graphic novel," and the ways in which graphic novels can be used in the library and in the classroom. Introduces the history, the symbols, and the conventions of the form.

A one-stop resource which keeps the school library firmly at center stage, this eye-opening book will change your view of graphic novels.

*Source:* http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3101

## Marketing Today's Academic Library
*by Brian Mathews*
Paperback; 192pp;
ISBN-13: 9780838909843
Price: $48.00

Most library marketing intended for undergraduates promotes the collection, reference and instructional service, and occasional events such as guest speakers or exhibits. The guiding principle of Marketing Today's Academic Library is that marketing should focus on the lifestyle of the user, showcasing how the library fits within the daily life of the student. Matthews's personal and compelling presentation will assist readers in

- Challenging and rethinking their marketing strategies
- Demonstrating their value through applied relevance
- Focusing on students' needs and expectations

Written in a concise and engaging manner that speaks to common anxiety points about new marketing techniques, this book is filled with tips and strategies that academic librarians can use to communicate with students, surpassing their expectations of their library experience.

Source: http://www.barnesandnoble.com/

# Lighter moments

**What are the A, B, C's of Record's Management?**
A - Keep what must be kept
B - Shred what may be shredded
C - Understand the difference between A and B.

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# International News on Libraries and Archives

## Budget of the Commission 2014-2020: 1,6 billion for "Creative Europe"

The last Culture Infoday in Brussels in June have left cultural organisations worried on the future amount of the budget of the Culture programme. But after the summer break, cultural organisations have been reassured by the publication of the next [...] 'budget proposal for the EU for the period 2014-2020 with €1.6 billion for the cultural sector.

Published in the Communication "A Budget for Europe 2020" this proposals is the start of the negotiations between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in order to adopt the next budgetary frame-work of the Union. The Commission proposes to allocate €1.6 billion for the cultural sector (current programmes for Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus). For the moment it is just a proposal.

## EU Extends Copyright Protection From 50 To 70 Years

According to the last information sent by EGIL member Barbara Stratton: "Over the objections of eight countries, ministers from the European Union on Monday 5 September extended copyright protection for performers and record producers from 50 to 70 years. The move brought cheers from the recording industry and copyright royalty collecting societies, but doubts from some governments and jeers from a major consumer group."

http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/2011/09/12/eu-extends-copyright-protection-from-50-to-70-years/

## Electronic clearance of Orphan Works significantly accelerates mass digitization

A press release issued on the 15 September 2011 stated that the British Library, as part of the wider EU funded ARROW (Accessible Registries of Rights Information and Orphan Works) project[1], has published a study into rights clearance and mass digitisation which examines the issue of orphan works - works for which the rights holder is untraceable.

'Seeking New Landscapes: A rights clearance study in the context of mass digitisation of 140 books published between 1870 and 2010' found that more efficient ways of clearing rights and providing cultural institutions with legal certainty over their activities are needed to ensure that highly valuable research materials don't remain out of reach of the vast majority of citizens.

See: http://pressandpolicy.bl.uk/ImageLibrary/detail.aspx?MediaDetailsID=1197

## UK sets 4 February 2012 as National Libraries Day

### What is it?
National Libraries Day is one day devoted to all UK libraries - public libraries, school and university libraries, prison, national, law, business and commercial libraries. A nation-wide celebration of libraries, librarians and library staff in all sectors. In 2012 the day will be 4th February.

### Objectives
National Libraries Day will highlight what people can do in their local library. Events will take place in libraries, and a membership campaign will lead up to the date. During the week before National Libraries Day events and activities will take place in a variety of libraries including in schools, colleges and universities.

### Focus
The focus will be on three key aspects of the event:
1. Libraries Open Late (or extended opening hours)
2. Membership Campaign
3. Events leading up to the day

## New collaboration between Wikimedia UK and The National Archives

The UK National Archives is working with Wikimedia UK to improve online articles relating to The National Archives, as part of the GLAMwiki (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) initiative.

Wikipedia is the seventh most popular site on the internet. It is the first place that many people go to find information and it is home to a vibrant community of editors.

Visit The National Archives' project page at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:GLAM/TNA

# Landmark developments in Maltese Library and Archive Education
## *Dr. William Zammit*

On 27th January of this year the Centre for Communications Technology at the University of Malta, which had comprised the Division of Library and Information Studies since the mid 1990s, officially became a Faculty. The newly-established Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences is now made up of six departments, including the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences. Thus, for the first time ever, the academic importance of library and archive studies has been recognised by our university as deserving a department of their own.

