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MaLIA and the future

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EDITORIAL

As readers of this newsletter would have surely noted, it has been some time since the MaLIA Newsletter has been published. This is simply down to human resources. As you all know, all MaLIA Council members are voluntary members who dedicate their free time to working for MaLIA and the advancement of our profession. As soon as the new council was set up in February 2013, the MaLIA national conference took over as the number one priority. This conference was undoubtedly a huge success but has inevitably managed to drain away a lot of energy away from the present MaLIA council. Despite several attempts to try and outsource the newsletter, council has not managed to find a solution and we have now had to resort to the internal resources once again.

There is very little doubt that MaLIA needs the full support of its members to be able to survive. In a world where the available time for voluntary work seems to be getting less and less, it is imperative that an association like MaLIA manages to entice young and energetic fresh graduates and other para-professionals working in the sector not only to become members, but also to be willing to sit on council. MaLIA has been harping about this need for a few years and now, as the saying goes, we need to stand up and be counted.

I have personally been on the MaLIA council since 1998, occupying various roles along the way including that of Chairperson for 4 years. I have always insisted that MaLIA must attract new members on council to be able to regenerate itself but this has happened only partially and we have at times been 'forced' to remain on council as there were no new members contesting. I have now decided to step down from Council member as I feel that I have now given all that I could to MaLIA and it is now time to pass on the baton. Other members on the present council are also stepping down and we are facing the situation where we can indeed risk not having a council next year.

This is a rallying call for all of you reading this newsletter with the library and information profession at heart to come forward and ensure that MaLIA remains alive. I firmly believe that MaLIA has a key role in ensuring that the library profession, in all its variances, remains relevant and plays a central role. A lot of good work has been done in recent years and this needs to be sustained and further improved but MaLIA must have new blood to survive. Anyone interested in sitting on the MaLIA Council next year is therefore encouraged to come forward. As already indicated in this editorial, it is now time for those who have MaLIA and all it stands for at heart to stand up and be counted.

Robert Mizzi—Deputy Chairman



**The MaLIA Council
would like to wish all
its members and their
families a Merry
Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year**

Maltese Libraries – What Future?



On 10 May 2013, the Malta Library and Information Association (MaLIA) organised a national one day conference entitled *Maltese Libraries – What Future?* in one of the main hotels in Malta. The conference attracted a record number of local and foreign participants (ca. 130) including international and local exhibitors who sponsored the conference.

The aim of the conference was to bring together the main stakeholders of the local library scene and through the presentations, discussions and sharing of ideas, enable all participants to formulate effective strategies to meet current and future challenges.

MaLIA Hon. President Dr Paul Xuereb chaired the conference. Following a welcome address by the MaLIA chairperson, Ms Mary Samut-Tagliaferro, who spoke about the shifting landscape of 21st century librarianship and the need for libraries to embrace change in order to remain relevant and satisfy the information needs of current as well as of future patrons, the Hon. Minister for Education and Employment, Mr Evarist Bartolo was invited to officially open the conference. The Minister gave a short but important address that focused on the continuing relevance of libraries in an age where there are people who are skeptical about the role of libraries in today's society. He also emphasised that library managers, in today's economic climate, need to present their case well to retain good library budgets.

The morning sessions kicked off with the main library leaders representing the National, public, academic and school libraries giving an overview of the progress in their areas and also referred to the immediate and future challenges of their libraries. Mr Oliver Mamo, the National Librarian, delivered a talk on the current work and future strategy of the Malta Libraries. Ms Joanne Sciberras and Ms Cheryl Falzon, Deputy Librarians for the National and Public libraries respectively, presented the main issues and challenges they are currently facing and plans for the future. Mr Robert Mizzi, interim chairman of the Malta Libraries Council (MLC) gave a brief presentation on the work done by the council so far and what are the future plans for this council.

Mr Kevin Ellul, Director of Library Services at the University of Malta Library and Mr Laurence Zerafa, Librarian at the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST) Library and Learning Resource Centre, both gave presentations on the work currently being done in their respective libraries and on what their future plans are.

