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New look for the Newsletter

A couple of months ago, I was approached by Robert Mizzi, the current MaLIA Chairman, who encouraged me to join MaLIA as part of the Council for this year. Shortly after the election of the new Council, the first Council meeting was held and I was asked to take the role of the MaLIA Newsletter editor. In all honesty, I was initially a bit reluctant to take this responsibility. Firstly, because I had never worked with publishing software, and secondly, I had never edited a newsletter or delivered news to anyone. The closest I ever got to delivering news was the usual gossiping with friends!

However, I am now glad of this decision and it has been

a real challenge changing the format of the newsletter. New people are bound to make some changes and I discussed these changes with the MaLIA Chairman and we both agreed on a new face to the MaLIA Newsletter.

The closest I ever got to delivering news was the usual gossiping with friends

The main objective is that this newsletter should be fresh, include interesting news, organised in a logical way and above all, it should provide a communication link with our members.

I believe that this new Newsletter format addresses these issues. There are a number of new features such as first hand accounts of the experiences of library and information professionals.

We sincerely hope you, as a member of our profession or as a casual reader, like this new format and find it interesting. We would really appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how to further improve this newsletter and look forward to your emails. Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter by sending an email to info@malia-malta.org.

JoAnne Carabott, Editor

Send us Your thoughts

Would you like to see your letter published in the MaLIA newsletter? Do you have an experience you would like to share or a point you would like to see discussed amongst fellow library and information professionals? Tell us all about it by sending

us an e-mail on info@malia-malta.org

Remember to include your details, including name, address and mobile/phone number. **Your opinion counts!** For those of you who are lucky enough to be enjoying their holidays, **Happy holidays!**



Modern Technology



Cool...eReader
that has a
flexible screen

In this day and age, everyone (almost everyone!) seems more interested in the latest technology rather than reading. A company from the Netherlands have come up with a new reading device. The world's first pocket eReader, **Readius**, is the latest technology device which encourages the user to read books in electronic format. This device is the size of a mobile phone size which has a 5 inch screen extended to it. This invention is aimed

to promote reading amongst persons who are obsessed with electronic devices. The **Readius** is designed to read books, journals and news available in digital format. However, for those who are unable to stay without their e-mails, one can also access the internet. The most interesting factor about **Readius** is that it has a flexible screen which could be bent around a finger. When one is done using the **Readius**, the screen is rolled up into

the micro compartment available within the device. It has a battery that lasts 30 hours worth of reading time and although a price is not yet set for these nifty devices, they probably will be costing around €295. **Readius** is expected to be launched in 2009.

For more info visit:

<http://blog.ereadworld.com/2008/07/readius-new-reader-for2009.html>

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

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQCidkcjf0k&NR=1>

Web Links

<http://www.archive.org/index.php>

This archival website is a digital library for internet sites featuring digital cultural information. This website also features video blogging, popularly known as vlogs.

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

This web site is for Information Professionals who want to improve their user services or get a couple of ideas to improve their library.



World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding"

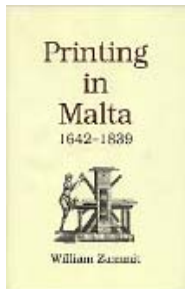
The 74th IFLA General Conference took place on the 10-14 August 2008 at Québec, Canada. A number of papers presented during this conference are now available on the website at

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm>

Other IFLA publications and resources can be viewed at <http://www.ifla.org/ipubs.htm>

MaLIA is a member of IFLA and the MaLIA International Relations Officer has visited the IFLA Headquarters this year in an effort to promote issues and difficulties faced by small library associations such as MaLIA.

Local Books



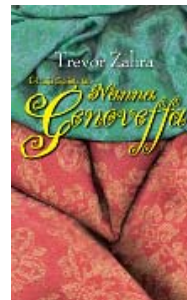
Printing in Malta 1642-1839 by Dr William Zammit.

(ISBN: 978-9932-0-535-7)
This book was launched on the 6th July 2008 at St. James Cavalier, Valletta, to commemorate Gutenberg Press's 25th anniversary and the topic of this book was considered ideal to celebrate this event. Dr William Zammit has carried out extensive research on the history of printing in Malta. The book has 423 pages and is published by Gutenberg Press. The book is available for sale at €60.



