



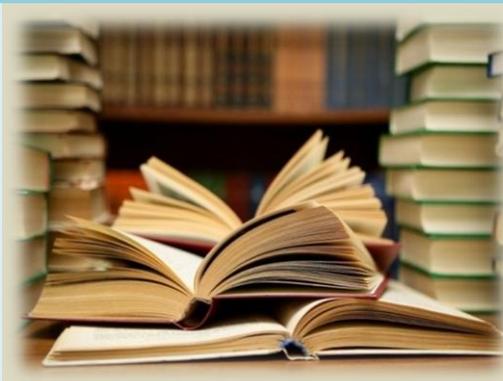
## Editorial

The final term of the scholastic year has started, and as the weather gets warmer during spring, we all look forward to the somewhat calmer and lazy days of summer.

The sticky summer months bring with them a certain sluggishness which prohibits one from engaging in any form of rapid or strenuous activity. It is not the season to move about so much. In fact, the ideal place to be in summer is relaxing at the beach with a book in hand, reading a tale which can transport you to any place or time in history or even into a purely fantastical world.

So whether your summer days are structured entirely by work or wholly free of any responsibility, it is the right time to delve into a good book and live a different life through a world explored in the pages at your fingertips.

**JE Library Staff**



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## Librarianship as a Career?

### What do librarians do?

The profession once known as 'librarianship' has now taken on many different names. Since librarians also look after electronic resources, some librarian posts are now known as 'information managers' or 'information scientists'. It is not simply the storage and maintenance of information that should concern a librarian, but also increasing access to this information. Librarians have to deal with readers face to face and also make sure that the library catalogues are as user-friendly as possible so that researchers can find the resources they need. Many librarians also have the responsibility to build up their collections. There are several different sorts of libraries namely public, academic and private. Librarians also work for government agencies or in specific professional institutions such as at law firms, hospitals, corporate headquarters, museums each of which have specialised libraries.

### Why become a librarian?

Librarians have to be meticulous and precise in their work of ordering, recording and caring for books. But at the same time be friendly and customer-oriented for the outward-facing parts of their job. The job is undertaken by dedicated individuals, committed to the on-going development of their library, passionate about books and ready to learn new strategies to improve services.

In this digital age, as with other professions, librarians have to be very adaptable. Digital copies of certain resources means that, readers can now access information from their own homes and do not need to go to libraries to read the print copy of a book. Librarians have to make sure they are aware of the current technologies, and keep abreast with technological development. In general, most librarians will be required to perform several basic tasks including organizing library books, collections and other resources so that they can easily located; assisting library patrons in conducting research and finding necessary information and references; planning library programs and events, etc...

### What qualifications are needed?

The University of Malta offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses in this sector, namely Diploma, Degree and Masters. Students also have the option to follow courses through Distance Learning Programmes with foreign universities. These courses can help you get a professional post in a library setting.

<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/careers-advice/non-academic-case-studies/618/working-as-a-librarian>

<http://www.um.edu.mt/courses/list.php>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2009/jan/24/study-post-graduate-librarianship>

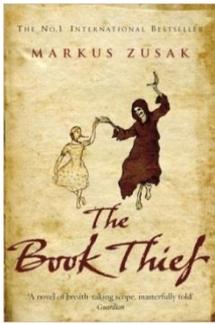
<http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/librarian/>



**One Stop Search**  
through all the Library's  
print and online resources

# Librarians' Choice

## Recommended reading from our bookshelves



### **The Book Thief** by *Markus Zusak* (2007)

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

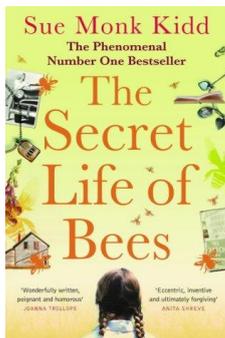
Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbours during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.



### **The Miniaturist** by *Jessie Burton* (2014)

On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways...

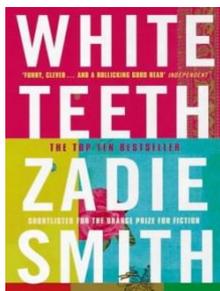
Nella is at first mystified by the closed world of the Brandt household, but as she uncovers its secrets she realizes the escalating dangers that await them all. Does the miniaturist hold their fate in her hands? And will she be the key to their salvation or the architect of their downfall?