Mr Patrick Decelis, chairman of the Malta School Library Association (MSLA) and Ms Marisa Calleja, Head of the Schools Library Service (SLS) briefed participants on the work being done in school libraries and on current and future services in this sector. Dr William Zammit who heads the Department of Library Information & Archive Sciences concluded the morning sessions with an overview of the library education sector at the University of Malta, and the recent changes at the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences.

One common aspect that emerged is the importance that is being given to new services made possible through technology, financing of libraries and continuing education for all persons working in libraries. A number of pertinent and important issues were also raised by participants before the mid-day break.

During the afternoon session, Dr Christine Urquhart from the University of Aberystwyth, Wales, and Dr Milena Dobreva from the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences at the University of Malta presented an interesting summary of the morning sessions and stimulated participants with a number of scenarios that await libraries in the future. Immediately after, Dr Vanni Xuereb who heads MEUSAC briefed participants on how to try and acquire EU funding for library related programmes and projects.

Active participation was the focus of the last part of the conference. This was achieved through a number of lively round-table discussions on the various types of libraries. Participants had the opportunity to have their say on the current state-of-play in Maltese libraries and engage in discussions on the best possible way forward for their libraries. Rapporteurs from each discussion presented the findings and suggestions to all participants during the last session of the conference. MaLIA will be publishing the proceedings of the conference and a number of recommendations.



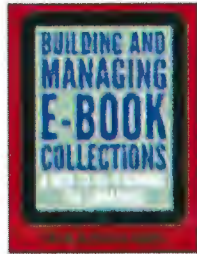
To see the presentations of the conference
Maltese Libraries—What Future? go to the MaLIA
website at www.malia-malta.org

New publications at the UM Library



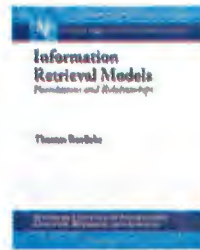
Managing Research Data
Graham Pryor, editor
ISBN: 978-1-85604-756-2
Z667.M359

"This is an excellent book for anyone, not just information professionals, looking to 'introduce and familiarize' themselves with a complex and challenging, yet increasingly important topic. The book benefits from a prestigious lineup of knowledgeable authors, including those who are actually 'doing' research and research data management. As an edited volume it fits well together as a single entity even though written by a number of individuals: chapters reference other chapters and the reader is not left with a sense of a 'cobbled-together' mix of disparate topics from different people. The content can equally well be dipped into, as read from cover to cover."
- Ariadne



Building and Managing E-book Collections: A how-to-do-it manual for librarians
Richard Kaplan, editor
ISBN: 978-1-85604-837-8
Z692.E4B85

Beginning with a short history of e-books and a review of the e-book publishing industry and its effect on library's selection and budget process, this new text provides a thorough treatment of collection development issues, including the selection process and development policies, the use of approval plans, patron-driven acquisition, and practical solutions for creating your e-book collection policies. Chapters on budgeting and licensing covers ownership versus leasing models, the differences in licensing options from the major publishers and aggregators including information on digital rights management, and strategies for success in retention, access, and budgeting.



Information Retrieval Models: Foundations and Relationships (Synthesis Lectures on Information Concepts, Retrieval, and Services)
Thomas Roelleke (Author)
ISBN: 978-1627050784
Z699.R46

Information Retrieval (IR) models are a core component of IR research and IR systems. The past decade brought a consolidation of the family of IR models, which by 2000 consisted of relatively isolated views on TF-IDF (Term-Frequency times Inverse-Document-Frequency) as the weighting scheme in the vector-space model (VSM), the probabilistic relevance framework (PRF), the binary independence retrieval (BIR) model, BM25 (Best-Match Version 25, the main instantiation of the PRF/BIR), and language modelling (LM). Also, the early 2000s saw the arrival of divergence from randomness (DFR).

