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MEUSAC meeting for Voluntary Organizations

A meeting for non-governmental organizations was held on the 14 February 2008 with the theme "Participation of Civil Society in the Consultation Process". The meeting was attended by Robert Mizzi on behalf of MaLIA and a number of relevant points were noted so that these could be discussed by the MaLIA Council.

Following an introduction by Dr Chris Said, the Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information, an overview of the structure of MEUSAC was presented, followed by another presentation on the EU legislative process. An interesting presentation after the break explained the work of the nine sectoral committees that in general reflect the structure of the Council of the European Union. The sectoral committee on Education, Youth and Culture is of particular interest for MaLIA as it could

provide an avenue for assistance in particular MaLIA projects in the future. These committees are open for voluntary organizations.

The Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations followed with a speech on the role of the Commissioner and the importance of voluntary organizations being registered

This is indeed good news for small associations

as a voluntary organization. MaLIA has registered with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations at the end of last year.

During the meeting, the MEUSAC officials provided information on the assistance they offer to voluntary

organizations in drawing up applications for funding. Participants were informed that there were plans to establish a Co-Financing Fund that would cover the 25% funding of projects that Voluntary Organizations normally have to fork out to participate in proposed projects. This is indeed good news for small associations such as MaLIA that have traditionally found it hard to propose projects as these entailed both an administrative burden as well as a financial burned (25% of a €20,000 project is still beyond MaLIA's capabilities).

The new MaLIA Council will be discussing this issue in the forthcoming Council meetings and should also consider meeting up with Dr. Chris Said to investigate in more detail how MaLIA could propose and bring forward projects related to libraries, archives and information centres.

IMPORTANT NEWS: *MaLIA in the spotlight*

Two important news for MaLIA and its members are:

(1) MaLIA is an official NGO. MaLIA has formally applied to form part of the Government's NGO corpus. This move will facilitate any possible EU funding from which

different NGOs would benefit from. To this end, MaLIA had to fine tune its Statutes to reflect this achievement. These amendments have been agreed upon in the 2008 AGM which was held at the University of Malta Library.

(2) The Education Minister Dolores Crisitna has officially appointed Charles Caruana Carabez to oversee the local library scenario and with whom, MaLIA will have a close contact. This augurs well...let's move forward.

Libraries and Technology

One of the latest gadgets on the market is the ebook even though the idea of machines replacing books has been around for more than 50 years¹. Personally I prefer to call them 'eReaders' since one can read any digital text which might not necessarily be a book.

Interestingly, Jeff Bezos, who is the founder of Amazon, said that the Kindle 2 (since it is in its 2nd edn.) is about the preserving a great tradition, namely, that of reading and not about replacing it².

Speaking of the market of ebooks, there are a number of them already available varying in size and functionality, style and weight. However, Fujitsu has lately made available a full colour ebook with the name FLEPia. This new on the market ebook is equipped with: bluetooty, WiFi, USB and SD card slot and has a battery life of 40 hours of reading time³.

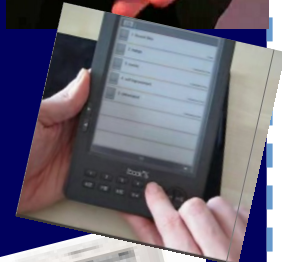
Yet, there are various issues surrounding the ebook in the library. The easiest concern is whether libraries—public

or otherwise—has actually purchased the ebook reader itself. Then, there are problems such as: ebook licencing by the vendor, monochrome screens, technical support, and budget limitations amongst others.

By Claudio Laferla (MaLIA Secretary)

References

1. Herther, J. K. 2008, "The ebook reader is not the future of books", *Searcher*, vol. 16, no. 8, pp. 26-40, Ebscohost dbase.
2. *The Economist*, 2009, Feb 12, p. 15.
3. Sillis, B. 2009, "Fujitsu FLEPia colour ebook now on sale", online.



Web Links

Library Journal—available at <http://www.tictocs.ac.uk/>

Resources for School Librarians



Journal Table of Contents Service



World Book and Copyright Day

As usual, the 23rd of April is dedicated to WBCD worldwide.

This year's UNESCO poster is a human figure composed of books of different shapes, sizes and colours.