### **The Secret Life of Bees** by *Sue Monk Kidd* (2003)

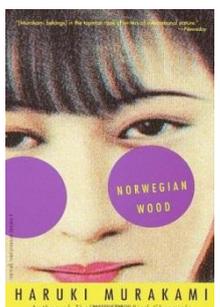
Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four. She not only has her own memory of holding the gun, but her father's account of the event. Now fourteen, she yearns for her mother, and for forgiveness. Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her father, she has only one friend: Rosaleen, a black servant whose sharp exterior hides a tender heart. South Carolina in the sixties is a place where segregation is still considered a cause worth fighting for.

When racial tension explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily is compelled to act. Fugitives from justice and from Lily's harsh and unyielding father, they follow a trail left by the woman who died ten years before. Finding sanctuary in the home of three beekeeping sisters, Lily starts a journey as much about her understanding of the world, as about the mystery surrounding her mother.



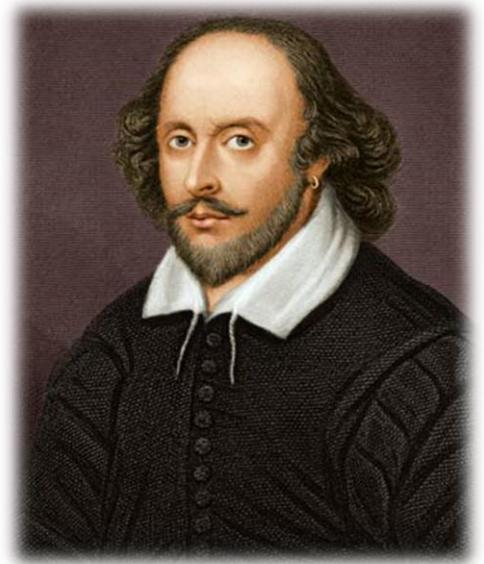
### **White Teeth** by *Zadie Smith* (2001)

One of the most talked about fictional debuts ever, *White Teeth* is a funny, generous, big-hearted novel, adored by critics and readers alike. Dealing, among many other things, with friendship, love, war, three cultures and three families over three generations, one brown mouse, and the tricky way the past has of coming back and biting you on the ankle, it is a life-affirming, riotous must-read of a book.



### **Norwegian Wood** by *Haruki Murakami* (2000)

When he hears her favourite Beatles song, Toru Watanabe recalls his first love Naoko, the girlfriend of his best friend Kizuki. Immediately he is transported back almost twenty years to his student days in Tokyo, adrift in a world of uneasy friendships, casual sex, passion, loss and desire - to a time when an impetuous young woman called Midori marches into his life and he has to choose between the future and the past.



William Shakespeare is one of the most identifiable icons of England and yet facts about him are few and far between. While we know a lot about the playwright's works, facts concerning the Bard's personal life are less forthcoming.

- Nobody knows Shakespeare's true birthday. The closest we can come is the date of his baptism on April the 26th, 1564. By tradition and guesswork, William is assumed to have been born three days earlier on April the 23rd, a date now commonly used to celebrate the famous Bard's birthday.
- Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway and had three children together – twins Judith and Hamnet, who died in 1596, and another daughter, Susanna. His only granddaughter Elizabeth – daughter of Susanna – died childless in 1670. Shakespeare therefore has no descendants.
- Shakespeare, one of literature's greatest figures, never attended university.
- The famous playwright died on April the 23rd, 1616 at the age of 52. He wrote on average 1.5 plays a year since he first started in 1589. His last play *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is reckoned to have been written in 1613 when he was 49 years old.
- William never published any of his plays. We read his plays today only because his fellow actors John Hemminges and Henry Condell, posthumously recorded his work as a dedication to their fellow actor in 1623, publishing 36 of William's plays. This collection known as *The First Folio* is the source from which all published Shakespeare books are derived and is an important proof that he authored his plays.
- There are more than 80 variations recorded for the spelling of Shakespeare's name. In the few original signatures that have survived, Shakespeare spelt his name "Willm Shaksp," "William Shakespe," "Wm Shakspe," "William Shakspeare," "Willm Shakspeare," and "William Shakspeare". There are no records of him ever having spelt it "William Shakespeare", as we know him today
- Shakespeare has been credited by the Oxford English Dictionary with introducing almost 3,000 words to the English language. Estimations of his vocabulary range from 17,000 to a dizzying 29,000 words – at least double the number of words used by the average conversationalist.

References:

<http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/shakespeare-facts/>

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/facts/facts.htm>

## Research Tip

### Taking Exams

Exam writing is an active process. You are there to think, assess, make judgements, and to concisely answer questions. Simple regurgitation will only get you so far.

Remember the golden rules when sitting for an exam:

1. Get some sleep the night before
2. Eat something
3. Avoid 'panic talk' with other students
4. Read the directions
5. Make a time management plan and stick to it
6. Watch the clock
7. Start with the easy ones
8. Build in revision time
9. Don't leave the exam early
10. Take control of your stress and make it work for you!