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."
— Walter Cronkite



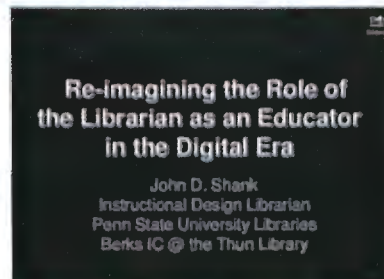
CHECK THESE OUT!!!

64 Sites for Digital Storytelling Tools and Information
<http://fluency21.com/blog/2013/04/03/64-sites-for-digital-storytelling-tools-and-information/>

European Libraries: A View from Friends Across the Pond
<http://americanlibrarieslive.org/european-libraries-view-friends-across-pond>



http://www.oclc.org/content/dam/campaign-landing-pages/en/214936_the-big-shift.pdf



<http://www.slideshare.net/JohnShank/re-imagining-the-role-of-the-librarian-as-an-educator-in-the-digital-era-24103939>

Umbrella 2013 Discover, Connect, Achieve

CILIP Conference 2-3 July Manchester, UK

report by Joanna Felice

The CILIP conference was unique in that it engaged with participants by holding debate, audience and spotlight sessions. In addition, a good number of sessions were available on the CILIP website <http://www.cilip.org.uk/umbrella2013/pages/presentations.aspx> within days of the conference ending. The conference themes focused on:

- **Future Skill and Future Roles** – What will society need from our profession?
- **Information to Best Support Society** – Information and digital literacy in education, work, health and leisure
- **Beyond Information Matters** – Pushing the frontiers of Knowledge and Information Management
- **Partnerships for Progress** – Community engagement reaching our communities at organisational, local regional, national and international levels

An introduction was given by Bidy Fisher. She warmly greeted delegates from the UK and overseas, numbering 600, highlighted the four themes of the conference and introduced Roly Keating, Chief Executive of the British Library (BL). Mr. Keating said that the BL had just celebrated its 40th anniversary on July 1. He looked at the important breakthroughs achieved during these years, such as the digitization of books (out of copyright) and newspapers, the setting up of a Business and Intellectual Property Centre at St. Pancras, innovative partnerships (with Google) and the creation of the UK Web archive.

The debate and audience sessions took place at the same time and I choose to attend one debate and three audience sessions.

The debate session entitled, *Where does the Internet end and the Library begin?* was conducted

by Ben Lewis, Rebecca Bartlett and Shay Moradi. Mr. Lewis talked about Google's attempts to digitise the world's collection of books and Mr. Moradi showed how games could increase interactions within libraries. Lemontree is a game developed for academic library patrons. The game utilises social media to "nudge" students to use the Library more often. Students obtain points for doing all sorts of things in and around the library such as; visiting it, borrowing items, doing things at specific hours, returning items in certain combinations and much more. The sister version, Orangetree will soon be released for public libraries. Ms. Bartlett took the same idea of introducing games to patrons and placed them in the role of library curators. Students are able "to create a virtual library using content from the library's collections".

The audience session on Tuesday afternoon entitled *Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a librarian* was one that kept the audience spellbound. Victoria Treadway, a clinical librarian and Dr. Girendra Sadera a Consultant in Critical Care and Anaesthesia described how a librarian became part of the critical care team. By using an iPad, Ms. Treadway performs evidence-based searches on clinical questions at the bedside. Within a short period of time the clinical team has the relevant information and answers for treatment. Time is crucial for critically ill patients.

Jonathan Bamford delivered the audience session, entitled *Data, data, everywhere....* The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is an independent authority that advises and gives guidance about data protection and freedom of information in the UK. Mr. Bamford touched upon the three initiatives aimed at

exploiting the economic value of data, namely "open data", "big data", and "midata." The proposed revised EU data protection legal framework was also discussed. Mr. Bamford then spoke about the challenges that Information Professionals (IPs) are facing today. IPs have an incredible amount of information to deal with and they have to make sure that they are well equipped to do the right job. After all, personal information must be properly looked after.

Spotlight sessions for each theme were held concurrently. I choose to attend three spotlight sessions on Information to Best Support Society to learn about the various issues related to information literacy and Internet and one session on *Future Skills and Future Roles*.