This certainly positive development necessitated a number of changes in the courses offered in the area of studies. The need to address the issue of switching over from part-time evening courses to full-time day ones became more urgent with the acquisition of departmental status. Strategic considerations, however, were the main motivating factors behind this change. The Division of Library and Information Studies had been offering part-time evening diploma-level course in Librarianship and in Archives and Records Management for over fifteen years. A degree in Library, Information and Archive Studies also started to be offered some years later.

During all those years a very considerable number of individuals already working in the library and archive areas followed these courses with success, to the advantage of their own professional development as well as to the institution in which they worked. It was, however, felt that after so many years a degree of saturation had been reached in this regard and that there is a need to offer courses to a younger university audience. The need for attracting new blood and for encouraging younger individuals to pursue a profession in library and archive studies was the primary consideration for switching over to full-time, day courses. Not only are more professionals required by our libraries and archives, but lack of individuals with the right expertise to lecture in certain areas of our courses is also being acutely felt.
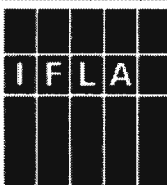
As from October of this year the department will be offering two courses, namely the degree in Library, Information and Archive Studies and the diploma in Library and Information Studies. The degree course will be spread over three years of full-time day study. During the first year the student needs to take two main areas of study, namely library and archives as well as any other from the areas that are offered.

Following the successful completion of the first year students may opt to pursue library and archive studies at an Honours level, continue studying two subjects or else opt for an Honours degree in the second area, with library and archive studies remaining as their subsidiary area of studies. Thus, for the first time, students are being given the option to proceed with their studies either at an Honours or General/Ordinary level.

The diploma in Library and Information Studies consists of a two-year day course. It is primarily intended for individuals who are already working in a library/archive setting.

The department is currently working on other initiatives, particularly in the area of postgraduate studies. The recruitment of full-time academic staff within the department should contribute towards making this wish become a reality.

**William Zammit**
**Head, Department of Library Information and**
**Archive Sciences**
**Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences**

## NEWS                    Videos by Sister Libraries

Some of the libraries participating in the project **"Sister Libraries for Children's and Young Adult's reading"** have made short videos on the work they are doing together. Here are the links, they are really worth watching, and inspiring :

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuJUSaJuRCg. (Haïti-US)
http://youtu.be/w5ZepTxDjyU (Serbia-Germany)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AJKNt52Cus (Lebanon-France)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsV7Im5ZY4E (Burkina Faso) : this library is looking for a Sister Library...

Also, a system of "Godmothers" has been installed, where registered libraries can write to, or be contacted by, members of the Standing Committee of IFLA section Libraries for Children and Young Adults (see Godmothers' names and e-mail addresses on http://sisterlibraries.wordpress.co).

Out now: 2010 IFLA Annual Report— http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/annual-reports/2010.pdf

# Libraries move into 21st century

Robert Mizzi

(reproduced from The Times of Malta, 6 July 2011)

The Malta Libraries Act was published on May 20 after what can be defined as a long and winding road. The need for a new law on libraries that repeals the outdated Chapter 92 of the Laws of Malta relating to public libraries had been felt for many years.

The first attempt at drafting a new libraries law goes back to 2004 when MaLIA had been approached to provide feedback on a draft for a new Bill on libraries. The MaLIA council had provided feedback to the minister responsible for libraries at that time, Louis Galea.

The Report On The State Of Maltese Libraries, published in 2006, provided a wealth of information on the state of local public libraries and the national library (besides other library sectors like academic and specialised libraries) and was used extensively by the MaLIA council to draft a new position statement based on factual information and best practices abroad in the field of legislation concerning libraries.

In the document, MaLIA proposed a new organisational structure, which, apart from suggesting an independently run authority, also recommended two high-level managerial posts, deputising for the national librarian. This document also proposed the establishing of a Libraries Council.

Fast forward to January 2009 when MaLIA was again consulted on the latest draft that was this time much closer to the proposals forwarded by MaLIA. At this stage, the MaLIA council also took the initiative to get all the major stakeholders together and discuss the Bill being proposed in further detail. This led to more feedback arriving from other important areas.

Act No. VII of 2011 may, of course, need to be tweaked in the future but it nevertheless encompasses the main issues and concepts that MaLIA had brought forward in its position statement of 2007. The new law also declares that there shall be a National Librarian and two Deputy Librarians, one for the National Library and one for the Public Libraries. This is good news as the need for a dedicated person in a management position to each of these important sectors, which are distinct in their roles, has been felt and sorely missed over the years.

The legal deposit has now been extended to cover publications in practically all formats. The main lacuna of this important function in the previous law had been the lack of legal backing to collect our published national heritage in the various formats that publishing has evolved to over the years besides the printed format (books and periodicals).