For a more thorough explanation of these rules go to:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/surviving-exams>



# ICT... MY THOUGHTS

*By Mr Riccardo Flask*

I would like to start off and confess that I am an ICT lecturer and been teaching this subject for the past fifteen years. I was always attracted to electronics and gadgets, and was lucky to have owned my first computer way back in 1984. For the record, my first computer was a Commodore 64. I used to buy magazines related to computers and programming, and apart from playing games, one of my hobbies was to spend hours coding, in order to make the computer 'do something'.

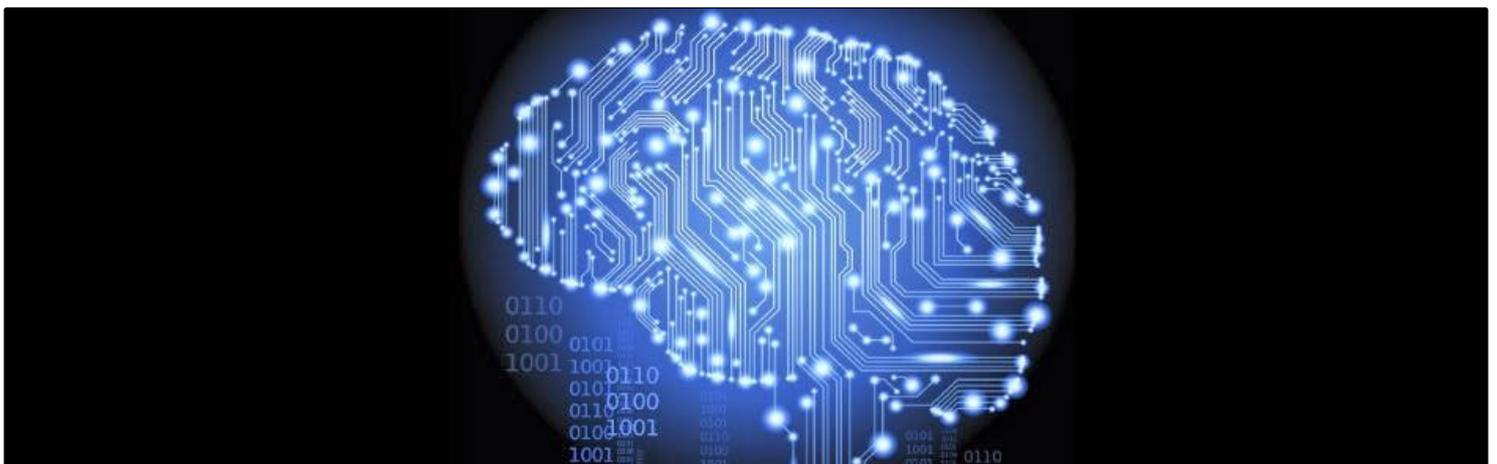
More than thirty years passed since then, and I guess everyone agrees that technology made extraordinary advances. I remember having a hard disk of 40 megabytes (40 million bytes) being considered huge, today we have one terabyte minimum (1 million, million bytes). I remember the internet with the problem of having all telephone lines busy as soon as the clock strikes six in the afternoon. The speed was a laugh those days compared to what we have today, but what did the technology of the information and communication (ICT) really change?

Today I look back, and doubt seriously whether ICT made us better! When ICT is used adequately, it is an excellent tool. It greatly facilitates our work. As educators we can use the millions of resources which the web provides and make our lectures more challenging and interesting. Presentations allow our students to remain more engaged, and we can use the time in class better. The virtual learning environment (VLE) aka. Moodle can support our class time by extending the classroom after hours and creating a sort of ongoing learning environment. Apart from presentations we can show videos from YouTube to our students or similar multimedia content and all this thanks to ICT.

The web is full of resources or ideas, but yes one needs to be aware of what or how to look for this information. Allow me to suggest just one resource, which is Kahoot (<https://getkahoot.com/>). This is basically a quiz platform where the educator builds a quiz about one's subject area (or look through the ones already in the database), and then can get the class to split into groups, and they log in via their smartphones, and would answer to this quiz. Believe me that although this might appeal to a younger audience, the second years had a blast at it!

But I will stop here, as the aim of this short article was to get reader think about their use of ICT. Sadly, I have seen tablets used to entertain toddlers during lunches/dinners, even during mass! The majority of our students are so addicted to their smartphones that they simply cannot leave them aside for more than five minutes. They say 'social media' (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), but these sites are really disrupting all that is social. A Norwegian historian, teacher, and political scientist, Christian Lous Lange, said: "Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master."

