

The UGC Library: small but suiting the purpose

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Albeit not equipped with all the facilities enjoyed by a fully-fledged academic library, the UGC library offers a number of services that meet the demands of the 160 students following courses at the centre. The gradual progress registered by the UGC over the past twenty years is reflected in the improved services offered by the library to all its users.

'A library is a large collection of books, and can refer to the place in which the collection is housed'. Although the collection of books at the UGC library cannot be described as 'large', the present stock, which adds up to more than 2000 books, is adequate to meet current demands. It is envisaged that the library will continue to be regularly replenished with fresh stocks as has been the case in the past. Regular acquisitions made over the years required the procurement of added shelving and more space. The reallocation process was by no means an easy task, especially when one 'move' followed another in less than a few months, due to the restructuring project that has resulted in additional lecturing space.

Given that a number of courses offered at the Gozo Campus relate to Business Studies, the UGC library stock includes a broad, varied selection of books on accounts, economics, banking, management, marketing and quantitative techniques. It also includes interesting sections dealing with EU matters,



Prof Lino Briguglio with Miriam Muscat (left) and Caroline Camilleri Rolls (right)

mainly in relation to financial and economic areas and EU law.

The UGC library's opening hours stretch over eight hours, from Friday afternoon to Saturday at noon, and prove convenient for students attending the campus as well as others following courses in Malta. Most of the books in the library are available for lending.

The quality and efficiency of current student services offered by the University of Malta have been enhanced, mainly through improved IT services. The quicklinks library portal facilitates searching for book availability at the main library, or libraries at the Valletta Campus, the Junior College, Bighi or the UGC. One may also renew or reserve books through the same system. Access to international journals is possible

through the Internet. We at UGC must thank the UoM library team for their continuous support, especially Mr Kevin Ellul, Ms Joanna Felice and Mr Silvio Cortis for keeping us up-to-date on recent developments, especially those related to enhanced search options through the Library Quick Link. Our collaboration has enabled us to upgrade and update our student services. We must also mention the staff at the Cataloguing Department who meticulously classify, mark and process all our new acquisitions.

Currently ongoing courses at the University Gozo Campus include the BA in Criminology and a BA degree that covers three major areas of study, namely, Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology. In this regard the UGC library is constantly expanding its collection of textbooks related to these subjects

A section of the UGC library



as well as the visual arts. A more recent development saw the introduction of Tourism, IT and Banking and Finance Studies within the Bachelor of Commerce Degree Course, which is being financed through the European Social Fund (ESF) under Operational Programme II entitled 'Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life'. This necessitated the acquisition of textbooks including recent publications on environmental and sustainable development topics.

The increasing number of theses and dissertations that have by now filled a number of shelves in the library stand as testimony to the hard work of those who believed in and sustained the presence of the University in Gozo. They are a clear sign of the way Gozitan students have availed themselves of the opportunities offered by the Gozo Campus to broaden their intellectual horizons through continued learning and to obtain qualifications at tertiary level on their own island.

The Diploma in Lace Studies is uniquely offered at the UGC and our library collection includes a small number of books on subjects related to this course, like textiles, design, traditional and modern art. With the lace room situated next to the library, we often find ourselves listening to the therapeutic clacking of the bobbins in an otherwise quiet environment.

At the UGC library we are always happy to offer advice to students throughout their course and to help them with their research.