A new and important development that this law will bring about is the formation of what will be known as the Malta Libraries Council. Article 16 spells out the functions of this council that should have an advisory role, which, in my opinion, is nevertheless fundamental in providing the National Librarian with the necessary advice and cooperation to enable the implementation of a long-term strategy that will see our libraries being revamped.

Part III of the law deals mainly with administrative and personnel provisions. The new classification for employees mentioned in article 19 is undoubtedly one of the main bones of contention. There is no doubt that there is a dire need to reclassify the current library grades and also to offer better conditions to professional and para-professional library staff.

So where do we go from here? Have we finally arrived at the Promised Land?

We have made the first step as we now have a legal framework on which to work and move forward. The hard work starts now. I am sure the minister knows full well that the appointment of the National Librarian and his/her deputies and the appointment of the Libraries Council are of vital importance. After these posts have been appointed, it is up to the persons entrusted with the responsibility to move our libraries into the 21 century. As article 33 of the Malta Libraries Act states, the minister will have the authority to make the necessary regulations to further enhance the functionality of this act. The persons appointed in the roles above will be fundamental in providing the minister with the proper guidance on the way forward for our libraries.

My concluding remark must be a heartfelt appeal to all stakeholders to get on board. We need to maximise the use of our resources and ensure that all the necessary synergies are in place. This is the only way we can achieve our goals.

MaLIA will continue following developments closely and giving its support through all the means at its disposal.

## Technology News

### Five Best Note Taking Applications

Whether you're headed back to school this autumn or you just want a better way to keep your notes, memos, and other tidbits of information organised, you have a number of applications to choose from. Some of them just help you get your thoughts down quickly, others sync with online services that organise your notes for you. Here are the top five apps or services for the job.

**Evernote** — Evernote helps you remember everything-and by everything, we really do mean everything. The service's webapp, desktop apps for Windows and Mac OS, mobile apps for iPhone and iPad, Android, BlackBerry, Windows Phone 7, and even WebOS mean that Evernote can help you take notes, save them, tag them with a location, create and organize notebooks, and share them anywhere you are and on any device you happen to have on you.

**Springpad** — Springpad takes the hassle out of organizing your notes and thoughts for you, and organizes everything without your help. You have to set up a few basic categories, but of all of the note taking services, Springpad is probably the best at automatically guessing what it is you've just clipped from the web, snapped a photo of, or uploaded to your notebooks and organizing it without your help.

**MS OneNote** — OneNote grew from a side-component of Microsoft Office (for Windows) into a full-fledged and robust note taking and organization tool in its own right. The tool functions like a basic word proessor, but it saves automatically, lets you enter any kind of information anywhere, create and save notebooks for specific subjects and projects, and then share those notes and notebooks with others.

**Simplenote** — Simplenote is easy to use, free, and has a robust user and developer community behind it creating apps and utilities that plug into the service to make it even easier to use. Simplenote lets you easily jot down your thoughts and organize them by tag, search note contents and tags later to find what you need again later, search through revision history for your notes, share them with others, and access them on any web-enabled device

**Pen(cil) and Paper** — Many of you said you don't need a special app to take notes: you don't even need a computer or a tablet to stay organized. Sometimes the oldest methods are the best, and you said that when you head to class or into a meeting, you bring pen and paper instead of laptop or tablet. What happens to those notes after the meeting vary; some of you type them up and store them, others just organize your paper notes, but for many of you paper and pen (or pencil) is the way to go.

Source: _http://m.lifehacker.com/5837191/five-best-note-taking-applications_

### Welsh Libraries and Web 2.0: a survey of access and views in 2010

**Web 2.0 technology includes popular websites such as Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. This report is a snap-shot of the views of librarians of the use of Web 2.0 in libraries in Wales.**

There are thousands of examples and usages for Web 2.0 and this report focuses on the main ones that are currently used by libraries, or are popular with users. It compares access by the different library sectors to different types of Web 2.0 technologies and also looks at what libraries are doing and what they would like to do with Web 2.0 technologies.

To download the report, go to
**http://wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/museumsarchiveslibraries/cymal/researchandevidence/librariesandweb2/?lang=en**

## Local News on Archives

### First original Indexes on line

Search the indexes of the 'Original Acts' of the Magnia Curia Castellania (MCC A.O.), dated 1543 to 1798. The Magnia Curia Castellania was a Tribunal of first instance which was composed of the Castellano and two Judges, one of whom had the jurisdiction over civil and the other over criminal cases. During the Gallic invasion, it was succeeded by the Tribunale Provvisorio and Tribunale Civile di Prim'Instanza. During the protectorate years (1800-1814), it was known as Gran Corte della Valletta.
Go to **www.nationalarchives.gov.mt**