This year's theme is:

Dissemination and Preservation of Knowledge

"By creating links between people from different eras and distinct backgrounds, books contribute to the consolidation of a world community. As vectors of free speech, they further the cause of human rights." UNESCO.

Various Academic Books of Interest



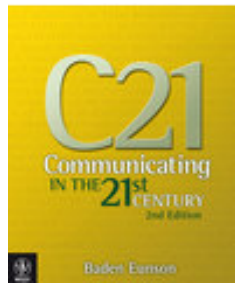
The Information Society: A study of continuity and change, by John Feather.

This book is in its 4th edn. It is a 'must have' for any information professional involved both in teaching and learning. The book has four sections covering the historical, political, economic and the information paradigm.

ISBN: 1856044971
Facet Publishing

A review can be found at:

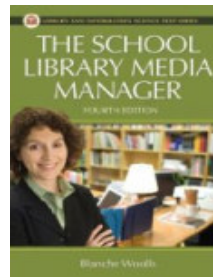
<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue41/foster-rw/>



Communicating in the 21st Century, by Baden Eunsun.

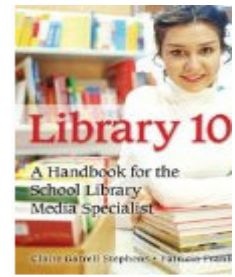
This book is in its 2nd edn. and it is an extremely important and fascinating book. This book covers a whole array of communication aspects. What is of extreme value is the student-approach of this book with different key terms, questions, activities and also a case study for every chapter.

ISBN: 9780470811061
Wiley
A review can be found at:
<http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470811064.html>



School Library Media Manager, by Blanche Woolls.

This updated 4th edn. volume is a good choice for introductory library school courses and can be consulted as a reference, especially by library media specialist students for information about how to choose a position. The 15 chapters and appendixes cover various aspects such as advocacy, collection development, curriculum support, amongst other issues. AASL's Standards for the 21st Century Learner are also addressed. ISBN: 9781591586432
Libraries Unlimited



Library 101: A Handbook for the School Library Media Specialist, by Claire Gatrell Stephens

This book is highly recommended to 'newbies' in librarianship. In other words, to those new to the profession. It covers different aspects of library management and other tips. It is written by someone in the field and thus it is like having a 'mentor' at hand.

ISBN: 9781591583240
Libraries Unlimited

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2266871.Library_101_A_Handbook_for_the_School_Library_Media_Specialist



A World Digital library?

One may wonder whether this might be ever possible.

This project will be launched on the 21st of April 2009 and it will be Free of charge!

The aim is to make available different information in digital formats to facilitate and promote both international and inter-cultural understanding and to expand non-English and non-Western content.

The online video-clip also shows the concept of using the mobile phone to

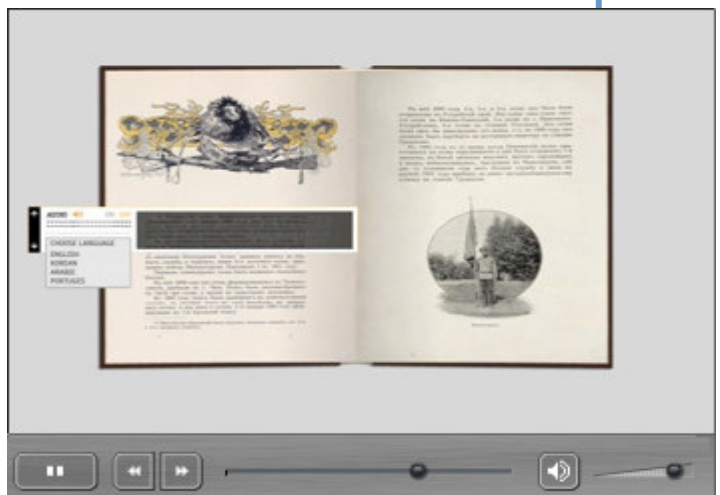
share the content.

As you can see in this image, the online facility will also incorporate an audio translation facility.

Additionally, you may focus on a particular aspect through a zooming lens, print and turn the pages.

Looking forward to access it!

<http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org/project/english/>



Get to Know ME!