Gary Green gave an interesting talk on automating the discovery and sharing online information resources across multiple social networks. Sheila Webber and Bill Johnson highlighted the curriculum for an information literate life course and how information professionals and educators must support this process. The information literate person must understand and acknowledge the economic, technical, ethical, cultural and social issues surrounding the use of information.

In her talk entitled *Systematic searching – you can control the Internet*, Emily Houghton argued that with the huge amount of information on the Internet, students must be taught how to create a plan for searching. The parameters include – setting up the research question, finding alternative search terms or phrases, selecting databases/websites, running the search, and evaluating the results.

"The information literate person must understand and acknowledge the economic, technical, ethical, cultural and social issues surrounding the use of information."

Umbrella 2013 Discover, Connect, Achieve CILIP Conference 2-3 July Manchester, UK (cont.)

Lauren Smith's PowerPoint presentation on *Critical Approach to Information Literacy* referred to models of Information literacy, such as the Alberta Model, Seven Pillars, Big6, Guided Inquiry, and more. In 2013, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) set to update the information literacy competency standards for higher education so that these standards reflect the current thinking on the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the changing global higher education, the shift from information literacy to information fluency and to expand the definition to include media literacy, digital literacy, etc.

Suzanne Tatham in her presentation entitled *Using Twitter to create an interactive information literacy lecture* showed us how to teach information literacy by interacting with students in the classroom via Twitter. The questions and answers she puts forward on Twitter are visible to all. Planning is important for these sessions because students are asked to bring a laptop or mobile device. Ms. Tatham suggested that a smart way to engage all students is to put forward an easy question at the start of the session to encourage participation.

Hannah Gore from Open University described the emerging landscape for Higher Education. She illustrated how Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), are the latest educational formats. IPs are expected to handle challenges like copyright issues, publisher licences, delivering library services and teaching and promoting information literacy skills to a large number of students from different parts of the world.

Charlie Inskip detailed the criteria for evaluating good practice in

information literacy for postgraduates in UK higher education. He covered points like: - Whom is the resource designed for? What knowledge, skills and competencies are provided? and How is the course delivered? He encouraged the need to evaluate the resources, conduct pre and post course questionnaires, and respond to the feedback from learners.

Information Literacy involves different aspects. Ruth Carylyle described how through a two-year cancer partnership programme, health and social care professionals have created an information prescription for various forms of cancer. Information and Support Centres in UK Hospitals assist cancer patients select the relevant information including treatment and its side effects. The relevant information helps patients cope with their illness. On the other hand Emioly Allbon spoke about the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) Information Literacy Statement. The standard aims to enable law students, at both the academic and vocational stage of training, to develop comprehensive legal research skills, namely the ability to investigate the factual and legal issues, the ability to undertake systematic and comprehensive legal research, the ability to analyse findings, the ability to present results and to ensure that there is continuing professional development.

The conference gave me the opportunity to talk to a number of representatives at the exhibition stands from the Copyright Licensing Agency, Springer publishers, Covergold (European distributor of Micrographics Equipment) and others. Two particular posters attracted my attention, namely *Suncat* and

Skills on the go. *Suncat* is the national Serials Union Catalogue for the UK. It contains information about both print and electronic serial holdings of over 90 libraries, including both national and academic libraries. The service is free of charge. *Skills on the go* is the title given to the poster prepared by the Skills Development Team (SDT) at the University of Wolverhampton Library. The SDT uses a number of different programmes and apps, such as Camtasia, Lecture Capture, Explain Everything and Captivate, to create materials that can be accessed on the go from mobile devices. As well as creating new resources, the SDT is looking at adapting and promoting existing material so it can be accessed and used on the go, for example converting study guides into audio podcasts that can be downloaded. The aim of the team is to take academic study skills outside the Learning centre. Each person in this team has iPads and can easily access and demonstrate important resources anywhere on campus.