Il-Ġenn li jzommni f'sikti by Trevor Zahra
(ISBN: 978-99909-1307-1)

Trevor Zahra is back again with a new book. The book is an autobiography of the author, focusing on his childhood years. Trevor's creativity introduces the sardonic comments by the author's famous creations, such as 'Kuncett', 'Marinton' and 'il-Fenek l-Aħmar.' Nicely written with a couple of good laughs thanks to the author's characters. Merlin publications, 448 pages, €19.95.



Il-Hajja Sigrieta tan-Nanna Nanna Genoveffa by Trevor Zahra
(ISBN: 978-99909-1308-8)

Another book by Trevor Zahra. This short love story is about Nanna Genoveffa's secret love passions. One might consider the theme of this this book as slightly unconventional but the writing style used by Trevor Zahra is still there for everyone to enjoy.

Sajd bir-Rixa : fl-ibhra Maltin
(ISBN: 9789995720032)

Book Distributors Limited. This book is written by Rio Sammut and Jonathan Sammut. It concerns the tricks and tips of an old local trade, fishing. This book includes coloured illustrations and makes a perfect gift to fish lovers.

Holqa Katina : Qamrin / Holqa Katina: Xemxin
Wise Owl Publications

By Carmen Sammut and Moira Galea. There are a set of new work-books for pupils attending year 1 and year 2. The work-books give importance to phonetics in early literacy. One can buy these books from any leading bookshop.

IMPORTANT NEWS for Teacher Librarians!

The *International Association of School Librarianship, UK* (IASL) has launched the **Bookmark Project**.

The ISLM Bookmark Project involved matched schools making homemade bookmarks (any style, shape, etc - your chance to be creative) Participation includes 'twinning' with other foreign schools. All one has to do is to supply the age of the students and the number of bookmarks you would like to exchange

with foreign schools. Bookmarks can vary in shape, size or/and colour but must reflect the International School Library Month theme.

The bookmarks must be mailed to your matched school during next October. Ms Amanda Curtis, Bookmark Coordinator, has informed MaLIA that any country can participate in this project. For more details what students must do go to the IASL website on

<http://www.iasl-online.org/events/islm/islm-projects.htm>
or contact Ms Amanda Curtis at tafflib@hotmail.com.





Get to know Myra Michelle Brown— Information Resources Officer, U.S. Dept. of State

Get to Know ME!!

Full Name:

Myra Michelle Brown

Present occupation:

Information Resource Officer, U.S. Dept. of State

How long have you been in this job:

Since 19th March 2006

What is your star sign?

Libra

Your most terrifying/ embarrassing experience?

1st September, 2000. I was driving North on US interstate 25 to Santa Fe', New Mexico. It was very hot, about 34°C, which was hard on my aging tires. I was driving very fast (128km per hour). Suddenly my back tire blew; fortunately I knew immediately when my steer-

ing wheel locked up. I had about 10 seconds to save myself, since I was surrounded by cars. I dragged my car along the guard rail until there was an open area in the middle of the interstate that I could safely drive into. I ended up without a single injury, with minor damage to my car!. Of course I needed a new tire!.

What is your favorite film?

My Brilliant Career (Australia) and Next Stop Wonderland (US).

What is the last book you read?

Midnight in Sicily.

What are your hobbies?

Sewing, making jewelry, walking, sampling wine, keeping a journal (30 years!) and writing poetry.

Whom would you like to be for a day?

Dead: A great artist like Da Vinci or Gogh.

Alive: Nathalie Goldberg or Julia Cameron (they both published the process of writing).

I wouldn't leave the house without

One of my fabulous Italian purses, some cool silver jewelry, lipstick and lip gloss, my journal, pens and in this awful hot, humid weather, linen handkerchiefs!

We are looking for contributors for this section — CONTACT US!



Mr Charles Farrugia

Achieving Archives

Mr. Charles Farrugia had recently been appointed Chairman for the Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers (ACARM) for the next four years. The association was founded in 1984 to provide a link for archival institutions, archivists and records managers across the Commonwealth. Mr. Farrugia was elected during the International Congress for Archivists

that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Immediately after his appointment, Mr. Charles Farrugia delivered a speech where he shared his vision for the future of the association. While he thanked all those who showed their support, he also expressed the wish that relations between all the countries of the Commonwealth will grow stronger in the future.