Get to know



Full Name: Victor Vella

Present occupation:
Assistant Librarian,
MCAST

Previous job:
Library Assistant, ITS

What is your star sign?
Libra

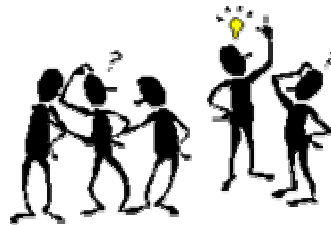
Your experience of a lifetime till today?
Hypocrites live a short life. The true character will emerge one fine day or the other.

What is your favorite book of all time?
Biographies

And what are you reading at the moment?

Pope John XXIII : A Biography by Peter Hebblethwaite

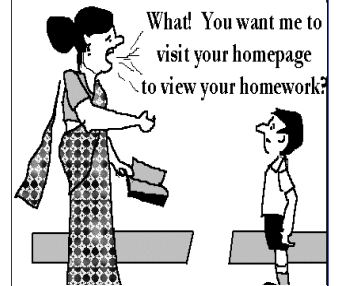
What are your hobbies?
Sports and Gardening



Whom would you like to be for a day?
Just Myself

I wouldn't leave the house without ...
My sunglasses

LIBRARY CARTOONS



“What, you want me to visit your homepage to view your homework?”

“Sir, this is a library, if you want a book go to a bookstore”



News: EuropeanaLocal



EuropeaLocal is an EU funded project. It is very similar to its parent project launched in December last year, the Europeana Digital Library.

As you might know, the latter project crashed just an hour after the project was launched since, the organizers did not expect to get an enormous amount of users wanting

to access the website.

This new project is a similar project to the Europeana but only on a smaller local scale. The idea behind the EuropeanaLocal is to have treasures of our Maltese villages to be published online. The treasures may include: mp3s from different village band clubs, images of archaeological sites such as those in Tarxien or

Paola, video clips showing processions or the village band performing during the feast of the patron saint, old images of Malta, etc.

The main difficulty in this whole project is the lack of standards in uploading these different information sources. These difficulties result in the lack of a 'suitable committee' to handle all the resources resulting from all citizens.

MaLIA Council News

Since September 2008 MaLIA council has been going through a period of intense continuous activity, which has not faltered not even during the period of the AGM and the establishment of the new Council.

New benefit for MaLIA members

Just recently, MaLIA is pleased to announce that it has reached a formal agreement with the Director of Library Services at the University of Malta, Mr. Anthony Mangion, which agreement allows all MaLIA paid up members to make use of all of the Z – Library Collection at the University of Malta Main Library. MaLIA since it was founded helped to build up this collection by depositing all publications it receives through its membership in International Library Organisations and by way of donations through the extensive contacts it has locally and abroad. After a request we made, namely that, paid up MaLIA members should by right be free to use these MaLIA publications, this agreement which covers the whole Z collection, was reached.

Please note that only paid up members are allowed benefit from this free service and that MaLIA will forward this list of paid up members every first week of March of each year.

Meeting with the Minister

One of the last activities of the previous Council under the Chairmanship of Mr. Robert Mizzi was, the long awaited and important meeting with the Minister for Education, Youth, sports and culture, Dolores Cristina on the 29th of January.

This cordial meeting was attended by Mr. Robert Mizzi Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Grima Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Claudio Laferla (Secretary) and Mr. Laurence

Zerafa PRO and International Relations Officer. During this 1½ hour meeting we brought to the attention of the minister various aspects of the library and archives scene in Malta and how MaLIA is working to see the much needed improvement and how MaLIA expects to be involved as a key player on the library scene.

Over the coming weeks MaLIA will be following up on the points discussed and agreed upon. In fact the first point that we've already commented about in writing, is the absence of a MaLIA representative on the newly constituted National Book Council (Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb). MaLIA is insisting that it has a very valid contribution to make on this Council and that we should be officially represented.

AGM and New Council

Following the 26th February AGM, the newly elected Council had its first meeting on the 5th of March during which Council posts were allocated after discussion. The new council is as follows:

Back Row L to R: Charlene Bajada (Deputy Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Josephine Spiteri (Treasurer), Joe

Grima (Deputy Chairperson), Victor Vella (Events Organizer).