The Conference was an exciting experience and I found the debate, audience and spotlight sessions innovative, interesting and useful. The Poster sessions also provided the opportunity for me to discuss with authors the current status of their projects. Overall the CILIP conference covered issues most salient to IPs. I recommend that librarians working at National, Public, Academic, School and Special libraries attend the next CILIP conference and would like to thank the University of Malta Library for the financial support which enabled me to participate in this conference.

Joanna Felice
Deputy Director
University of Malta Library

"through a two-year cancer partnership programme, health and social care professionals have created an information prescription for various forms of cancer."

The 17th International Conference TPDL

by Claudio Laferla, MITA

The 17th edition of the TPDL Conference was held in Malta between the 22nd and 26th of September 2013 and brought together some 300 delegates from 40 countries. The conference was co-organised by the University of Malta (the Library Information and Archive Sciences Department) and the Cooperation in Science and Technology Office of the European Commission. It was held under the auspices of the National Commission for UNESCO in Malta.

The conference was opened by the Hon. Minister for Education and Employment, Mr Evarist Bartolo.

The conference discussed a wide variety of issues pertaining to digital libraries with over 20 papers organised in parallel tracks, as well as poster and demo session. Its proceedings are published by Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science.

Keynotes

The first keynote delivered by Prof. Christine Borgman was highly challenging in various aspects. The basis of her lecture focused around the 'transformation' aspect of libraries in the sense not only of the collection and or access but also in the way scholars publish their findings. Borgman argues that libraries may be catalysts in the way digital scholarship advances and makes new head-

way in the information society at large. This will influence the way research will take place in the near future. Finally, it is worth nothing that Prof. Borgman will be publishing a book titled: "Big Data, Little Data, No Data".

Another interesting keynote was also delivered by Dr Sören Auer. His lecture focused on 'linked data'. This may be new terminology and approach to libraries! Linked Data (LD) or Linked Open Data (LOD) are similar to each other with the latter being 'open', accessible to all. Linked Data is a way to make more accessible data and create more access to more data! A simple example suffices here...starting from Web 1.0, this used to link documents together with links the same documents to other documents. Then came Web 2.0, which allowed us not only to link to documents but to practically become publishers and commentators on all that was being uploaded online. Now, with the advent of the Semantic Web, we are experiencing new developments whereby, one may capture varied data pertaining to a document that might have other links somewhere else. Therefore, I will not only have the document itself but also additional information regarding (i) who the person is; (ii) his hometown; (iii) his

hobbies; (iv) his address; etc. Here is the concept of LD, when I have various information gathered from different other sources. I will not go into detail as to the technological infrastructure, but surely this may offer an opportunity to libraries to venture on new fruitful paths.

Workshops & Tutorials

The TPDL Conference offered a variety of workshops and tutorials, 12 in all. Since I had to choose amongst them, I attended the following: Linked Data for Digital Libraries, Mapping cross-domain metadata to the Europeana Data Model (EDM) and Moving beyond technology: iSchools and education in data curation. Is Data Curator a new role?

Whilst all the presentations were very stimulating, the discussions afterwards were excellent indeed, with various questions to new situations and attempts to possible best practices being suggested and argued.

Conclusion

In the information paradigm/society, the question is no longer whether information is there or not, but, we are now beginning to consider the value and authority of that information. It will be of little value if, there is a lot of information available, yet, not discoverable and consequently not accessible. Everyone wants to access good and authoritative information with which further data/information may be accessed. Additionally, the question of accessibility and discoverability comes into play. No one may access something which is not discoverable. Therefore, libraries and entities and everyone who publishes on the web have the responsibility of making things (data/information) both discoverable and accessible. LD is the way forward for this to happen.



Renew your MaLIA membership now—www.malia-malta.org



The International School Library Day Seminar 2013 by Milena Dobrev

The Schools Library Service, in collaboration with The Malta School Library Association, has once again organized a very fruitful seminar for teacher – librarians in secondary schools. The seminar, which was held at St Theresa College Girls Secondary Mriehel on 28 October 2013, started with a

welcome address by Ms Anna Maria Gilson, Service Manager (Projects and Initiatives Section), followed by an introduction by Ms Micheline Sciberras, Director General (Directorate for Educational Services). These were followed by an opening speech by the Hon. Minister for

Education and Employment, Mr Evarist Bartolo.