The Minister for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Ms Dolores Cristina, congratulated Mr. Farrugia on his appointment and wished him every success in his new post.



<http://www.acarm.org/>

www.malia-malta.org

My Experience

By Oliver Mamo

Oliver Mamo is Head Librarian at Heritage Malta



My experience within Heritage Malta is characterised by a sharp learning curve. Heritage Malta is a melting pot of academic research being carried out in various disciplines covering the widest longitudinal timespan imaginable. This research is carried out by subject specialists and the fruits of their labour are manifested in various ways which include the interpretation of museum artifacts, diagnostic analysis of such artifacts and full documentation of the conservation treatment carried out on them, exhibition design, setup & methodology, curriculum based educational activities and introduction of sustainable new services. This complex framework of information consumption, gathering, creation and dissemination is Heritage Malta. It is an information consumer because it requires to access

internally created information and needs to acquire published information. However, Heritage Malta, through its operations creates information which is recorded into its vast archives. This information is packaged in a suitable format so as to reach an audience and the two major channels of information dissemination used by Heritage Malta are publications and interpretive data accompanying museum exhibits.

When I embarked on my Heritage Malta adventure, I decided that in the first instance I would focus mainly on publications since this would make the task ahead of me manageable. The collection is physically divided into subject libraries as follows: Archaeology, Arms & Armour, Art, Ethnography & Religion, Gozo, Maritime, Military and Natural History libraries whilst the Central Library in Bighi would cover predominantly the subject areas of Conservation, Conservation science, Museum studies and

other subjects allied to Heritage Malta operations. Library holdings date from the 1500s to contemporary publications, thus giving rise also to the variety of media in which such information is contained.

Though such a rich scenario creates an extremely interesting experience and a very daring challenge, by the time of writing seven thousand items are on catalogue. This number translates to the main collections of two libraries – the Art Library in the

Museum of Fine Arts and the Central Library in Bighi.

Another concurrent challenge was the creation of a platform through which library users would be able to access digital resources.

Access to bibliographic records – the OPAC, is on its way. This project is

part of a larger project involving the creation of a new Heritage Malta website. The OPAC, already accessible through internal servers in Bighi, will be

I became exposed to museum cataloging and museum information management issues

Continued on page 6

Vittoriosa Regional Library

The HSBC Bank plc, following a request done by the Birgu Local Council, has presented the Council with a cheque of €2329.27, to sponsor the restoration works recently carried out the Melitensia Room of the Birgu Regional Library that is situated at the Auberge D'Angleterre. The works carried out included the changing of tiles, new shelving and new doors.

The presentation was held at the Auberge D'Angleterre where Mr. John Boxall, Mayor and Ms. Judith Saliba, Councilor, were representing the local council. Mr. Boxall thanked the Branch Manager and the HSBC representative for their donation and said that the Council will continue investing in the library as it firmly believes in educational and recreational role of the library.



My Experience

Continued from page 5

I encourage any student who would like to further their knowledge ... to use their course practicum entitlement within Heritage Malta

internally available from all Heritage Malta sites in the next few weeks and hopefully accessible through the net by the end of the year.

On another front within the same project, study and work was carried out to group all existing digital resources to which Heritage Malta libraries were subscribed to. The result is that HM Libraries' users are able to access e-journals by using a system of personalised accounts rather than I.P. address

based system, thus overcoming the physical barriers imposed by a multi-site environment.

The most interesting experience so far is being part of a working group whose remit is the implementation of a Collections Management System (CMS). Whilst bringing my library and archival cataloguing skills in the working group, I became exposed to museum cataloguing and museum information management issues. It was an enriching

experience to learn where Museum, Libraries and Archival practices share common grounds and where such practices differ.

I encourage any students who would like to expand their knowledge in library, archival or museum studies, to spend their course practicum experience with Heritage Malta. They will be joining foreign volunteers, interns and UOM students from other disciplines who have already exposed themselves to a unique learning experience.

Qualifications and Professional Development

Since 1986, the information profession has been given significant attention by the University of Malta through courses related to the profession. The Diploma in Library and Information Studies (Dip. LIS) has been a regular two-year evening course since 1993 with over 150 students graduating throughout the years.