Front Row L to R Claudio Laferla (Secretary), Laurence Zerafa (Chairperson/PRO) Robert Mizzi (International Relations Officer/Web-site administrator).

A balanced group of Council members which should see MaLIA building on the momentum generated gathered by the previous year's Council.

Council morning seminar of 8th March

Though the meeting with the Minister of Education was cordial and fruitful, MaLIA is still not represented on the Board of the NBC!

Following the custom of some years back, the new Chairman proposed that the first Council meeting of the new Council would be a morning Seminar during which we would look objectively at the library scene in Malta and MaLIA's role in it. We did this by carrying out a Strengths Weakness Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. This very useful, even if long, exercise gave everybody a clear picture of what our priorities should be for 2009.



Cam -

continued...MaLIA Council News

paign for a state of the art library in Valletta

MaLIA since mid October 2008 has been actively promoting its view that Malta should have a state-of-the-art modern public library in its capital city Valletta. Such modern public library buildings (new or recent renovations) are prominent features in all capital cities and other major cities and towns throughout most of the world but not in Malta. MaLIA is of the view that the ideal place for such a library in Valletta would be the city gate area, a prominent site readily accessible by the biggest possible number of people. The Opera House site of course fits the scope of such project along with other cultural activities happening in the same building, even within the officially proposed (but hotly debated) Parliament / Culture Centre building.

MaLIA is promoting these views through a press release, an ipetition 475 petitions to date and a Facebook group 825 members

All three can be accessed electronically through the MaLIA web - page www.malia-malta.org/

During a meeting which MaLIA had with the Prime Minister at his office on the 30th March, MaLIA presented a report including the following items: The Press release, a report outlining our proposal, the ipetition signatures and list of facebook members.

We have also met all 4 major political parties AN, AD, MLP and PN. The reactions so far are positive even though nothing has been promised. On Monday 15th December on Bondiplus Dr. Austin Gatt himself expressed his awareness about our lobby group and its idea, which idea he did not shoot down but said it would be considered with other ideas. Similarly Professor Serracino Inglott on the SToM (7th December) mentioned that some have proposed a public library for the cultural part of the proposed Parliament building. Again he seems in favour of such an idea. Some journalist, among them Dr. Claire Bonello, have also written supporting this idea.

L to R: Claudio Laferla, Robert Mizzi, Laurence Zerafa, the Prime Minister, Joe Grima.



Visit by 14 UK Librarians in March

One of the activities that MaLIA organised as part of its 40th Anniversary celebrations was to host a group of 14 UK librarians, coming from different areas of practice (academic, special, national and archives) but all members of CILIP CDG (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professional Career Development Group) who were here in Malta for a study tour, for a week (23rd to 30th March) visiting several libraries and archives in Malta.



During the 2008 AGM held at the University of Malta Library.

L to R: Claudio Laferla (Secretary), Joe Grima (deputy chair), Dr Paul Xuereb (Honorary president) and Robert Mizzi (chair).



MaLIA 40th Anniversary (1969-2009) publication.

To mark this important date, last year's council decided to publish a monograph which brings together a number of papers on various aspects of the libraries and archives in Malta. At the moment, the editorial board is reviewing these papers for an eventual launch towards the end of June.

continued...MaLIA Council News

MaLIA members had the opportunity to meet them informally for Welcome drinks and dinner on Tuesday 24th March. Then they organised an evening



Talk about Career Development on Friday 27th March at the MCAST Library Paola. Attendance and participation was very encouraging here. Finally on Sunday 29th March we had a cliff-side walk from St. Thomas Bay M'Scala to M'Xlokk, which turned out an enjoyable event that forged many friendships. MaLIA would like to thank the National Library, The National Archives, The Library of the University of Malta, The School Library Service and the MCAST Library who all offered to host these librarians to visits at their premises. MaLIA appreciates their support.



Friends of Libraries in Malta (FLM) = Hbieb il-Libreriji f'Malta (HLM)

One point raised during the AGM by Mr. Victor Vella and Ms. Martes Paris was that MaLIA should reach out to the general public which uses libraries. The new MaLIA Council during its first meeting approved the setting up of a Committee to administer FLM. Mr. Victor Vella and Ms. Martes Paris are now Secretary and Member on this FLM Committee chaired by Laurence Zerafa.