The range of topics covered by papers was impressive – from practical experience of using Oliver Library Management system to issues related to the information literacy skills. Particularly insightful for the teacher librarians were the talks which discussed activities which help students to develop love for reading.

The intention of this annual seminar is to share information and good practice. To this end, presentations were delivered from practicing teacher and school librarians and there was also ample time for questions from the floor after each presentation.



**“What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education.”
– Harold Howe**

Technology News

Digital Changes Everything: The Intersection of Libraries and Archives by Jan Zastrow

Over the course of my professional career—2.5 decades—I’ve seen a modicum of interest by librarians in my specialty field of archives, mostly related to preservation and environmental conditions in my tropical home state of Hawaii. In fact, I started out as a special collections librarian, and it’s been at least a dozen years that I’ve been trying to interest folks in what we now call digital archiving.

Read the full text of this article at <http://bit.ly/J1XiGf>

10 Great Technology Initiatives for Your Library by Ellyssa Kroski

Today’s hottest web and mobile technologies are offering libraries a new world of opportunities to engage patrons. Ultra-popular social media websites and apps combined with the availability of affordable cloud-based services and the evolution and adoption of mobile devices are enabling librarians to share and build communities, store and analyze large collections of data, create digital collections, and access information and services in ways never thought about before.

Read the full text of this article at <http://bit.ly/1etgH0Q>

Tech trends and library services in the digital age by Kathryn Zickuhr

Kathryn Zickuhr discussed key findings from the Pew Research Center’s multi-year study of public libraries, as well as larger trends in how Americans use technology, at the Westchester Library Association’s annual conference on May 10th 2013. She focused in particular on how teens and young adults find, consume, and share information in the digital age.

To see Kathryn’s presentation, go to <http://slidesha.re/18D98ls>

Be prepared for natural disasters

by Yvonne Schürer

In 2002, several libraries in Saxony were flooded and in 2004, a fire destroyed the Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar. In 2009 a landslide buried the historic archive in Cologne. These are some of the pictures librarians and archivists in Germany have in mind, when they think of catastrophes in the past years.

This year the latest natural disaster struck again, but luckily, this time round no collections within the danger-zone were harmed.

From Saturday night, (1 June) until Tuesday morning of the 4th June, the Staatliche Bücher- and Kupferstichsammlung inside the Sommerpalais in Greiz was flooded by the high waters of a usually small river called „Weisse Elster“. The river came over the dam and flooded the Greizer Park - a historic landscape park from the early 19th century. The recently restored, neo-classical Sommerpalais was trapped inside the torrential river for several days and water entered the house through three doors.

The disaster-plan of the museum worked excellently. The emergency management of the Rural District Office in Greiz informed the directorate in the morning, whereupon employees, families and friends moved the exhibits from ground floor to higher levels, restored furniture and publications and removed technical and electronic devices to safety.

Thanks to the early notification, a controlled evacuation was possible. The ground floor inside the wonderful historic building was 40cm under water.

Damage was caused to the walls, the stucco, the mural paintings and of course to the wonderful park, but the library and the collections of graphic and satire art were spared.

Apart from our everyday worries like high or low air humidity and temperature, low-grade ground-wood paper, vermins and rodents, there's fire, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions as well as hurricanes, tornados and tsunamis to deal with. Most people would say that these are an act of nature beyond control and you simply can't prepare for it. Whilst it's true that we can't change the fact that a disaster might destroy a house, it is imperative to find ways to keep our invaluable collections safe.

Emergency planning is important and should be taken very seriously. It includes the prevention of a possible crisis and helps to prepare appropriate salvage operations after the occurrence of a disaster. Good planning and organization, prepared employees and joint exercises with the local fire department or the emergency management facilitate fast and effective assistance.