In 2005, the Division of Library and Information Studies, which is responsible for the coordination and running of the courses, extended its area of studies by offering a Bachelor's degree in Library, Information and Archive Studies (B.LIAS) and a Diploma in

Archives and Records Management (Dip. ARM). All courses are held in the evening. The next in-take for all three courses will be in October 2009.

In relation to this next intake, that is in 2009, one should take note of a special provision for people who are already in possession of a Dip. LIS. As the University Bye-Laws state:

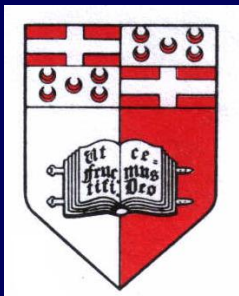
Applicants who obtained the Diploma in Library and Information Studies from the University of Malta up to and including 2005 are eligible until October 2009 to apply to join the Degree Course with exemptions as approved by the Board.

The Division would like to

encourage people who are already working within the information centres to further their professional development by applying for one of its courses. People who are not in the profession, but are interested in archive, library and information issues are equally welcome.

For further information please contact the Coordinator, Ms. Martes Paris, at the Division of Library and Information Studies, CCT, University of Malta, by email at martes.paris@um.edu.mt or tel.: 23402411.

Martes Paris
Head / Division of Library and Information Studies
14th August 2008



National Archives sends Questionnaire

The main archives in Malta have received a questionnaire aimed at getting a snapshot of the state of Maltese Archives. The National Archives Council is obliged under Act V, 2005 to convene a bi-annual Forum to discuss the

State of Archives Report. The National Archives Council has commissioned the National Archives to compile this report. As a first step a questionnaire has been sent out to around 75 archives. The questionnaire is in both Maltese and

English and is expected to be returned to the National Archives for evaluation by the first week of September 2008. The National Archivist appeals for cooperation in this innovative exercise.

Source: <http://www.fnamalta.org/>

www.malia-malta.org

Inter **N**ational **e** **w** **s**

- **Stemming flow of literary heritage across the pond**

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/administration/story/0,,2290893,00.html>

Article about the large number of literary collections sold to American archives such as the Ransom Centre at the University of Texas.

- **Libraries fear e-journal extinction**

<http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-world-review/news/2221519/libraries-fear-journal-4097737>

A US survey has found that only two thirds of academic libraries were involved in e-preservation which raises issues of access in the future.

- **New stock disposal services for libraries**

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

Better World Books are a social enterprise that finds new homes for unwanted stock in support of improving literacy both in the UK and around the world.

- **National Archives (UK)**

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

Provide and enable is the National Archives' on line strategy. It sets out how the organization will deal with the ever-growing number of digital records, and its website will be re-structured into a 'family' website.

- **Information kiosks installed at libraries**

<http://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/Information-kiosks-installed-at-libraries.4237479.jp>

South Holland District Council has installed three community information booths in libraries covering topics such as vacancies, transport, local councilors and local country services.

- **Information Literacy logo**

<http://www.infolitglobal.info/logo/>

The winner of an information literacy logo contest (above) supported by UNESCO and IFLA was announced at the UNESCO session of the IFLA World Library and Information conference.

- **Opening soon: a digital library for Europe**

<http://www.malia-malta.org/international-news->

Europe's cultural diversity in books, music, paintings, photographs, and films open to all citizens at the click of a mouse via one portal – this dream of a European Digital Library could become reality this autumn.



...And local News

- MaLIA has written to the Superintendent of the Mater Dei Hospital offering its assistance in the setting up of a library at the Rainbow Ward at the Mater Dei Hospital
- The National Book Council has just published issued 62 of its newsletter that pay tribute to Kilin, one of prominent Maltese authors in recent years, who passed away on the 8th July 2008.

MaLIA in contact with Ms Tracy Ainsley, CDG International Officer

The MaLIA International Relations Officer, Mr Laurence Zerafa, has been very busy establishing links with international organisations since being appointed to the post last February. The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) in the UK has various sections including the Career Developments Group (CDG). Ms Tracy Ainsley has just been appointed International Officer of this Group and has been in contact with Mr Zerafa about a possible visit by CDG members in Malta during 2009.