I would like to use another quote by an American psychologist, behaviourist, author, inventor, and social philosopher, B. F. Skinner: "The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do." I invite all readers who managed to get to this point of the article (I hope there are a few) to seriously think about their personal use of ICT. Can we do something about it, can we answer this question without actually googling it?



## New books at the Library



The first Star Wars movie was released in 1977. It was a low budget science-fiction production that became a blockbuster box office success. The movie has been extremely popular within all cultures and age groups for several decades. Little did people know that the first movie was part of a larger story that was developed through the years. After six movies, cartoons, countless comic books and novels, a new movie was released last December, ushering in new characters and introducing the Star Wars universe to a new generation. Apart from being popular, Star Wars also conveys many important themes. One such theme is the classic hero journey, which is a major part of the stories and myths throughout the Star Wars universe. Both primitive and modern cultures use hero journeys as the basis for stories that inspire courage, honour and a sense of adventure.

In the Star Wars universe, the focus is on the Skywalker family. The hero, Anakin Skywalker aka Darth Vader, becomes seduced by evil and corrupted by power. As a result, his son Luke is set on a quest to save his father and redeem him. This is all happening in the context of a galactic war between the Empire, fighting for total control of the Galaxy and the rebels who champion democracy.

The new film is also about a hero's journey, however, it is not as simple as in the other movies. In episode seven, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, we are presented with two strong characters both of whom come from very different backgrounds. There is Finn, a storm trooper who feels that he does not belong with the First Order due to their evil ways, so he runs away and finds himself helping the Resistance against this new order. On the other hand, we have Rey, who has been left on a junk planet but has great power within her. After accidentally getting involved with Finn and the Resistance, she is made aware of the need to rise up to challenges and finding one's true self.

Using a compelling story with different levels and themes, Star Wars manages to instil in each of us a sense of adventure and heroism. Compelling us to do the right thing and make us dream again. It provides an escape in which we can immerse ourselves and be inspired to deal with today's world problems in a more active way.



• L-Orfni *miktub minn Edward Attard.*

• Wicc imb Wicc mal-Verita *miktub minn Carmel G. Cauchi.*

• It-tfajla li giet mic-Cpar *miktub minn Gorg Peresso*

• F'Halq il-Lupu *miktub minn Carmel Scicluna.*

• Jacob : My Titanium Man *by Sarah Chetcuti.*

• Maltese Architecture 1900-1970: Progress and Innovation *by Mark G. Muscat*

• My Little Book of Secrets *by Julia Pollacco.*

• Great French Short Stories *edited by Paul Negri*

• Ix-Xafra tad-Destin: L-Imdina 1565 *miktub minn Michael Cini.*

• The Maltese Islands and the Sea *edited by Timmy Gambin*

... and many more



### Book Club Meetings

Book Club Meetings in both English and Italian are being held regularly in the Library. They are normally held once a month.

Book Clubs are open to all. Those who are interested in joining are kindly requested to contact the Junior College Library Staff.

### 6 BOOK CHALLENGE

The Six Book Challenge which runs from October till March, invites you to pick six reads and record them in a diary to get a certificate. Please contact the Library staff for more information.

#### Bartleby

One of the Internet's preeminent reference sites, this resource has great books and other helpful material.

<http://www.bartleby.com/>

#### UnplugTheTV.com

This student resource offers an alternative to TV (and, unfortunately, studying), hosting randomized videos on interesting scientific topics.

<http://unplughthetv.com/>

#### KeepMeOut.com

If you struggle to stay away from social media when you are meant to be studying, use KeepMeOut to block certain distracting websites.

<http://keepmeout.com/en/>

#### Open Culture

Open Culture brings together high-quality cultural & educational media for the worldwide lifelong learning community.

<http://www.openculture.com/>

#### TED.com

TED hosts thought-provoking talks given at events all over the world on the core topics of technology, entertainment and design – but in fact covering pretty much every aspect of human experience. The TED site is where you can find all the videos of these talks. Another good procrastination device, but you may also find some inspiration for your next essay.

<http://www.ted.com/>

#### Facebook

Visit our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with any news, events and research tips from the Library.



#### Exhibitions in the Library

The Library is currently exhibiting the artwork of Mr. Denis Calleja. *'Denis is really self-taught, and therefore is not conditioned by academic exercises as practiced in an art class. His influence is remote, primitive, intuitive and instinctive.'* The exhibition will remain open till the end of May 2015.

## Summer Library Opening Hours

16 June - 30 September  
Monday to Friday 08:00 - 13:00  
Saturday Closed

May we remind all students that the Library will be open during the Summer months and books may be borrowed throughout the holidays.

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