Knowing who is responsible for what, who can help, who needs to be informed, where are the most precious holdings, what shall be saved first and where shall the saved media be stored, can make a tremendous difference within the short time-frame from the announcement to the arrival and the aftermath of a natural catastrophe. No one can do this by themselves - it's always the cooperation with others that will lead to a success.

If you don't know how to start - here are some sources that might help:

The Library of Congress website gives detailed information on emergency preparedness and dealing with emergencies (www.loc.gov/preservation/emergprep/recovery.html) and Strovells manual about protecting our cultural heritage

(www.iccrom.org/pdf/ICCROM_17_RiskPreparedness_en.pdf).

There's also a detailed bibliography on books concerning emergency management by Karen E. Brown (<http://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/3.-emergency-management/3.5-emergency-management-bibliography>).

The Staatliche Bücher- and Kupferstichsammlung has been excellently prepared for an absolutely unexpected flood. And it's been very lucky to have so many friends and volunteers.

“it is imperative to find ways to keep our invaluable collections safe.”



Photo by Pia Buetner



Photo by Lutz Gipsner

Yvonne Schürer

- 2006 to 2011 full time 4-year-degree-course at the University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig, Germany - major field of studies: library and information science / management
 - 2009 and 2010 internships at the University of Malta Main Library and at the MCAST Main Library and degree dissertation on libraries in Malta in 2011.
 - since 2011 Librarian at the historic library of the Staatliche Bücher- und Kupferstichsammlung inside the Sommerpalais in Greiz

MaLIA Christmas Lunch 2013

—a special event in honour of Dr Lillian Sciberras

Speech delivered by the MaLIA Chairperson, Mary Samut-Tagliaferro on 8th December 2013 at the Grand Hotel Excelsior.

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to honour one of our own, Dr. Lillian Sciberras, who is a founder member of the Malta Library & Information Association (MaLIA).

Lillian's contribution to, and influence on, the library & information profession in Malta is immense. Most particularly because it is Lillian who set up the first courses in these subjects at tertiary level and, in so doing, helped raise the status of the profession and the respect in which it is held. Without this opportunity many of us sitting around this table today, who are past students of Lillian, would have been denied the opportunity to enter the library & information science profession unless we travelled abroad in order to do so.

In 1992, Lillian who was then Deputy Librarian at the University of Malta (UoM) Library, a library that she had joined 25 years earlier back in 1967, rose to the challenge presented to her and left the Library in order to set up Malta's first academic unit of library, information & later archives studies at the UoM.

At first, the Division of Library & Information Studies offered evening diploma-level courses. But, under Lillian's guidance and inspired vision, the Division has over the years blossomed, growing from modest beginnings to what is today a Department within the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences (MaKS). This Department has grown such that today it offers its day students not only Diploma but also Degree courses up to Masters level.

This must be a source of tremendous satisfaction to its founder Dr. Lillian Sciberras who continued to coordinate the courses and lecture on various topics, (including those which today have become synonymous with her name such as national memory and national bibliographic development),

until 2006 when she retired. During this time Lillian guided and mentored a great many students and it is an endearing characteristic of Lillian's that her genuine interest in her students' careers and welfare continues long after they have graduated.

But Lillian's influence is still palpable for the lady is held in such high esteem amongst her peers that she has not been allowed to retire completely and Lillian continues to serve on various committees and boards, including the Malta Libraries Council and the National Archives Council. She also chairs the Board of Studies of the Library Information & Archives Sciences Department and is the Registrar of MaLIA's Register of Library & Information Professionals.

Books have always surrounded Lillian in her professional as well as in her personal life. She is the author of an impressive number of publications on library & information science, many of which are published in foreign peer reviewed journals. She is also a poet in her own right and a writer of short stories most recently, "Happenstance: Tales of Circumstance" published in 2012.

Lillian has the distinction of being the only Maltese to date, in so far as I know, to hold a Ph.D. in Information and Library Science gaining her Doctorate from London University. She is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals of the United Kingdom, a founding member of the Malta Library and Information Association and a life member of the Friends of the National Archives (Malta).