Ms Tracy Ainsley's previous posts included staff development that will undoubtedly help her with her recent appointment.

Her full-time occupation is currently as an Information Specialist at Northumbria University and she is very happy to work closely with both the library staff and students.

Her role as an International Relations Officer means that she is also responsible for organising short stays of foreign librarians in the UK. This is tied to her role on the ILIG (International Library and Informa-

tion Group) Committee as CDG representative. Ms Ainsley is also responsible for organising trips to foreign countries that include visits to foreign libraries and appreciation of new cultures. Ms Ainsley is currently working on a study tour to Malta in the first half of 2009. MaLIA is in contact with the CDG, offering its assistance on the organisation of the trip and discussing the possibility of holding a talk about career development to MaLIA members during this visit.



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MaLIA Council 2008

Chairperson:	Robert Mizzi
Dep. Chairperson:	Joseph R. Grima
Secretary:	Claudio Laferla
Asst. Secretary:	Victor Vella
Treasurer:	Josephine Spiteri
Int. Rel. Officer:	Laurence Zerafa
Memb. Secretary:	Louis Cini
Newsletter Editor:	Joanne Carabott


Message from the Chairman

The new MaLIA Council, set up after the 2008 AGM, has been working hard to establish both local and international links with persons and entities related to our profession. The International Relations Officer has already done some sterling work with our international colleagues and it is hoped that these communications are continued, especially in view of our forthcoming 40th Anniversary next year.

On the local scene, MaLIA has been requesting a meeting with the Minister responsible for libraries, the Hon. Dolores Cristina, for some months now. Whilst we appreciate the heavy schedule that Minister must surely have, we sincerely hope that library issues are not continuously put on the backburner as has happened in the past. There is a dire and urgent need for a new legislation on libraries—something that has been in the pipeline for the past four years. The MaLIA Council has also met with the Division of Library and Information Studies at the University of Malta to discuss the current situation vis-à-vis the current course related to our profession. Whilst there have been very positive developments in recent years, MaLIA feels that there is room for further improvements in this area and further discussions are being planned.

MaLIA is also looking forward to meeting with the National Book Council to discuss possible areas of cooperation. It is hoped that this meeting is held sometime during September 2008. Finally, a word of thanks to Joanne Carabott for the excellent work done in the redesigning of the MaLIA newsletter.

Robert Mizzi, Hon. Chairman



Saying

Here is where people, One frequently finds,
Lower their voices, And raise their minds

Special Librarians - Data Librarianship

The stereotypical librarian is slowly but surely becoming extinct. Libraries abroad are encouraging their staff to become more specialised in their functions, according to the changing needs of the particular library.

Data librarianship is a recent development in occupational progression. Stuart Macdonald and Luis Martinez-Urbe (*Library+Information update, June 2008 vol.8*) have humorously described themselves as 'accidental' data librarians, but they have a serious message for the research community.

The article dwells on what happens to 'orphan datasets' – the raw data collected by researchers to support a PhD thesis? The answer, is not necessarily very much.

The authors argue that in spite of talk of sharing and re-use of data, and of open access repositories

for e-prints (electronic copies of peer-reviewed journal articles deposited in the institutional repository), the truth is we hardly exploit as yet the capacity of digital technology for sharing. From the discussion presented in the article, it might seem that being a data librarian is primarily a policy, strategy

and advocacy job with some technical work on preservation and metadata thrown in, and that providing guidance on how to deposit, lies at the core of the role. In fact, quite simply, says Luis, it is about 'supporting research'. Nowadays, the authors insist, managing the life-cycle of research data provides a land of opportunity. The role of the data librarian is

so fluid you can almost invent the job as you go along. Data librarians are not just there to save datasets from the scrapheap, though. They deal with the 'selection, acquisition and management of a multi-disciplinary collection of electronic data resources'. In their article, the

authors imply that Data librarianship isn't a new job. It is due to political pressures and the 'open data' movements of the last few years that data librarians and other

related players are finding themselves in the spotlight now. This article is also available on the CILIP website at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/publications/updatesmagazine/archive/archive2008/june>

What happens to
research material
generated for a
PhD Thesis?