The aims of FLM are:

1. To provide a space, where people can share their experience of using libraries;
2. To disseminate information about libraries;
3. To raise awareness about the importance of libraries in our society;
4. To attract support towards libraries, through donation of books and funds;
5. To foster the love of reading and free access to information;
6. To support the improvement of the state of libraries;
7. To organize activities.

Il-Gost tal-Ktieb

Speakers:
Immanuel Mifsud
Joseph Mizzi
Peppi Azzopardi

Venue:
St. James Cavalier, Valletta

On: 23rd April 2009
At: 18.00 -19.30 hrs.

This group is open to anybody who is interested in and would like to support libraries in Malta and Gozo. So far FLM is being promoted through a Facebook Group found at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=60473012070#/group.php?gid=63097875928>. Join and encourage others to join.

facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox Settings Logout

Friends of Libraries in Malta (FLM) = Hbieb tal-Libreriji f'Malta (HLM)
Global

Basic Info
Type: Entertainment & Arts - Books & Literature
Description: This group is open to anybody who is interested in and would like to support libraries in Malta and Gozo. We would be interested to hear your views about this.
FLM has the support of the Malta Library and Information Association (MaLIA). Some activities will be open to members of both entities.
The Aims of FLM are as follows:
1. To provide a space, where people can share their experience of using libraries;
2. To disseminate information about libraries;
3. To raise awareness about the importance of libraries in our society;
4. To attract support towards libraries, through donation of books and funds;
5. To foster the love of reading and free access to information;
6. To support the improvement of the state of libraries;
7. To organize activities.

Contact Info
Email: info@malia-malta.org
Website: http://www.malia-malta.org/mlt
Office: MaLIA, c/o University of Malta Library
Location: c/o University of Malta, Tal-Groqg Msida, Malta

Recent News
1st April 2009
A meeting was held to plan an event for Thursday 23rd April World Book and Copyright Day. The event is titled "Il-Gost tal-Ktieb". See events on this page.

Computer & internet
View Discussion Board
Invite People to Join
Leave Group
Share +
Group Type
This is an open group. Anyone can join and invite others to join.
Admins
Laurence Zerafa (creator)
Martes Paris



c/o University of Malta Library
Msida MSD 2080

Email: info@malia-malta.org

Web: www.malia-malta.org



Some books are to be
tasted, others to be
swallowed, and some
few to be chewed and
digested.

~ Francis Bacon



Claudio during a particular session teaching Storytelling techniques to parents in a church school in 2009.

Claudio during a storytelling session on August 2004 at the seaside.

Local News

The Public Library in Floriana

A certain VB from Zurrieq wrote an article (March 29) regarding the bad state of our public library in Floriana. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that members of the public write such articles in the media. As a school librarian or an academic librarian, or for that reason, a Maltese citizen, should this and other similar articles worry you? The article may be accessed at: <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/2009/03/29/l8.html>

Duchesne Library's 40th anniversary

For 40 years, the library has been giving a service to hundreds of children from all over Malta. Many past members, now themselves parents and some even grandparents, have walked down memory lane when returning to the library to enroll their children. We would like to invite past members to get in touch with the library and to participate in events marking the 40th anniversary and of course renew friendships. Those who are interested may send an e-mail to duchesne.library@gmail.com. MaLIA members have been invited to the Duchesne 40th Anniversary Programme. More details in the next issue.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090329/letters/duchesne-libraris-40th-anniversary>

Storytelling Article

An article on storytelling by Claudio Laferla (MaLIA's secretary) was published in the Netherlands. The article was about Claudio's current experience in storytelling. Presently, Claudio is meeting parents whose children are in primary schools through a project with Klabb Kotba Maltin. These meetings have been very fruitful where good work is being done by the parents who, according to Claudio, need more awareness and guidance on how to storytell to their young siblings, why is it important to storytell to young children and how this effects their 'school readiness'. Claudio was put in contact with Biblion—the publisher— and the magazine is called 'Media Coach'. This company is the major supplier of services to libraries within the Netherlands. Biblion is the major publisher of books and magazines on library science. This new magazine is an attempt to reach librarians and educators who are trying to teach children to work with new kinds of Media, for educational purposes.