On this the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Diploma course in Library & Information Studies at the UoM, it gives MaLIA great pleasure to present Dr. Lillian Sciberras with a small token of our appreciation in recognition of her sterling contribution to library & information education in Malta.

Prior to closing I would like to thank you all for being with us today and for sharing this happy event with us. Warm thanks also goes to MaLIA Council member Prof. Milena Dobрева for organising the luncheon.

Thank you.

"it is an endearing characteristic of Lillian's that her genuine interest in her students' careers and welfare continues long after they have graduated."



MaLIA Chairperson, Ms Mary Samut Tagliaferro, delivering her speech.



Dr Lillian Sciberras with the plaque donated by MaLIA for the occasion.

Local News

In November 2013 the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences of the University of Malta is being joined by Marc Kosciejew.(PhD in Library and Information Science (LIS) and MLIS from Western Ontario University, Canada).

Prof. Milena Dobreva recently was invited to join the editorial board of the International Journal on Digital Libraries published by Springer.

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MaLIA communication with Maltese MEPs

MaLIA has written to the Maltese MEPs urging them to sign the Written Declaration 0016/1023 acknowledging the essential role of public libraries in EU Communities. The full declaration can be found on the MaLIA website at <http://www.malia-malta.org/malia-news/866-written-declaration>

National Archives

Minister visits the National Archives

On Friday 4 October 2013 the Hon. Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo paid an official visit to the National Archives Head Office in Rabat. He was welcomed by national archivist Charles J. Farrugia and the newly appointed Chairman of the National Archives Council Dr William Zammit. The Minister was shown around the various processes carried out within the archives. These consist of the accessions process, the conservation laboratory, the storage areas, the cataloguing sections, and the users services. Speeches by both Mr Farrugia and Hon Bartolo were delivered in the main reading room. The Minister also spoke to a number of researchers who were conducting research at the time.



MaLIA at EBLIDA's 21th AGM and Annual Conference

Robert Mizzi, the MaLIA Deputy Chairman, represented MaLIA at the 21st AGM and Annual Conference with the theme "Ready? Read 'e' - E-services in Libraries, from European thinking to local Actions" held in Milan from the 14 to the 16 May 2013.

Around 50 members attended the Council meeting. Apart from the customary presentation of the membership report, annual report and financial report, there were active discussions in sub-groups about the EBLIDA Strategy 2013-2016 and the work programme for 2013-2014. Since then, the Annual Report and the Strategy have been published at <http://www.eblida.org/about-eblida/strategy-and-annual-report.html>.

On the second day, the EBLIDA and NAPLE Annual Conference was held. The Conference welcomed about 105 (of the 127) registrants. After the official welcome

by the local representatives of the City of Milan, the AIB and NAPLE, EBLIDA President spoke about the importance of EBLIDA as a lobbying organisation in Europe and the undertaken actions.

Gerald Leitner, chair of the e-books Task Force who presented ideas worked out by the Task Force for the new EBLIDA campaign "the right to e-read". Commissioner Vassiliou gave her speech by video message on her vision of the role of libraries in a developing digital environment (check it out at www.eblida.org). Luigi Berlinguer (Italian MEP) explained that copyright needs to be adapted to the digital environment and should not be an obstacle to the development of access to e-content in libraries.

The keynote speaker of the day, Gino Roncaglia gave a tremendous overview about the new reading environment that is developing in addition to traditional means like books under new formats such as SMS, blogs, twitter.

The speeches paved the way for an interesting panel discussion on strategies for libraries, as well as on the threats challenging democracy. The President of EBLIDA concluded the panel by stating that "economic interests should not threaten the public (general) interest".

The audience split into three groups for breakout sessions of 75 minutes. The report afterwards showed that libraries have an important role to play from local to European level, and that cooperation with social partners and politicians is important in order to ensure long-term development.

Klaus-Peter Böttger concluded the Conference by thanking all the speakers and participants and inviting them to join next year in Athens to continue the discussions and see the progress made by libraries in the European context.